



Survival Factors Attachment 9

First Responder Interviews

**New York, NY
HWY-11-MH-005**

(8 Pages)

(doctor for _____)

Interviewed on 3/13/2011 at St. Barnabus Hospital

pronounced deceased at 7:15am March 14, 2011

suffered a focal extensive facial trauma, punctate bleed on the brain, liver and spleen damage, bilateral pulmonary contusions, bilateral rib and bilateral hip fractures. His injuries appeared to be blunt force trauma and did not have penetrating injuries. He was intubated in the ER and was not expected to live.

Combined Interview of Rescue 3

Firefighter Rescue 3

Firefighter Rescue 3

Combined /17/11 at Special Operations Command Station (_____)

- Were the first unit to arrive on-scene except for NYPD ESU unit
- Victims walking out of bus
- Victims climbing out on top of the bus – about 2
- Most of the victims were on the ground between the roof and the body of the bus, with some stirring.
- Helped girl out through top of bus (driver's side)
- Roof opened up between bus body with people on ground between the two
- A pile of about 6 victims towards rear of bus between pole and roof
- The victims were “wrapped around” the sign pole
- Saw limbs sticking out from under bus roof and side of bus body
- We started working on extending roof hatch opening
- Worked on the rear area of the bus, did not notice what was going on in front
- Did not hear any specific statement from victims, general cries of pain
- Did not see anyone beyond the sign in the rear of the bus
- Others started putting airbags in place to lift bus up
- Concerned about power at sign
- Victims able to evacuate were guided towards front of bus to exit at windshield

Firefighter Rescue Squad 61

Interviewed 3/17/11

- Arrived, saw undercarriage and came around the other side
- Saw hands and feet coming out from under roof and chassis
- 2 truck and 2 engine units already on-scene
- Accessed bus through windshield
- Cut open rear hatch for larger access route to rear of bus
- Took about 4 people out through roof opening; some deceased some alive
- Heard a woman complain about her back
- Heard a Hispanic male asking about his shoes
- Cut seatbacks near expanded roof hatch opening to open space at pole
- At least three people were stuck at the pole

- Saw a man with amputated arms located fwd of pole
- Saw a heavy set man and a woman dragged and wrapped around pole

Firefighter Rescue Squad 61

Interviewed 3/17/11

- Arrived and told to stabilize the bus
- Saw and woman pop-up from top and waving for help and helped her out by taking her down a ladder
- Helped an Hispanic man that appeared to be in shock stuck in his seat on the driver's side of bus
- We cut out at 3 seatbacks near pole to unpile the group of people between pole and roof/luggage racks

Captain

Firefighter

Combined interviewed 3/17/11 at Engine 90 and Ladder 41 Station

- Told to help EMS pick-up living patients for transport
- Told to take bus driver from MERV (Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle) bus on a stretcher to ambulance
- Bus driver wasn't talking just complaining about pain to his upper chest

Firefighter

Interviewed 3/17/11 at Ladder 50 station

- Arrived at same time as Ladder 50 and Engine 61
- Went to windshield and saw about 6-10 people piled up with at least half deceased
- Moved the victims about 15 feet away from bus
- Put deceased in one spot and living in another
- Saw others lying on ground between bus and roof on ground
- Started a brigade handing people out in stokes baskets through the front
- Called for Hurst tool (hydraulic cutters), but then didn't need it

Firefighter

Combined interviewed 3/17/11 at Engine 90 and Ladder 41 Station

- Didn't see people get out
- Helped load people onto stretchers

Firefighter

Combined interviewed 3/17/11 at Engine 90 and Ladder 41 Station

- Staged in front of bus, were about 12 people out in grass
- One person was thought to be unaccounted for, so was sent to walk around area and look for others along the parkway, found no one

