

Survival Factors Group  
Interview Summaries  
Two Passengers in the First Car

Railroad: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)  
Train: Train 89  
Location: Chester, Pennsylvania  
Date: April 3, 2016  
Number: DCA16FR007

(1) 67 year-old female passenger traveling with children

The passenger was sitting on right side of the first car. Just before the collision, she moved over to the left-side aisle seat to tend to her great grandchildren. She recalled sliding forward and then sideways during the collision and ended up on the floor. She said that there was smoke-like and metallic smell afterwards. She reported that one child had the tray table down and hit their chest and that the second child hit the seat in front of them. She was taken off the train on a backboard and transported to ambulance by a vehicle like a tractor. She was in the hospital until Sunday night.

(2) 44 year-old female passenger

The passenger was sitting towards the front of the first car on the right side of the car. She reported that she heard the horn, the brakes applying, and the crash all happening at about the same time. She was leaning forward at time of collision and was thrown forward and hit her knee. She smelled something and heard someone yell "get down." The window behind her had come out. She reported that she began to help injured passengers.

The passenger reported that she observed a woman on the ground who said she had pain on the right side of her head. She also observed a woman on the left side of the train who had multiple lacerations on her face. The passenger observed a man on the right side of the train with a right forearm laceration. She initially thought that he was pinned in a row of seats, but he was able to self-extricate.

The passenger reported that the conductor reassured passengers. She exited the train and went to the church next to the tracks. She said that passenger were taken care of in the church, and medics were there to attend to people with injuries.