



**Survival Factors Factual Report**  
**Attachment: Indiana State Police Incident**  
**Reports**

**Rochester, Indiana**

**HWY19MH003**

**(36 pages)**



## Indiana State Police

## Incident Report

1451 North Eel River Cemetery Road Peru, IN 46970

Phone: (765) 473 - 6666 Fax: (765) 473 - 3207

Peru District

(US/Eastern)

ORI INISP1600	County FULTON	Venue ROCHESTER	Report # 18ISPC012359
Report Date / Time 10/30/2018 07:27 Hrs	Occurrence Date / Time 10/30/2018 07:26 Hrs	File Class 35-42-1-5	

## Nature of Incident

Incidents Against Children, Incidents Against Persons, Incidents Involving Death, Incidents Involving Injury, Incidents Involving Schools

## Supplements

Approved Report (20)

## Summary

On October 30, 2018, Indiana State Police Field Investigations conducted an investigation into a fatal crash in Fulton County Indiana with assistance from multiple agencies. Due to the consequential nature of the case, multiple disciplines have been utilized to complete this investigation.

## Incident Location

Address East Cr400 North		City Rochester	State Indiana	ZIP 46975	Country United States of America
County: FULTON	Township of Occurrence NEWCASTLE		Clery Location		
Intersection Sr25					
Latitude 41.11290443924679	Longitude -86.18501963354372	Beat	Sub-Beat		

## Comments

E CR400 N/ SR25

## Incident Offenses

Supp # 0	Offense 35-42-1-5 - Reckless Homicide :5	Status CLEARED BY ARREST-ADULT	Status Date 10/30/2018 07:26 Hrs
Attempted / Completed Completed	Weapons Used Motor Vehicle		
Supp # 0	Offense 9-21-8-52(b) - Motor Vehicle- Reckless Driving- Passing A Stopped School Bus With Stop Arm Extended :B,A	Status CLEARED BY ARREST-ADULT	Status Date 10/30/2018 07:26 Hrs
Attempted / Completed Completed	Weapons Used		

## Officers Involved

Role	Name	Agency	Supp #
Assisting	CAPTAIN E. SCHRODER (#ISP5064)	Peru District	0
Assisting	DETECTIVE M. LORONA (#ISP7424)	Peru District	0
Assisting	FIRST SERGEANT S. GILBERT (#ISP6770)	Laboratory Division	0
Assisting	LIEUTENANT J. KELLY (#ISP7290)	Peru District	0
Assisting	SERGEANT A. SLOCUM (#ISP6808)	Public Information Office	0
Assisting	SERGEANT E. HELMUTH (#ISP5910)	Laboratory Division	0
Assisting	SERGEANT J. ROZZI (#ISP7965)	Peru District	0
Assisting	SERGEANT R. BROWN (#ISP4709)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER (MASTER) D. REBER (#ISP4922)	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division	0
Assisting	TROOPER (MASTER) M. JUMPER (#ISP6058)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER (MASTER) T. MYERS (#ISP7023)	Fort Wayne District	0
Assisting	TROOPER B. REASON (#ISP8753)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER C. COFFEE (#ISP8313)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER D. RUTLEDGE (#ISP9002)	Peru District	0

Role	Name	Agency	Supp #
Assisting	TROOPER J. PEREZ (#ISP8153)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER J. REASON (#ISP9111)	Peru District	0
Assisting	TROOPER T. HARROLD (#ISP8022)	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division	0
Investigating	TROOPER (DET) J. MALLER (#ISP8136)	Peru District	0
Reporting	TROOPER T. TROTTIER (#ISP8171)	Peru District	0

## Incident People

Roles		Supp #	
Arrestee, Suspect / Offender		0	
Name		Title	Date of Birth
SHEPHERD, ALYSSA LEIGH (Primary Name)			

Race	Sex	Age at Occurrence	DL #
White	F	24 Years Old	

Address:

Height	Weight	Hair	Hair Length	Skin
502	130	Brown	Long	
Eye Color	Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info	
Brown			10/31/2018	

Arrest Date	Arrest Type
10/30/2018	Warrant Arrest

Incarceration Location	Bond Amount:	Bond Type:
COUNTY JAIL- FULTON		

Roles	Supp #	
Victim	0	<b>JUVENILE</b>
Name	Title	Date of Birth
(Primary Name)		

Race	Sex	Age at Occurrence	DL #
White	M	6 Years Old	

Address:

Injuries
Fatal/Killed

Roles	Supp #	
Victim	0	<b>JUVENILE</b>
Name	Title	Date of Birth

Race	Sex	Age at Occurrence	DL #
White	M	6 Years Old	

Address:

Injuries
Fatal/Killed

Roles	Supp #	
Victim	0	<b>JUVENILE</b>
Name	Title	Date of Birth

Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 11 Years Old	DL #	
Address: [REDACTED]				
Roles Victim		Supp # 0	<b>JUVENILE</b>	
Name [REDACTED]		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]				
Race White	Sex F	Age at Occurrence 9 Years Old	DL #	
Address: [REDACTED]				
Injuries Fatal/Killed				
Roles Parent / Guardian, Interviewed		Supp # 0		
Name [REDACTED] (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]				
Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 27 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Address: [REDACTED]				
Height 511	Weight 190	Hair Brown	Hair Length	Skin
Eye Color Blue	Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 01/18/2014	
Roles Witness		Supp # 5		
Name [REDACTED] (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]				
Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 44 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Residence (Date of Info: 11/02/2018) [REDACTED]		Cellular (Date of Info: 11/02/2018) [REDACTED]		
Address: [REDACTED]				
Height 505	Weight 180	Hair Brown	Hair Length	Skin
Eye Color Brown	Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 11/02/2018	
Roles Parent / Guardian		Supp # 0		
Name [REDACTED] (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]				

Race White		Sex F	Age at Occurrence 40 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Address: [REDACTED]					
Height 503	Weight 120	Hair Brown	Hair Length		Skin
Eye Color Blue		Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 07/12/2014	
Roles Parent / Guardian			Supp # 0		
Name [REDACTED]			Title JR	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]					
Race White		Sex M	Age at Occurrence 32 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Address: [REDACTED]					
Height 601	Weight 135	Hair Blond Or Strawberry	Hair Length Short		Skin
Eye Color Blue		Build	Facial Hair None	Date of Info 11/02/2018	
Roles Interviewed, Witness			Supp # 11		
Name REID, ROBERT GIFFORD (Primary Name)			Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]					
Race White		Sex M	Age at Occurrence 66 Years Old	DL #	
Cellular (Date of Info: 11/14/2018) [REDACTED]					
Address: [REDACTED]					
Roles Parent / Guardian, Interviewed			Supp # 0		
Name [REDACTED]			Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]					
Race Unknown		Sex F	Age at Occurrence 29 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Address: [REDACTED]					
Height 500	Weight 138	Hair Brown	Hair Length		Skin
Eye Color Brown		Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 05/10/2013	
Roles Witness			Supp # 5		
Name THOMPSON, BRITTNEY (Primary Name)			Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]					

Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 32 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Cellular (Date of Info: 11/02/2018) [REDACTED]				
Address: [REDACTED]				
Height 510	Weight 150	Hair Brown	Hair Length	Skin
Eye Color Green	Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 11/02/2018	
Roles Interviewed, Witness		Supp # 6		
Name WHEELER, HOBERT M. (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 53 Years Old	DL # [REDACTED]	
Cellular (Date of Info: 11/02/2018) [REDACTED]				
Address: [REDACTED]				
Height 508	Weight 185	Hair Blond Or Strawberry	Hair Length	Skin
Eye Color Blue	Build	Facial Hair	Date of Info 11/02/2018	
Roles Witness		Supp # 5	<b>JUVENILE</b>	
Name [REDACTED] (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
Race White	Sex M	Age at Occurrence 15 Years Old	DL #	
Address: [REDACTED]				
Roles Interviewed, Witness		Supp # 11	<b>JUVENILE</b>	
Name [REDACTED] (Primary Name)		Title	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	
Race White	Sex F	Age at Occurrence 17 Years Old	DL #	
Cellular (Date of Info: 11/14/2018) [REDACTED]				
Address: [REDACTED]				
<b>Incident Vehicles</b>				
Role Other				Supp # 0
Year 2017	Make TOYOTA(TOYT)	Model	Type	Style

VIN		License #/State: [REDACTED]		License Month/Year /2018	License Type
Odometer	Color Black		Motorcycle CCS	Misc Id	
Owner		Value			
Status Unknown(#0)			Locked N	Keys in Vehicle N	
Comments **Invalid Vehicle Style/Type combo from import = PC /					
Vehicle Role Other		Total Value \$ 0.00			
Grand Total of Vehicle Loss:					

## Incident Narratives

## Original Narrative

Author: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136 Date Created: 10/31/2018 1510 Hrs Supp #: 0

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Due to the unique circumstances of this investigation involving an automobile crash and a crime scene involving death, multiple disciplines have been utilized to complete this investigation.

The Indiana State Police conducted a Crash Reconstruction lead by S/Trp. Todd Trottier with assistance from Sgt. Rick Brown, S/Trp. Jeremy Perez and Trp. Dustin Rutledge.

The crime scene was documented with photography and Faro (3D scanner) by Crime Scene Investigators, F/Sgt. Scott Gilbert and Sgt. Lamar Helmuth. They also examined the scene for evidence and the Toyota Tacoma for evidence after it was towed to the ISP Peru Post. They attended autopsies that were performed the following day (10/31/2018).

Aerial photography was conducted by helicopter as well as the Fulton County Sheriff's Department utilizing a drone for photography and video.

**NARRATIVE:**

On October 30, 2018, a 911 call to Fulton County Central Dispatch reported a crash occurring in front of Meiser's Trailer Court located at 4684 North, State Highway 25, Rochester, IN 46975. This address is approximately 4 1/2 miles north of Rochester, IN. State Highway 25 runs north for approximately 2 1/2 miles before turning northeast. As the road approaches Meiser's Trailer Court, it curves and runs east. After passing the trailer court, the highway then curves again and runs northeast. Because of the inconsistent direction of the highway, statements throughout this report may differ in direction. The general direction of the vehicles involved include the school bus traveling away from the city of Rochester (north/east/northeast) while the truck was traveling in the opposite direction toward the city of Rochester (south/west/southwest).

Multiple agencies responded to the scene to include first responders and medics. Upon arrival, two deceased juvenile boys were located on the roadway later identified as twin brothers [REDACTED]. A juvenile female was located in the side ditch on the north side of the road. First responders reported she was breathing upon their arrival however she expired shortly thereafter. The female was later identified as [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED]. A fourth juvenile boy was located further down the side ditch later identified as [REDACTED]. First Responders provided first aid until [REDACTED] was transported by medical helicopter to Fort Wayne Parkview Hospital.

After life saving efforts were completed and/or exhausted, S/Trp. Todd Trottier was assigned as the lead investigator for the crash investigation. ISP Peru Field Investigations was requested for interviews and I was assigned as the lead investigator for the criminal investigation. Prior to my arrival, the driver of the truck involved, Alyssa Leigh Shepherd was transported to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department to be interviewed. I observed her vehicle at the scene, a tan Toyota Tacoma, having significant front end damage resulting in apparent airbag deployment. The deceased was still at the scene as well as several witnesses. I attempted to locate all witnesses and parents and had them transported to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department to be interviewed. The segment of highway was already shut down at both ends with law enforcement scene tape crossing the roadway and scene security officers present. The Fulton County Coroner, Jerry Good and Deputy Coroner Margo Laymen arrived shortly thereafter.

After obtaining interviews with numerous witnesses and Alyssa Shepherd, and comparing their statements with



evidence observed at the scene to include but not limited to the damage to Mrs. Shepherd's vehicle and the injuries on the aforementioned decedents, an appointment was made with Fulton County Prosecutor Richard Brown. It was decided at this time to petition for an arrest warrant. M/Trp. Det. Michelle Jumper and I provided oral testimony to Superior Court Judge, Honorable Wayne E. Steele. After providing testimony, Judge Steele found probable cause and endorsed an arrest warrant for Mrs. Shepherd for three counts of Reckless Homicide IC 35-42-1-5 and one count of Passing a School Bus Causing Injury IC 9-21-8-52(b).

The aforesaid warrant was executed shortly thereafter while Mrs. Shepherd was located at her church, The Faith Outreach Center. She was placed in custody and remanded to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department without incident. Her warrant had a bond amount of \$15,000 Corporate Surety (reference 25D01-1810-MC-000813).

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

Fulton County Coroner's Report

Pathology Reports

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Arrest Warrant 25D01-1810-MC-000813

Juvenile Victims records provided by their school

Signed: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136	Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965
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**Supplement #1 Narrative**

Author:

TROOPER J. REASON #ISP9111

Date Created:

10/31/2018 0839 Hrs

Supp #:

1

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

None

**NARRATIVE:**

On 10-30-18 at or around 7:15 A.M. I was on duty as an Indiana State Trooper.

At or around this time I was notified that a traffic collision had occurred between a vehicle and children attempting to get on the school bus.

A short time later I arrived on scene at 4684 North State Road 25 and located the crash. Three children lay deceased two of which were laying in the middle of State Road 25. Medical personnel advised me that one child had already been airlifted from the scene. I was also advised Sgt. Jolly with the Fulton County Sheriff Department had transported the driver of the vehicle who was identified as Alyssa L. Shepherd. She was transported to Woodlawn Hospital for a blood draw. Sgt. Jolly took Mrs. Shepherd's phone into his possession while at the hospital. After finishing at the hospital Sgt. Jolly transported Mrs. Shepherd to the Sheriff's Department to speak with her about the accident. During a subsequent interview with Mrs. Shepherd she stated a screen was up on her cellular phone while driving but she was not actively using the phone.