Lieutenant

Combined interview on 3/17/11 at Ladder 61 Station

- Heard call on radio of an overturned bus on city limits
- Instructed others to secure bus and battery, and electricity on sign
- Arrived and saw no other FDNY units on-scene
- NYPD ESU arrived just ahead of us
- Told FF to stabilize bus
- Called for Hurst equipment
- Saw 2 victims in front near windshield deceased
- Woman trapped by her coat under bus near loading door
- Freed woman by cutting off her coat and pulling her out
- FF put the 2 deceased on and backboard and removed them
- Rescue and ESU working towards the rear of the bus

Firefighter

Combined 17/11 at Ladder 61 Station

- Arrived and put a ladder up midway of bus on undercarriage
- Saw that we could walk in through front
- Told by Lt. to get the Hurst tool
- Handled tool to FF in the back
- Packaged a trapped woman and took her to ambulance
- Went back to bus and worked in a line handing people out in stokes basket

Firefighter

Combined interview on 3/17/11 at Ladder 61 Station

- Arrived and set-up ladder towards front against undercarriage
- Brought stoke baskets
- Removed 2 victims from the rear
- Saw a double amputee near stanchion
- Helped remove victims in stokes baskets to triage area
- Took some people out through cut open roof

Firefighter

Combined interview on 3/17/11 at Ladder 61 Station

- Helped pass victims out through front of bus
- Carried 4 victims out, 1 from the front 3 from the back

Firefighter

Interviewed 3/17/11 at Engine 97 Station

- We were first engine on-scene behind Battalion 20
- Set-up foam line w/
- Three others from my engine unit helped out the EMS

Combin /17/11 at Engine 63 Station

Captain

Firefighter

Firefighter

Firefighter

- Engine 63 was the second engine on-scene
- Heard that this was a Mass Casualty so the Cpt. Told the guys to grab all the EMS supplies they could
- When they arrived they saw two people climbing out top(through windows on driver side)
- They formed a brigade line to pass the people out of bus through the front
- Pulled out a set of seats that were already loose and threw out broken seatbacks
- We helped with cutting open a larger hole near roof hatch
- Started using airbags to lift the bus in order to remove people stuck under roof and side of bus
- They had to stop and reposition airbags due to people moaning from lifting putting pressure on their limbs or torso
- At least two victims stuck under side of bus

Combined dder 32 and Engine 79 Station

Firefighter

Firefighter

Firefighter

Firefighter

- Lad am and were not involved in removal of victims
- Engine 79 were one of the last units on-scene
- Generally saw victims with blunt force trauma and facial injuries

Division Chief Incident Commander

Interviewed 3/17/11 at Bronx Command office

- Stated that the first 911 call came in at 5:37 am
- Upon arriving at scene at 6:01 am he relieved Incident Command from
- Found out there were 31 passengers plus driver
- Told who arrived at 5:47 am to handle operations
- Instructed to take over as rescue supervisor
- Indicate there were 3 incident commanders, rescue was operations was and EMS was a Captain - did not recall n

Battalion 20 Chief

Interviewed 3/17/11

- Assumed Incident Command upon arrival
- Initially saw bus overturned and people milling around towards the front of the bus

- Chief's driver located the bus driver and talked to him in order to determine how many people were on board
- Did a walk around and saw one fatal near front of bus and several limbs sticking outside side of bus
- When Ladder 50 arrived he instructed them to handle this as a building collapse and remove all the victims in order to find more
- Instructed Ladder 50 to get airbags and lift up the bus in order to remove people trapped under bus
- Instructed guys to widen the rear roof hatch area to help with removal of victims
- After FF placed air bag in front he saw roof wobble and told them to stop and stabilize it first
- Never issued the Mass Casualty code 1060 since he felt they had enough responding units
- Treated the scene like a building collapse with a "surface evacuation", where you can not clearly determine dead and alive, so you pull out everyone starting with those at the surface and work your way in.

