

**Survival Factual Report – Attachment 12**

**Interview Summary- Divers**

**SURVIVAL FACTORS**

ERA18MA099

**Name:** Detective Isaac Everett, NYPD Scuba Team  
**Date:** March 16, 2018  
**Location:** Via telephone  
**Present:** Jason Fedok (NTSB)  
**Representative:** Declined  
**Start:** 1540  
**End:** 1557

Detective Everett had just started his tour (shift) at his base near the Verrazano Bridge. They were dispatched to the job over the radio at 1910 and responded to the scene via boat. It took approximately 30 minutes to reach the scene. When the boat arrived, the helicopter was inverted and tied to a tugboat that had been passing by. A NYPD Air Sea Rescue helicopter was on-scene overhead and an FDNY boat was nearby. He and Officer Samuel Temme had their dive gear on and transferred to the tugboat. There were two FDNY divers already in the water with tethers attached to them, so they could not go in right away. The divers had gone down once and did not come up with anyone. When the FDNY divers got out of the water, he and officer Temme went in.

He went down on the left side of the helicopter and found the rotor blades. He went to the rotor hub and went up from there and immediately found an open door with a victim. There was about one-foot visibility in the water. The male victim was still “strapped in.” He tried to pull the victim out but could not so he “pulled out a knife and started cutting a bunch of straps.” He was then able to pull out the victim and surfaced. The FDNY divers had jumped back in and assisted with getting the victim into the tugboat. He believed the people on the tugboat tried to place the victim in a harness to get him on board. Eventually three victims were removed and taken to the tugboat. He believed that the first victim was recovered by Officer Temme. His victim was second and the FDNY divers may have recovered the third.

After recovering his victim, he was low on oxygen and boarded the tugboat. He and Officer Temme assisted with chest compressions on the victims until the tugboat reached the 34 St. pier and ambulance personnel took over. When asked if he had unclipped any carabiners from victims, he said that he had not.

**Name:** Police Officer Samuel Temme, NYPD Scuba Team  
**Date:** March 16, 2018  
**Location:** Via telephone  
**Present:** Jason Fedok (NTSB)  
**Representative:** Declined  
**Start:** 1842  
**End:** 1858

Officer Temme's 12-hour tour began on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1900 and lasted until 0700 on March 12<sup>th</sup>. At 1910 they received a dispatch for a helicopter crash north of Roosevelt Island in the west channel. His base was at Harbor Charlie at Sunset Park near the Verrazano Bridge. He and Detective Everett responded to the boat in their dive gear. It took about 25 minutes to reach the scene. There was a tugboat attached to the helicopter and FDNY boats in the area when they arrived. A NYPD Air Sea Rescue helicopter was on scene and he believed had already deployed 2 divers in the water, but he was not sure where they were. NYPD always had two divers on shift at the Air Sea Rescue base at Floyd Bennett Field. They deployed into the water. He was not certain if the FDNY divers were in the water before or after him but knew they were present. The helicopter was inverted and near the surface. Upon submerging he immediately saw a victim right away. He tried to pull the victim out but could not, so he began cutting the yellow straps of the victim's harness. When the victim was freed he surfaced and an FDNY diver helped get the victim to the ladder of the tugboat.

Through their underwater communications equipment could hear that Detective Everett was also cutting out a victim. The second victim recovered was a female and he was not sure who recovered the third victim. He checked his air and was down to 1,000 psi so he needed to get out of the water. When he got back on the tugboat FDNY divers were still in the water. He assisted in providing CPR to the victims while they returned to the 34 St. pier. There were three victims on the boat. Two victims were taken to another boat.