I then transported a female juvenile witness and adult witness to the sheriff's department to be interviewed. Sgt. Jolly then transferred possession of the cellular phone belonging to Mrs. Shepherd to me. As the subjects were interviewed, I prepared search warrant affidavits for both the cellular phone and the 2017 Toyota Tacoma driven by Mrs. Shepherd. Both search warrant affidavits were then presented to the Honorable Judge Christopher Lee.

Both search warrant affidavits were then signed. Possession of the cellular phone was then transferred to Detective Heishman for the execution of the search warrant. The search warrant for Mrs. Shepherd's cellular device was executed at 12:21 P.M. The search warrant for the vehicle was executed at 4:15 P.M. by Sgt. Lamar Helmuth with the Indiana State Police.

No further at this time.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

Signed: TROOPER J. REASON #ISP9111

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Supplement #2 PRR**

Author:

CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053

Date Created:

10/31/2018 1040 Hrs

Supp #:

2

**ATTACHMENT COPY ADDITION:**

PRR

**Date:**

10/31/2018

**Time (military format):**

1039

**Name and PE # of person loading attachment(s):**

Carol Fox, PE#9053

**Assignment:**

On the above date, I received attachment(s) for this incident from the person listed below. As an administrative action associated to this incident, I attached a scanned copy of the document(s) to the Indiana State Police Records Management System.

**Name and PE # of person you received attachment(s) from:**

Det. Josh Maller, PE#8136

Signed: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053

Reviewed: SERGEANT T. ZEISER #ISP7310

**Supplement #3 Affidavit for Search Warrant-Search Warrant**

Author:	Date Created:	Supp #:
CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053	10/31/2018 1206 Hrs	3

**ATTACHMENT COPY ADDITION:**

Affidavit for Search Warrant-Search Warrant

**Date:**

10/31/2018

**Time (military format):**

1206

**Name and PE # of person loading attachment(s):**

Carol Fox, PE#9053

**Assignment:**

On the above date, I received attachment(s) for this incident from the person listed below. As an administrative action associated to this incident, I attached a scanned copy of the document(s) to the Indiana State Police Records Management System.

**Name and PE # of person you received attachment(s) from:**

Trp. Jesse Reason, PE#9111

Signed: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053

Reviewed: SERGEANT T. ZEISER #ISP7310

**Supplement #4 Narrative**

Author:

TROOPER J. PEREZ #ISP8153

Date Created:

10/31/2018 1939 Hrs

Supp #:

4

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Scene security, vehicle processing.

**NARRATIVE:**

On October 30, 2018, I responded to the area of 4684 N. State Road 25 in Fulton County, Indiana to assist with a fatal crash. The vehicle involved was a 2017 Toyota Tacoma bearing VIN: 3TMCZ5AN4H[REDACTED]. This vehicle was towed to and secured at the Indiana State Police, Peru Post after the crash.

A search warrant for the information stored on the onboard event data recorder was sought and obtained through the Fulton County Court system. I trained through Bosch and IPTM, and am a certified Event Data Recorded Technician. I executed the search warrant with tangible results on the Toyota Tacoma, VIN 3TMCZ5AN4H[REDACTED] at 4:20 p.m. on October 30, 2018.

The search warrant return and the information discovered has been attached to this case.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

NONE

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

NONE

**ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE

Signed: TROOPER J. PEREZ #ISP8153

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Supplement #5 Narrative**

Author:

DETECTIVE M. LORONA #ISP7424

Date Created:

11/02/2018 0920 Hrs 5

Supp #:

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

NONE

**NARRATIVE:**

On October 30, 2018 I was sent to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department in Rochester, IN to conduct interviews with people who witnessed a vehicle collision involving a vehicle and four school children.

At approximately 9:45 a.m., I interviewed [REDACTED] and her daughter [REDACTED] (14 yrs old) who witnessed the accident. [REDACTED] stated that she always goes to the bus stop in the mornings and there were approximately ten kids at the bus stop waiting for the bus to arrive. The bus driver always stops at the second entrance of the trailer court and arrives between 7:13 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. After the bus stopped they both observed the bus with its lights flashing and the stop arm out. [REDACTED] observed one box truck which was stopped behind the bus. The bus driver waited approximately one minute before he started waving the kids across the roadway. As the kids started to cross the roadway a truck heading southwest never slowed down and hit the children. Both were unsure what the driver of the truck did after striking the children. After the accident several cars stopped to help.

At approximately 12:09 p.m., I conducted an interview with [REDACTED] (15 yrs old) who was a passenger in a vehicle behind the truck. [REDACTED] and his sister, [REDACTED] were on their way to school and was behind the truck that struck the children. [REDACTED] observed the school bus with its lights on and the stop sign out. He saw the truck go past the school bus but did not see any kids crossing the roadway. After the truck went by the school bus he heard screaming and saw some bodies on the roadway. He was at the scene for approximately 30 minutes, but did not get out of his vehicle.

At approximately 12:50 p.m., I conducted an interview with Brittney Thompson who is a Fulton County dispatcher but was not working at the time of the accident. Brittney goes to church with the driver of the truck, Alyssa Shepard. She received a phone call from Mrs. Shepard at approximately 7:18 a.m. which lasted until 7:24 a.m. before losing contact. She called Alyssa back at 7:24 a.m. for approximately ten minutes before once again losing contact. Alyssa called back at 7:35 a.m. and they talked until 7:46 a.m. before hanging up. During the first call Mrs. Thompson did not understand what she was saying because Alyssa was screaming. During another conversation Alyssa told her that she saw a vehicle in front of her but thought it was an oversized load or trailer and was waiting to get closer to the vehicle to determine what they were doing. Alyssa wasn't sure what had happened and wasn't sure if she hit any kids. Alyssa told her that she didn't realize that it was a school bus until it was too late to stop.

At 2:00 p.m., I went to Tippecanoe Valley Middle School and spoke with the school Principle Scott Backus and Assistant Principle Cory Cooper about obtaining video from bus 36. Mr. Cooper removed two SD cards from the recorder on the bus. Mr. Cooper attempted to retrieve video off of the SD cards but the camera had malfunctioned and no recording of the incident was available. The last recording on the first SD cards was on October 25, 2018 and the second SD card was blank.

After leaving Tippecanoe Valley Middle School I went to Miser's trailer park to conduct a canvas of the area to speak with any other potential witnesses. I first spoke with Heather Crispin [REDACTED] Mrs. Crispin was in her trailer and did not see the accident but told me that her kids were the first to cross the roadway and were getting on the bus at the time of the accident. She heard the bus horn and she went outside. Once she realized what had happened she went to comfort the kids. I then went to [REDACTED] and spoke with Shaun Hinson who told me that he was at home when

he heard a lot of screaming. He went outside and saw two boys laying in the roadway and he and tried to help [REDACTED]  
According to Mr. Hinson he observed the bus arm extended and the bus lights on.

