

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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IN RE: :

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THE AMTRAK ACCIDENT : NTSB Accident No.

IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: DCA16FR009

ON JULY 6, 2016 :

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INTERVIEW OF: JOSHUA MICHAEL MULARCHYK

Thursday,

July 7, 2016

Via telephone

BEFORE

KALU KELLY EMEABA, NTSB

This transcript was produced from audio

provided by the National Transportation Safety Board.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. EMEABA: Good afternoon.

3 MR. MULARCHYK: Good afternoon.

4 MR. EMEABA: My name is Kalu Kelly Emeaba,
5 spelled out K-A-L-U, K-E-L-L-Y, E-M-E-A-B-A. I am an
6 NTSB investigator. And the reason we are here in this
7 interview today is with respect to the accident that
8 occurred on July 6, at a crossing at 25th Street in
9 Palm Beach, Florida at the roadway crossing.

10 And with me here is Mr. Josh. Mr. Josh, can
11 you please give me your full name with --

12 MR. MULARCHYK: Joshua Michael Mularchyk.

13 MR. EMEABA: -- the spelling and also your
14 employer name and the title of, your job title.

15 MR. MULARCHYK: Say that one more time.

16 MR. EMEABA: Please can you give me, spell
17 your full name. Tell me your employer name, and your
18 job title.

19 MR. MULARCHYK: My name's Joshua Michael
20 Mularchyk, J-O-S-H-U-A, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, M-U-L-A-R-C-H-Y-
21 K.

22 MR. EMEABA: Thank you. Mr. Josh, could you
23 please tell me a little bit about your work. How long
24 have you been on the job and your years of experience
25 and the education you have.

1 MR. MULARCHYK: Okay. What was that after
2 the job?

3 MR. EMEABA: Your education and also your,
4 your experience on the job.

5 MR. MULARCHYK: What my trailer experience
6 or with this job?

7 MR. EMEABA: Your railroad experience.

8 MR. MULARCHYK: Okay, 19 years railroad
9 experience. As well education, 14 years education, two
10 years college.

11 MR. EMEABA: Okay, and on your current
12 position, what is your current job title, please?

13 MR. MULARCHYK: Right now I'm a signal
14 maintainer on South Florida rail corridor.

15 MR. EMEABA: Okay. As a signal maintainer,
16 what do you do?

17 MR. MULARCHYK: With all the testing, well I
18 just, I worked signal for them, the job, signal
19 maintainer, test and maintain the signal systems for
20 the South Regional Transportation Authority.

21 MR. EMEABA: Okay. How long have you been
22 doing that?

23 MR. MULARCHYK: Signal man? I just went on
24 the signal maintainers job the day before the accident.
25 I worked signal foreman at, I did that through signal

1 maintainer.

2 MR. EMEABA: So that's about how much, one
3 year, or it's one month, two weeks, what?

4 MR. MULARCHYK: Oh that part signal now, one
5 day before the accident.

6 MR. EMEABA: No, no, no. I said, how long
7 have you been on the job? Is it for this one as a
8 signal maintainers, is it one year, or one month, or
9 one week. What --

10 MR. MULARCHYK: The one what, the four of
11 us, as of right now, or before the accident?

12 MR. EMEABA: No just, before the accident.
13 I'm sorry.

14 MR. MULARCHYK: One day.

15 MR. EMEABA: One day?

16 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes.

17 MR. EMEABA: Okay, so that was your first
18 day before the accident?

19 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, actually it was my
20 second day on that position.

21 MR. EMEABA: Okay, in that area. Okay,
22 thank you so much. And leading to what happened on the
23 railroad crossing, can you please accident on the 25th
24 Street, can you tell me is your work, how you started
25 on the serving on the 6th of July, leading to your

1 coming to the accident site?

2 MR. MULARCHYK: I just heard there was a
3 vehicle accident on 25th Street, when a train struck
4 the vehicle and I was instructed by my supervisor, just
5 go up there and see if they need any assistance. When
6 I got there, I was just sitting at, I was just sitting
7 at the cross. I was there for two or three hours
8 before, and they blamed this mayhem was
9 (unintelligible).