Firefighter

Interviewed 3/17/11 at Battalion 20 and Rescue 61 Station

- He helped extending size of roof hatch
- Used airbags to lift up bus in order to free bodies under bus
- Assisted in removing victims from opened up roof

Firefighter

Interviewed 3/17/11 at Engine 89 Station

- Arrived at 6:10 am and told to stretch out a foam line

Combined interview 3/17/11 at Ladder 37 Station

FF

FF

- minutes into incident
- Majority of bodies removed when they arrived except 2 deceased near back of bus near pole
- Conducted a secondary search after everyone was removed
- Driver of ladder 37
- Victim evacuation was already done
- Was assigned to go through bus and check for any remaining bio material

F.F. (Aide to Interviewed 03/18/11

Loca

- FF responded to scene of MVAA and walked over to a tow truck driver who was already at the scene. He inquired as to what happened and was told by the tow driver to talk to the bus driver ().
- FF located standing w/ two other unidentified/unknown persons approx. 15 ft. south of the bus (FF did not know if the other persons were bus passengers or passerbys who stopped to help) .

- FF asked [redacted] what his name was.
- FF asked [redacted] if the bus was occupied ([redacted] replied "yes"), and how many passengers ([redacted] told him 31).
- FF asked [redacted] if he was injured, and [redacted] replied that he was slightly injured, but there were people in the bus that were injured worse and needed help.
- FF observed [redacted] to have a laceration on the left side of his forehead and he was covered in di
- FF advised [redacted] to stay where he was, and he proceeded towards the bus.
- FF advised that he stepped into the gap that was at the front of the bus and looked inside.
- FF stated that it was dark outside when he arrived at the scene, and he did not have a flashlight with him.
- FF stated that the interior of the bus was very dark, and he noted 4-6 people on the ground near the front portion of the bus. He stated he did not know the status of the passengers, but they appeared entrapped and in grave condition.
- FF stated that he did not perform any first aid or check for vitals at this time.
- FF advised/confirmed to [redacted] that there was 31 people on the bus, and "everyone was trapped."
- FF notified the dispatcher of the circumstances of the accident, and requested additional units respond to the scene.
- FF did a "360" of the bus.
- FF originally thought that the windshield fell out, however upon his second look at the bus he noticed the pole had torn through same.
- FF he noticed that that diesel fuel was leaking from the bus, but he advised that this did not pose a serious hazard at the time due to diesel fuel being a less flammable fuel.
- FF advised me that he did not notice any victims outside the bus or any limbs trapped under the bus as he walked around same. FF advised me that it was very dark outside at the time that he walked around the bus.
- FF completed his 360 of the bus and noted that no additional NYFD units had arrived yet.
- FF reported his findings to [redacted]
- FF went back to [redacted] who was still standing approx. 15 feet south of the bus.
- FF noted that [redacted] had been triaged as "walking wounded" by EMS at the scene.
- FF obtained [redacted] name and DOB, and [redacted] began to tell FF his "Driver #", and FF stated that he didn't need that info. [redacted] complained of chest pain.
- FF notified EMS that [redacted] needed to be "up-triaged" due to his potential injuries.
- FF inquired to [redacted] as to what happened. [redacted] stated that a tractor trailer cut him off (FF couldn't remember if [redacted] said [redacted] truck clipped him or came closed to him). [redacted] continued and said that he swerved and the bus did a "360" and then overturned. [redacted] gave the FF the truck info (he told the FF the truck had the letters "RVO" or "RVS" on it).
- EMS then took [redacted] for treatment.
- FF notified a fe [redacted] PD Captain, who was the duty officer at the scene, of the info. that [redacted] provided to the FF.
- FF gave the truck info. to a DOT representative who was at the scene.

- FF then assisted in the rescue operations (moving equipment, being part of the assembly line that was evacuating the victims and debris from the bus), but he did not enter the bus during his time at the scene
- FF added that he talked to two of the "walking wounded" at the scene, but he could not remember races or sex. Both persons stated they were coming from Mohegan Sun Casino.

(Additional: FF did not notice anything inside the bus that could be a "safety consideration" due to the fact that when he looked inside the bus it was too dark to see anything.)