This was my only involvement in this case.

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

NONE

**ATTACHMENTS:**

copy of email letter from Cory Cooper

Signed: DETECTIVE M. LORONA #ISP7424

Reviewed: SERGEANT T. ZEISER #ISP7310

**Supplement #6 Narrative**

Author:

SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

Date Created:

11/02/2018 1257 Hrs

Supp #:

6

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Cell phone extraction completed by FCSD Detective/Sergeant Travis Heishman.

**NARRATIVE:**

On Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at approximately 7:30 am, ISP Sgt. Rick Brown requested assistance from the ISP Peru Post Field Investigations Section regarding a fatal vehicular crash near 4684 North and SR 25 in Fulton County. I contacted and requested ISP Det. Josh Maller, Det. Michelle Jumper, and Det. Michael Lorona to respond to the scene to assist with the investigation. Preliminary crash information I received from Sgt. Brown indicated Driver 1 (Alyssa L. Shepherd) disregarded a school bus stop arm and struck four children as they crossed the road to board the bus. Three of the children's injuries were fatal and the fourth was flown to Ft. Wayne for treatment. Det. Maller was assigned as the lead investigator. Det. Maller assisted the ISP Crash Reconstruction Team and ISP Crime Scene technicians at the scene. I met with Det. Jumper and Det. Lorona at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department where we would conduct interviews with the involved driver and witnesses.

Det. Jumper interviewed Alyssa L. Shepherd, Robert Reid, and [REDACTED]. Details of Det. Jumper's interviews and involvement will be documented in her case supplement. Det. Lorona interviewed [REDACTED] and Robert Wilson. Det. Lorona also conducted a neighborhood canvass. Additional details regarding Det. Lorona's interviews and involvement will be documented in his case supplement.

I interviewed Hobert M. Wheeler (DOB: 1/22/65). Wheeler was driving a straight-truck and was stopped behind the bus when the crash occurred. Wheeler indicated he had been behind the bus traveling northbound on SR 25 and this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> stop the bus had made. Nothing was different, regarding the bus procedure, about this stop compared to the others. As the bus slowed its speed the flashing lights were on, then the red flashing stop arm was deployed. Next, Wheeler remembers seeing headlights coming toward the children, then remembers seeing the truck hit the children. He described the truck's speed as traveling fast, very fast, approximately 60 mph and indicated the truck never slowed down. He jumped out of his truck and called 911. He then went to check on the driver of the truck. He recalled a girl getting out of the driver's door and asking him what she hit. Wheeler explained to her that she had just hit children. First responders arrived shortly after.

Once the interviews were completed and the crime scene had been processed Det. Maller and Det. Jumper met with the Fulton County Prosecutor. Shortly after, oral probable cause was given in Fulton Superior Court, which resulted in an arrest warrant being issued for the driver of the truck, Alyssa L. Shepherd. Alyssa was taken into custody that evening by Det. Maller and Det. Jumper.

Shepherd's cell phone was seized at the scene and a search warrant was requested and issued to complete a forensic extraction on the phone. FCSD Detective/Sergeant Travis Heishman completed the extraction using a Cellebrite. I've attached a timeline of events covering the time of the crash. One Log Entry of interest time stamped at 7:14:14 am on October 30, 2018 was located on her phone. The Log Entry is documented as "com.apple.Music." In speaking with ISP Cyber Crime Examiner Sgt. Alva Whited, it is believed the Apple Music application on Alyssa's phone was manipulated, in an unknown manner, at that time. According to the Fulton County Dispatch Center the first 911 received for this crash was documented at 7:14:53 am on October 30, 2018.

I have nothing further to report in this matter at this time.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None



**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Copy of Alyssa Shepherd's cell phone timeline.

**Signed:** SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Reviewed:** SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Supplement #7 Copy of email letter from Cory Cooper**

Author: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053 Date Created: 11/02/2018 1522 Hrs Supp #: 7

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**ATTACHMENT COPY ADDITION:**

Copy of email letter from Cory Cooper

**Date:**

11/02/2018

**Time (military format):**

1521

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**Name and PE # of person loading attachment(s):**

Carol Fox, PE#9053

**Assignment:**

On the above date, I received attachment(s) for this incident from the person listed below. As an administrative action associated to this incident, I attached a scanned copy of the document(s) to the Indiana State Police Records Management System.

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**Name and PE # of person you received attachment(s) from:**

Det. Michael Lorona, PE#7424

Signed: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053	Reviewed: SERGEANT T. ZEISER #ISP7310
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**Supplement #8 Narrative**

Author: SERGEANT R. BROWN #ISP4709 Date Created: 11/04/2018 0733 Hrs Supp #: 8

**SCENE PROCESSING:****Measurements and Photographs****NARRATIVE:**

On 10-30-2018 at about 0727 hrs. I was advised of a crash involving a school bus and injury on SR 25 at 4684 north in Fulton County. I departed the post and proceeded to that location. I heard Trooper Trottier arrive on scene. I contacted him via cell phone and was advised that the crash involved three children that were struck by a pickup truck while crossing the highway to board the school bus. I contacted district 16 dispatch and requested interview assistance from detectives.

At 0809 Hrs. I arrived on scene and met with Trooper Trottier. I assessed the scene. I also requested additional assistance from members of the district 16 crash reconstruction team. Trooper's Jeremy Perez, Dustin Rutledge and AJ Coffee were also dispatched to the scene.

It was decided that detailed base line measurements would be taken. After all measurements were completed it was decided that I would complete a detailed diagram complete with measurements. The completed diagram was forwarded to Trooper Trottier to be imported into his ARIES crash report system. It was also decided that Trooper Rutledge would also use the measurements and would complete a scale diagram of the crash scene using FARO Zone 3-D program.

On 10-31-2018 I completed the diagram complete with measurements and it was imported to Trooper Trottier's initial crash report #201800352116.

I have no further information regarding this case at this time.

Signed: SERGEANT R. BROWN #ISP4709

Reviewed: SERGEANT R. BROWN #ISP4709

**Supplement #9 Narrative**

Author:

TROOPER D. RUTLEDGE #ISP9002

Date Created:

11/13/2018 0845 Hrs

Supp #:

9

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Photographs  
measurements

**NARRATIVE:**

On 10-30-18 I responded to the scene of the crash as a reconstructionist. While on scene I assisted the rest of the reconstruction team with photographs and measurements.

