



Survival Factors Attachment:

Passenger interview

**Crozet, Va.
HWY18MH005**

(2 pages)

02-12-2018

Start: 12:27 p.m.

End: 12:36 p.m.

Telephonic Interview with Congressman Jason Lewis



The Congressman advised that he boarded the train in Washington, D.C. Up to the time of the crash, the trip seemed normal and uneventful.

The Congressman advised that he was seated in Car #5, on the right side of the train and facing backwards. He was seated in the last seat that faced the exterior lavatory wall. This was an open space, with a "little more leg" room and no table. No one was seated next to him. He sat on the aisle and was using the window seat as a place for his work.

At the time of the collision, he was twisted in his seat so that he was turned, facing the window. When the collision occurred, the left side of his head struck the seat he was sitting in. He was advised by his treating physician that he sustained a closed wound concussion but did not lose consciousness. The injury was caused by a side to side whipping motion due to his positioning and not the usual back to front motion. The impact, of his head with the seat, dazed him. Congressman Lewis also advised that Congressman Fleishman was injured in the crash. He observed several standing individuals in the train car fall to the floor. Many people complained of sore necks and bumps on the head. The Congressman advised that though he felt he could stand and walk out of the train car, the first responders insisted that with a head injury that he should be removed by stretcher.

He advised that the collision was very abrupt and occurred without warning. It did not appear to him that the train had slowed at all at the time of the crash. Initially, he thought the impact had to do with something on the rail. He doesn't recall if the train car lost power after the crash and advised that he had no problem seeing. Most of the windows in the train car had been uncovered and available to the outside light. After the crash, he believes that members of the train crew did walk through the train car and checked on the welfare of the passengers.

The Congressman advised that later he was told that individuals who were in Cars 4, 5 and 6, sustained the worse injury. He could not confirm the statement or advised the origin of it.

The Congressman advised that he noted that there was no forewarning or foreshadowing of the crash, which had surprised him.