10 MR. EMEABA: Okay, which supervisor, please?

11 MR. MULARCHYK: (unintelligible) Khan.

12 MR. EMEABA: Can you spell his name, any
13 way?

14 MR. MULARCHYK: No, I can spell his last
15 name. It's K-H-A-N. But I can't spell the first name.

16 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Okay. So, can you
17 please, sir, just lead me through when you got the call
18 from your supervisor and you were told a train hit a
19 vehicle and --

20 MR. MULARCHYK: All right. It was, on
21 approximately 10, approximately 10:15, 10:30 maybe.

22 MR. EMEABA: Okay. About 10:30. Okay, from
23 there what happened. Just lead me through what you did
24 from there.

25 MR. MULARCHYK: I actually, well, drove up

1 to 26th Street and when I got there, I just sit there
2 and my (unintelligible) calls some until Mr. Marquette,
3 Tom Marquette, signal, senior signal supervisor, job
4 brings with me what was happening. And they was, and
5 told me that there was, we were going to have to do
6 additional testing on the crossing eventually. That
7 was pretty much it.

8 MR. EMEABA: Can you repeat that? Now you
9 have to do what?

10 MR. MULARCHYK: Mr. Marquette was at the
11 scene prior to me getting there. And once I was there,
12 I was there probably some over an hour. I was there
13 before Mr. Marquette. He had just told me what was
14 going on this accident. And that we were going, there
15 was an accident and we're going to have to probably do
16 some testing on the call signal eventually. That was
17 it.

18 MR. EMEABA: So to perform testing?

19 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, that was it.

20 MR. EMEABA: What kind of testing did you,
21 have to perform, please?

22 MR. MULARCHYK: Well, we didn't perform any
23 testing that afternoon. But we were there assisting
24 with FRA, waiting for the FRA to show up, but I didn't
25 do anything except we sealed the house up.

1 MR. EMEABA: Okay, you probably didn't have
2 to do anything. Okay, then --

3 MR. MULARCHYK: We didn't do anything. We
4 do anything, anything but seal the house. That's it.

5 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

6 MR. MULARCHYK: When the, when the FRA,
7 waiting for the FRA.

8 MR. EMEABA: Okay. And do you have an idea
9 of when the FRA people came to the site?

10 MR. MULARCHYK: Probably around, I don't
11 know, around 5 o'clock maybe.

12 MR. EMEABA: Five in the evening? About
13 5:00 p.m.

14 MR. MULARCHYK: I'll be over there in a
15 minute. Yes, around 5:00 p.m., I think.

16 MR. EMEABA: Okay. All right. Do you
17 remember Mr. Bickford, David?

18 MR. MULARCHYK: We have, we have a David
19 Bickford.

20 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Did you, what did you do
21 with him, or did you do any work with him, or not?

22 MR. MULARCHYK: No.

23 MR. EMEABA: You didn't do any work with Mr.
24 Bickford, David?

25 MR. MULARCHYK: No, not that day, I didn't.

1 No, sir.

2 MR. EMEABA: Okay. While you were on site,
3 a part from David, what else did you see by the signal
4 house, or who did you see?

5 MR. MULARCHYK: I didn't see, well, nothing.
6 When I pulled up, nothing. I didn't saw anybody or
7 anything, until Mr. Marquette text, or he called to me.

8 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Do you of a technical
9 that was already working at the signal house before the
10 accident?

11 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, I had no idea.

12 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

13 MR. MULARCHYK: I had no idea what was going
14 on. All I knew was that a vehicle got struck by an
15 Amtrak. That was it.

16 MR. EMEABA: Okay, so from what you just
17 said to me, you were called by a supervisor to go and
18 give an assistance --

19 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes.

20 MR. EMEABA: -- at this railway crossing.

21 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes.

22 MR. EMEABA: Because an Amtrak struck a
23 vehicle.

24 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes.

25 MR. EMEABA: Is that correct?

1 MR. MULARCHYK: That's correct.

2 MR. EMEABA: Please can you tell me what
3 kind of assistance were you instructed to go and give?

4 MR. MULARCHYK: Well, since we didn't know
5 if there was damage to the call signal equipment or
6 not. So they did had a dispatch, or (unintelligible)
7 labor or anything. You know, we really didn't think
8 there was knocked down or tore up. So I was just there
9 to go up there and assist, to see what was, what was
10 wrong. And you know, to figure out what we needed to
11 do if something was, something tore up.