I also created the scale diagram in the Faro program. I attached four different views of the diagram which are shown to scale in a PDF document.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

NONE

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

NONE

**ATTACHMENTS:**

4 copies of the diagram shown with different views

Signed: TROOPER D. RUTLEDGE #ISP9002	Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965
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**Supplement #10 Narrative**

Author:

DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136

Date Created:

11/13/2018 1018 Hrs

Supp #:

10

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

None

**NARRATIVE:**

On November 13, 2018, I met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mother and brother to [REDACTED] for an audio/video recorded interview at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. During this interview [REDACTED] provided a copy of a generic list of [REDACTED] injuries that was provided by nurses. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also provided me with photographs they have taken of [REDACTED] injuries. These photographs will be attached to this investigation.

[REDACTED] and I discussed an interview with [REDACTED] This interview is tentatively scheduled for Friday (November 16th).

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

At this time a reenactment of the incident has been scheduled for Thursday (November 15th). An attempt was made on November 1st but was rescheduled due to weather conditions and the presence of news media with additional artificial lighting. Daylight was observed at this time as dark with no sun glow visible.

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Generic list of [REDACTED] injuries.

Signed: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Supplement #11 Narrative - Interviews of Shepherd, Reid & Wilson**

Author: DETECTIVE M. JUMPER #ISP6058 Date Created: 11/14/2018 1218 Hrs Supp #: 11

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

None

**NARRATIVE:**

On 10/30/18 at approximately 8:00am I was asked to go to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department in reference to a traffic crash involving 4 children that were struck by a motor vehicle while boarding their school bus. I was asked to conduct interviews with the driver of the pickup truck, the school bus driver and the witnesses. At approximately 9:30am I interviewed Alyssa L. Shepherd at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. I read Alyssa her Miranda Rights which she signed and agreed to answer my questions. I asked her if she was injured in any way and she said that her hips were sore, but she did not believe she was injured. She said that she had just come from the hospital where she submitted to a blood draw. Alyssa appeared to be very upset and scared when I first entered the interview room, but I was able to calm her pretty quickly and keep her attention during the interview. She explained that she had to drive her husband, Neil Shepherd, to work in Talma on this morning and she does not usually do that. She believed that she dropped him off around 7:05am, but she was not sure of the exact time. She had her two young children in the truck ages 2 and 3 as well as her little brother [REDACTED] who is 12. They were seated in the back seat and her two children were asleep. She was on her way back to her Mother, Amanda Hudkins, house (921 Clover St., Rochester) so that [REDACTED] could get clean clothes and be taken to school in Rochester. She had been watching her brother because her Step Father, Jason Hudkins Sr., was in a Ft. Wayne hospital possibly having heart surgery on this particular day.

[REDACTED] She was visibly upset about her Father's pending surgery. She said she was heading towards Rochester on SR 25 and as she rounded the curve by the trailer park she knew there was some type of vehicle with headlights pointing towards her up ahead and she dimmed her bright lights. She could not immediately tell what the vehicle was in the roadway nor could she tell the size of it. She was trying to figure out what it was and she believes she tried stopping, but it was too late. Immediately after the crash she stopped and could not open her driver's door. She then made 3 phone calls. One call was made to 911, but she said that the call never connected. She then called her husband Neil and also called her friend Brittany Thompson, but she cannot remember which one she called first. She said that she was not late getting anywhere, was not distracted by anything and was not using her phone at the time of the crash. I read Alyssa the Consent to Search form which she signed and agreed to let officers look through her cell phone. A short time later, Attorney Danny Saiz of Rochester came to the Sheriff's Department and asked that I terminate the interview. Alyssa was very cooperative and also provided me with her Mother's cell phone number so that I could reach her later in the day if needed.

On 10/30/18 at approximately 10:30am I interviewed Robert G. Reid at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. Robert explained that he is a bus driver for Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation and had worked there for approximately 2 years. He said that he had made 3 stops prior to the crash picking up 2 high school students and 1 elementary age student who were on the bus at the time of the crash. As he approached the stop at the trailer park he activated the yellow caution lights and then as he stopped he activated the stop arm and red stop lights. He could see a southbound vehicle's headlights approaching from a distance and he had no reason to believe the vehicle was not going to stop. He waived the children across SR 25 to board the bus and as the children crossed the road he realized the vehicle was not slowing down to stop and there was nothing he could do. He honked the bus horn, but it was too late and the vehicle struck some of the children. Mr. Reid was visibly upset and shaken by what he had witnessed.

On 10/30/18 at approximately 12:00pm I interviewed witness [REDACTED] who had been traveling behind Alyssa Shepherd southbound on SR 25. She said that it was round 7:10am, still dark and they were traveling approximately 45mph as they were coming around the curve before the crash. She said that before she got around the curve she could tell that there was

a bus stopped up ahead with its stop arm out and all of its red lights on and she began to slow down. She was concerned because the truck in front of her did not slow down and appeared to maintain the speed they had been going. As the truck approached the bus [REDACTED] said that she could see the children crossing the road in the headlights of the truck and that is when she freaked out because there was nothing she could do and she saw the truck hit the children. She said that she saw one child in the road and one child in the grass. She did not have her cell phone with her so she was not able to call for help. [REDACTED] had a hard time describing anything after that because she was so upset.

On 10/30/18 I assisted Det. Josh Maller with an oral probable cause with Fulton County Prosecutor Rick Brown before Superior Court Judge Wayne Steele where a warrant was issued for Alyssa Shepherd's arrest for 3 counts of reckless homicide and 1 count of passing a school bus causing injury. At approximately 4:00pm I and Det. Maller went to the Faith Outreach Center located at 1125 E 9th St, Rochester, Indiana, where Det. Maller read Alyssa the warrant and she was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Fulton County Jail where she was released to Jail Commander Cathy Collins. I have nothing further to report.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Copy of Advice of Rights for Alyssa Shepherd.

Copy of Consent to Search for Alyssa Shepherd.

Copy of Indiana State Department of Toxicology Analysis Request Form for Alyssa Shepherd.

Signed: DETECTIVE M. JUMPER #ISP6058

Reviewed: FIRST SERGEANT R. BURGESS #ISP7002

**Supplement #12 Narrative**

Author: TROOPER T. TROTTIER #ISP8171 Date Created: 11/17/2018 1117 Hrs Supp #: 12

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Digital Photographs of the scene

**NARRATIVE:**

On October 30, 2018, I was dispatched to the area of CR400N and SR25 after the Fulton County Sheriff's Department contacted the Indiana State Police Peru Dispatch to request a crash reconstructionist. I arrived on scene and noticed a school bus with its' red lights and stop arm activated. Fulton County Sgt. Detective Travis Heishman approached me and advised that we had three deceased children and a fourth child that was being flown out.

I noticed a Toyota pickup truck sitting along the edge of the south bound SR25 lane. Det. Heishman advised that the Toyota pickup was the vehicle that hit the children. Det. Heishman also advised that the driver was still in the vehicle. I walked up to the vehicle and noticed a single female occupant sitting on the passenger seat. I asked the female for her license and she stated that she forgot her license at home. The female stated that her name was **ALYSSA SHEPHERD**.

Sheriff Chris Sailors approached me and asked what they could do to help. I advised Sheriff Sailors that I needed an officer to read Mrs. Shepherd implied consent and conduct a blood draw. First Sgt. Larry Jolley advised that he would take care of that.

I returned to my commission and retrieved my digital camera. I walked back to the scene and started taking digital photographs of the scene. When I finished with my photographs, I returned to my commission and retrieved some spray paint. I returned to the vehicles and used the spray paint to mark the vehicle's final rest positions. When additional units arrived, I started taking measurements of the scene.

When measurements were finished I left the scene and went to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department to draft a Search Warrant for the Electronic Data Recorder on the Toyota Pickup truck. Once completed I submitted the affidavit to the Fulton County Circuit Court Judge, Honorable A. Christopher Lee. Judge Lee found probable cause and endorsed the search warrant for the EDR. I left the courthouse and returned to the scene. I brought the affidavit to S/Tpr. Jeremy Perez.

A wrecker arrived and stayed on the North end of the crash scene until Indiana State Police Crime Scene Investigators were finished. At this time the wrecker was instructed to take the Toyota pickup truck to the ISP Peru Post for further examination. At this time I have nothing further to report for this investigation.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

NONE

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

NONE

**ATTACHMENTS:**



NONE

Signed: TROOPER T. TROTTIER #ISP8171	Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965
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**Supplement #13 Narrative**

Author: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136 Date Created: 11/20/2018 0902 Hrs Supp #: 13

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Photographs were taken of [REDACTED] injuries received on October 30, 2018. Some injuries were unable to be photographed due to medical bandaging or being underneath [REDACTED] body.

**NARRATIVE:**

On November 19, 2018, I met with [REDACTED] and his mother [REDACTED] for an audio recorded interview with [REDACTED]. This interview took place at Parkview Randallia Hospital located at 2200 Randallia Drive, Fort Wayne, IN, while in [REDACTED] hospital room. During this interview [REDACTED] seemed to be mentally alert and capable of understanding the questions while providing appropriate responses. I questioned him briefly about the incidents that transpired on October 30th. He was able to provide some information but it is apparent that his recollection is not completely accurate.

This interview was recorded and will be transferred to CD for evidence submission.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

Investigation ongoing.

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

Signed: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

## Scene Examination and Autopsy

Author:

FIRST SERGEANT S. GILBERT #ISP6770

Date Created:

11/26/2018 1146 Hrs

Supp #:

14

### SCENE PROCESSING:

The scene on SR 25 was documented using the Faro laser scan station and aerial photography. Additional measurements and photographs were taken by the Peru District crash reconstruction officers. DNA and hair standards along with digital photographs were taken during the autopsies of the three victims.

### NARRATIVE:

On October 30, 2018, at approximately 08:20 EST, First Sergeant Robert Burgess with the Indiana State Police Peru District contacted me regarding an incident in Fulton County. Several school-aged children were crossing State Road (SR) 25 north of Rochester, Indiana when they were struck by a vehicle as they were preparing to board a school bus. Sgt. Lamar Helmuth and I responded to assist with the documentation of the scene and autopsies.

I arrived at the scene at approximately 09:59 EST. Traffic on SR 25 was diverted to county roads north and south of the incident area. Closer to the incident area, yellow crime scene tape had been placed at the north and south ends. Numerous state and local law enforcement officers were present as well as the Fulton County Coroner. SR 25 was a north/south roadway, however, in the immediate area of the incident, the roadway ran in an east/west direction as it followed the banks of the Tippecanoe River. A mobile home park was adjacent to the roadway on the north side. There were three entrances to the mobile home park from SR 25. The incident took place at the middle entrance. SR 25 was an asphalt roadway with white painted fog lines and solid double yellow center lines within the incident area. There were no overhead lights in the immediate area of the incident. Within the scene was a school bus facing eastward in the northbound lane of SR 25. A Toyota truck with front-end damage was west of the school bus parked on the edge of the roadway of the southbound lane along with the three deceased victims, shoes, parts of backpacks, and several vehicle parts of various size and shape.

Sgt. Helmuth arrived at the scene and boarded a helicopter to take aerial photographs. While Sgt. Helmuth took photographs, police vehicles were moved near [REDACTED] body along a chain link fence to block the view of residents. After the scene was cleared of personnel and markers, the process of documenting the scene using a Faro laser scan station began. Upon completion of the first six scans, the three victims were removed from the scene and transported by the Fulton County Coroner to the morgue located at the Saint Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne. The body bags had been sealed by Sgt. Helmuth.

After the bodies were removed, the remainder of the scene was documented using the Faro. Twenty-four scans were taken on October 30, 2018. Upon completion, I went to Peru Post to upload the scans to a secure server and used Scene software to register the completed scans. While at the post, the Toyota truck was examined by Sgt. Helmuth. A search warrant had been obtained for the Toyota truck and to download the event data recorder (EDR). Trooper Jeremy Perez downloaded the EDR and took possession of the digital information. I assisted Sgt. Helmuth with the examination, packaging, and submission of the evidence he collected from the Toyota truck.

On October 31, 2018, the autopsies of all three victims were completed at the Northeast Indiana Forensic Center located within Saint Joseph Hospital. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were examined by Dr. D. Wolfe. Dr. Wolfe was assisted by Bethany Wagner and Tabitha Cordes. I assisted Sgt. Helmuth with photography during the examination of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] began at the completion of the [REDACTED] autopsies and was also conducted by Dr. Wolfe. [REDACTED] was removed from the body bag sealed by Sgt. Helmuth on the previous day. Photographs were taken after the bag was opened, [REDACTED] The clothing and backpack were collected and retained.

[REDACTED] Dr. Wolfe's report detailing the injuries and cause and manner of death will be available at a later date. [REDACTED] cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma. [REDACTED] clothing was taken to the Bremen Post and placed in the dry room to be packaged at a later date after the items dried.

On November 8, 2018, using the Faro laser scan station, twenty-five additional scans were taken of SR 25 to the north/east of the incident to include a yellowing warning sign indicating a school bus stop. Spheres were placed at various locations along the edge of the roadway to assist with registration. Forty-nine total scans were taken of the incident area and vehicles on October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also on November 8, 2018, several small personal effects were removed from the backpack at the request of the family for the funeral services of [REDACTED]. These items were listed on a Property Record and Receipt and released to Coroner Jerri Good on the same date.

Detective Josh Maller and I discussed the injury of the three victims and evidence on October 31, 2018, after the completion of the autopsies.