12 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

13 MR. MULARCHYK: That was it.

14 MR. EMEABA: So what --

15 MR. MULARCHYK: You know, that was, that was
16 all and then I went back to work.

17 MR. EMEABA: Okay. If you can lead me
18 through, so when you got there, what did you see and
19 what did you do in terms of communicating back to your
20 supervisor or to somebody. What else do you have to
21 do?

22 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, I didn't do anything.
23 When I got there, Amtrak was still sitting at the
24 crossing. All the, all the gates were down. The
25 lights were flashing. And I didn't do anything until

1 Mr. Marquette came up and told me that, you know, FRA
2 was on the way and we were going to have to do some
3 testing on the crossing later that afternoon. And we
4 were going to have to seal the house up. And that was
5 it.

6 MR. EMEABA: Okay. So, when was the house
7 actually closed, or sealed up?

8 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, around, around 3:00,
9 3:30 maybe.

10 MR. EMEABA: Okay. And by the time, were
11 you involved in the closing or sealing of the house?

12 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, I sealed up the, part
13 going in the backdoor.

14 MR. EMEABA: Okay, and you never, did you
15 enter the house at all, the signal house?

16 MR. MULARCHYK: No, I didn't.

17 MR. EMEABA: Okay, so you didn't observe
18 anything inside the signal house?

19 MR. MULARCHYK: No, sir.

20 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Did you, what about Mr.
21 Bickford? Did he enter the signal house for any
22 activity?

23 MR. MULARCHYK: Well he, not to my
24 knowledge. Not while I was there he didn't.

25 MR. EMEABA: Okay. All right.

1 MR. MULARCHYK: Nobody, nobody went in the
2 house when I was there.

3 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Did you, can you tell me
4 any conversation you had with the technician working on
5 --

6 MR. MULARCHYK: I didn't have, I didn't have
7 any. Jim, I didn't have, only, I didn't have any
8 communication with him. At one point, I asked him, you
9 know, if he was thirsty. And he, I guess was sitting
10 in a vehicle talking to a manager. And when he got in
11 the vehicle, you know, I had some cold water. I asked
12 him if he wanted a couple bottles of water. That was
13 it.

14 MR. EMEABA: Who did you ask that, please?

15 MR. MULARCHYK: The technician.

16 MR. EMEABA: Okay, the technician that was
17 there when the accident happened?

18 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, I just asked him if he
19 wanted a bottle of water.

20 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

21 MR. MULARCHYK: When he was standing outside
22 the truck with Mr. Marquette. That was it.

23 MR. EMEABA: Okay, and what did he say?

24 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, please.

25 MR. EMEABA: No, I mean. When you offered

1 him a bottle of water, what did he say? What did he
2 do?

3 MR. MULARCHYK: Nothing. He just said, yes.
4 I went and got him a couple bottles of water. That was
5 it.

6 MR. EMEABA: So at least he, so he accepted
7 the water from you? That addressed my question.

8 MR. MULARCHYK: That was, that was all that
9 was said.

10 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

11 MR. MULARCHYK: I didn't say anything else
12 to him. I haven't talked to him since.

13 MR. EMEABA: Okay. All right, I really
14 thank you for the time I've taken from you on your
15 travel and being interviewed at the same time.

16 MR. MULARCHYK: Okay but --

17 MR. EMEABA: And as I said, the number to
18 this accident is DCA16FR009. And --

19 MR. MULARCHYK: Okay.

20 MR. EMEABA: -- if you have any other thing
21 you remember beside this, I would appreciate if you can
22 give me a call and then, and we can still communicate,
23 and as I said, none of this information is used for
24 legal purpose or finding, or penalty. It's just to
25 fact, facts finding to help us in this investigation.

1 So I really thank you once again. My name I Kalu Kelly
2 Emeaba from NTSB. Thank you so much.

3 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, you're welcome. Thank
4 you. Have a good day.

5 MR. EMEABA: Have a nice trip. Okay?

6 MR. MULARCHYK: Yes, okay. Bye-bye.

7 (End of recording.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Amtrak Accident, July 6, 2016
West Palm Beach, FL
Accident No. DCA16FR009
Interview of Joshua Mularchyk

DATE: 07-07-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 14 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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