#### **ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

#### **NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None

Signed: FIRST SERGEANT S. GILBERT #ISP6770

Reviewed: First Sergeant J. PETRO #ISP5608

**Supplement #15 PRR**

Author: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053 Date Created: 11/27/2018 1225 Hrs Supp #: 15

**ATTACHMENT COPY ADDITION:**

PRR

**Date:**

11/27/2018

**Time (military format):**

1225

**Name and PE # of person loading attachment(s):**

Carol Fox, PE#9053

**Assignment:**

On the above date, I received attachment(s) for this incident from the person listed below. As an administrative action associated to this incident, I attached a scanned copy of the document(s) to the Indiana State Police Records Management System.

**Name and PE # of person you received attachment(s) from:**

Det. Josh Maller, PE#8136

Signed: CID SECRETARY C. Fox #ISP9053

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Supplement #16 Crime Scene Assist**

Author:

SERGEANT E. HELMUTH #ISP5910

Date Created:

11/27/2018 1406 Hrs

Supp #:

16

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Photos taken, Scene searched, Hair and DNA standards collected, Clothing collected, Swabs and Hair from truck collected.

**NARRATIVE:**

On 10-30-2018 at about 8:43 a.m. I was called by F/Sgt. Scott Gilbert and asked to be in route to Rochester, Indiana reference assisting in a crash investigation. I was advised that aerial photos would be needed as well as processing of the suspect vehicle.

I arrived at approximately 10:02 a.m. and met briefly with F/Sgt. Gilbert. The scene included a section of SR 25 between CR 350 East and CR 500 North. I was given a walk-through of the scene which included a school bus, a beige Toyota truck, and the three victims who were still lying where they came to rest after the crash. I was instructed to ready my camera equipment and take aerial photos. Myself and Trooper Dustin Rutledge boarded the ISP helicopter and spent several minutes taking aerial photos of the scene. I had been made aware that aerial photos with a drone had already been taken. My photos encompassed the larger landscape with the approaching roadway both north and south of the crash. Trooper Rutledge also took photos.

After landing I consulted with Crash Reconstructionist Rick Brown and Trooper Todd Trotter about the need for additional ground level scene photos. I was advised that those would not be needed, that numerous and sufficient photos had already been taken.

I then assisted F/Sgt. Gilbert with the FARO scan of the scene. This included closer scans near where the victims were lying. After these initial scans, at approximately 11:30 a.m., the Fulton County Coroner, Jerry Good, and her assistant, Margo Layman, recovered the bodies of the three victims. I assisted with this task as well as sealing and initialing the body bags. The Coroner left the scene with the three victims at approximately 12:15 p.m. Over the next several hours I continued to assist F/Sgt. Gilbert with additional scans of the scene. I also assisted in the cleanup of debris from the roadway.

At one point I consulted with Detective Joshua Maller and Trooper Jeremy Perez. I was advised that a warrant for the truck was being sought. In addition to the search of and processing of the truck, the on-board computer was to be downloaded, via a warrant, by Trooper Perez. Initial consideration to downloading the computer on-scene was talked about however the whereabouts of the keys to the truck were unknown. I conducted an initial on-scene examination of the exterior of the truck for any fibers, tags, or other vulnerable trace evidence. None was found. At approximately 3:00 p.m. Reichert's Towing arrived and loaded the Toyota truck. At approximately 3:25 p.m., Troopers Perez, Trotter, and I followed the wrecker with the Toyota truck back to the Peru State Police Post. We arrived at approximately 3:55 p.m. and the truck was placed into bay #2.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. I was advised that a search warrant for the truck had been signed. Copies of that warrant arrived at the post shortly thereafter. I took photos of the warrant. I coordinated with Trooper Perez to search the front passenger seat area of the truck and then he would begin the downloading of the on-board computer. At that point I would continue the search and processing of the other areas.

The truck was a beige 2017 Toyota Tacoma pickup truck, Indiana plate # [REDACTED] with VIN:

3TMCZ5AN4H [REDACTED] The mileage was found to be 35,435. There was no cap on the bed of the truck. The truck was a 4 door with fully accessible rear seats. I took exterior photos of the truck. I then took interior photos. In addition to the deployment of the steering wheel air bag, all of the roof-rail airbags (front and rear) along with the front-row side impact airbags deployed. These were cut out to accommodate the search of the vehicle.

The vehicle was cluttered and dirty. There were numerous trash items along with personal items including children's clothes, food items, wrappers, drink containers, gloves, mail, etc., on the floor and throughout the vehicle. There was an Apple "lightening to USB" charging cord plugged into the front console of the truck. One of the key fobs for the truck was located between the passenger seat and center console. I finished my search of the front seat area and Trooper Perez used the key fob to execute the warrant for the computer download.

With the assistance of F/Sgt. Gilbert, the rear seat area of the truck was searched. Numerous items similar to those items found in the front of the truck were also found in the rear passenger area. There were two infant seats belted in to the rear seats. Of the mail and other documents found in the truck, the vast majority were addressed to either a Neil or Alyssa Shepherd at [REDACTED] Most of these mailings and other documents were photographed. Upon the completion of the onboard computer recovery by Trooper Perez, I activated the vehicle dash via the key fob. The stereo came up in Bluetooth mode however there was no external audio connection to the vehicle at this time. Upon switching to the radio setting I found it was dialed to 106.9 FM with a volume setting of approximately level "14" as read from the stereo. The LED volume output display at this level had 7 of 32 bars illuminated. Due to the variability of the possible Bluetooth devices that could have been connected at the time of the crash, I can draw no conclusions as to the noise level in the vehicle at that time. Additional photos of the interior of the vehicle were taken.

I detected no odors of alcohol or drugs in the vehicle. No drugs or controlled substances were found in the vehicle. No items of evidence were collected from the inside of the truck.

I began an examination of the exterior of the vehicle. I took additional photos of the truck. The truck had significant front end damage with the hood buckled in several locations. The plastic grill and lower bumper cover were missing. The driver's side headlight case was broken with the driver's side fog light missing.

Upon examining the damage to the hood of the truck, I located two distinct areas of contact damage that included what appeared to be dried substances in those areas. The first area included a depression on the near passenger side of the midline of the hood. This area was approximately 6-8 inches high by 12 inches wide. The dried substance was located in the upper right area of this depression at a height from ground level of 4 feet 5 inches. See photos. I would swab this substance and collect it (item 2). The second distinctly damaged area was on the far driver's side edge of the hood. This depression was approximately 8 inches high by 8 inches wide. There was a scuffed material throughout the depression as well as a small amount of what appeared to be blood spatter. This spatter tested positive for blood via phenolphthalein and was at a height from ground level of approximately 4 feet 1 inch. On the left side of this damaged area were two small parallel gouges in the paint of the hood. These gouges were approximately 1 inch long each with the bare metal of the hood visible. I took photos with scale and collected swabs of the red stains and scuffed material within this damaged area (items 3 and 4). Paint standards were collected from the hood (item 1).

Several jacks were used to lift the front end of the truck. Radiator fluid was present on the front undercarriage primarily on the passenger side. Several scuff marks were also visible on the engine splash shield. Farther back, just behind the engine, were areas of contact transfer with red stains on the bottom of the driver's side exhaust pipe. This area of stains was on a section of exhaust pipe that curved to the passenger side of the vehicle. Just above this stained area of exhaust pipe was an area of spatter consisting of approximately 300 individual stains ranging in size from centimeter to sub-millimeter in size. This stain grouping was applied to the bottom of the passenger compartment floor and an adjacent heat shield over the exhaust pipe. A swab of this stain was collected (item 5). Additional scuff marks were seen in several areas of dirt under the vehicle going farther back. Near the leading driver's side edge of the muffler I located a grouping of 10-13 hairs. [REDACTED]

These were collected (item 6). No additional areas of possible blood transfer, spatter, or hair were found behind the muffler towards the rear of the vehicle. Both of the passenger side tires had embedded grass within the tread of the tires.

I completed the examination of the truck at approximately 6:45 p.m. A copy of the warrant was left inside the truck. F/Sgt. Gilbert assisted with the packaging of these items. See property receipt.

On 10-31-2018 at about 8:45 a.m. I arrived at the Northeast Indiana Forensic Center at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. All three victims had been transported here by the Fulton County Coroner. After meeting with Dr. Darin Wolfe and discussing the circumstances, it was decided that the autopsy of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would be conducted simultaneously. [REDACTED]

At about 9 a.m. the body of [REDACTED] was brought in and placed on the south table. Bethany Wagner would be the autopsy assistant to Dr. Wolfe [REDACTED] Minutes later, [REDACTED] would be brought in and placed on the north table. Tabitha Cordes would be the autopsy assistant to Dr. Wolfe [REDACTED] I would take notes and collect all clothing from both [REDACTED] I would take photos of [REDACTED] and F/Sgt. Gilbert assisted me with photos of [REDACTED]

The body bag of [REDACTED] was still intact and initialed. [REDACTED] was removed from the bag. Photos were taken. His clothing was removed and turned over to me. Additional photos were taken and Dr. Wolfe conducted an external examination. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dr. Wolfe advised that the cause of death was multiple blunt force traumatic injuries, specifically to the victim's head. See his report.

The body bag of [REDACTED] was also still intact and initialed. [REDACTED] was removed from the bag. Photos were taken. His clothing was removed and turned over to me. Additional photos were taken by F/Sgt. Gilbert and Dr. Wolfe conducted an external examination. [REDACTED]

These injuries were also photographed with scale. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dr. Wolfe advised that the cause of death was also multiple blunt force traumatic injuries. See his report.

Upon the completion of these autopsies, the body of [REDACTED] was brought in. See reports from F/Sgt. Gilbert as well as Dr. Wolfe.

All items of evidence and clothing that I collected would be transported to the Toll Road post for drying and packaging. They would be entered into evidence and transferred to Peru Post for storage. See property receipt for items 7 through 22.

On 11/6/2018 at about 10:00 a.m. I arrived at Reichert's Towing on North Michigan Road in Plymouth. I recovered items from the bed of the truck that were either property or belongings of the victim's or garbage that was picked up as part of the cleanup and placed into the bed of the truck. Those garbage and trash items were discarded. See property receipt for items 23 and 24.

I have nothing further at this time.

#### **ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**



None at this time.

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Property Receipts (3)

Signed: SERGEANT E. HELMUTH #ISP5910	Reviewed: First Sergeant J. PETRO #ISP5608
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**Supplement #17 Narrative**

Author: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136 Date Created: 12/06/2018 1338 Hrs Supp #: 17

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

None

**NARRATIVE:**

On December 6, 2018, I received a facsimile from Parkview Hospital (Fort Wayne, Randalia Drive) containing the medical records for [REDACTED]. This report has been attached to this incident and may be referenced for a detailed listing of his injuries sustained during the October 30th crash.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Parkview Hospital - [REDACTED] medical records

Signed: DETECTIVE J. MALLER #ISP8136

Reviewed: SERGEANT J. ROZZI #ISP7965

**Pathology Reports**

Author:

FIRST SERGEANT S. GILBERT #ISP6770

Date Created:

12/16/2018 1109 Hrs

Supp #:

18

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

None

**NARRATIVE:**

On December 16, 2018, I received copies by electronic message of the pathology reports for this incident from Fulton County Coroner Jeri Good. All three children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] died from multiple blunt force injury. Their clinical manner of death was listed as accidental. The pathology reports were completed by Dr. Wolfe. The reports are have been uploaded and attached to supplement 18 in RMS.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Copies for Dr. Wolfe's pathology reports for [REDACTED]

Signed: FIRST SERGEANT S. GILBERT #ISP6770

Reviewed: FIRST SERGEANT S. SARKISIAN #ISP3881

**Supplement #19 Narrative**

Author:

SERGEANT E. HELMUTH #ISP5910

Date Created:

01/22/2019 1007 Hrs

Supp #:

19

**SCENE PROCESSING:**

Video taken of bus.

**NARRATIVE:**

On 12-3-2018 at approximately 7:30 pm, I arrived at the area of 4684 North, State Highway 25, Rochester, IN 46975. This is the stretch of SR 25 where the fatal crash related to this incident occurred several weeks earlier. I spent several minutes evaluating the scene until Detective Josh Maller arrived. We were assisted by several Peru Post Troopers who were to direct traffic. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Robert Reid arrived driving the Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation bus that was on scene at the time of the crash. The bus was positioned on the roadway in the location that it was in on the day of the crash. Its lights were activated also as they were at the time of the crash. The light conditions and road conditions were also similar to what it was like on the morning of the crash, dark and dry. With the use of a 2017 Toyota Tacoma truck on loan, I took video from the vantage point of inside the Toyota truck as we approached the bus around the curve to the northeast. The video depicts our approach of the bus, at differing speeds, as it is stopped with its stop arm and lights activated. Those speeds were approximately 40 MPH and 60 MPH. I also took video from inside the bus as the Truck approached and passed the bus.

The intention of these videos was not to recreate exactly what was seen upon approaching the bus on the morning of the crash, but to create a similar video representation of what the bus might have looked like on that morning. Upon review of the video that evening, it was found that due to the glare and dynamic range from the headlights of the bus, the video representation looked very dissimilar to what myself and other officers saw as we approached the bus. Specifically the glare of the headlights caused the camera to be unable to record the detail of the stop arm and red lights that were also displayed. These red lights and stop arm were clearly visible to the eye as we approached. The video was burned to a disk and submitted into evidence despite it having no representative value. I have no further.

**ADDITIONAL LEADS TO INVESTIGATE:**

None

**NCIC/IDACS ENTRIES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Property Receipt for the burned video to disk, item #25.

Signed: SERGEANT E. HELMUTH #ISP5910	Reviewed: First Sergeant J. PETRO #ISP5608
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