

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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 IN RE: :
 :
 THE HEAD-ON COLLISION : NTSB Accident No.
 THAT OCCURRED NEAR : DCA16FR008
 PANHANDLE, TEXAS ON :
 JUNE 28, 2016 :
 :
 :
 ----- :

Interview of: Janelle Waltz

Thursday
June 30, 2016

Panhandle, Texas

BEFORE:

TOMAS TORRES, NTSB
AARON RATLEDGE, BNSF
RAFAEL MARSHALL, NTSB
CHRIS MARTINEZ, FRA

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 MS. WALTZ: Go by or both?

3 MR. TORRES: YES.

4 MS. WALTZ: Spell it out?

5 MR. TORRES: Yes. Just your actual name,

6 oh. MS. WALTZ: Okay.

7 MR. TORRES: So today is July -- I mean June
8 the 30th, 2016 and we are interviewing --

9 MS. WALTZ: Janelle Waltz. J-A-N-E-L-L-E W-
10 A-L-T-Z. Alias, Angel, A-N-G-E-L.

11 MR. TORRES: And I'm Tomas Torres with NTSB.
12 T-O-M-A-S T-O-R-R-E-S.

13 MR. MARSHALL: And I'm Raphael Marshall with
14 the NTSB. It's R-A-F-A-E-L M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L.

15 MR. RATLEDGE: Aaron Ratledge with the BNSF
16 railway. A-A-R-O-N R-A-T-L-E-D-G-E.

17 MR. MARTINEZ: Chris Martinez, FRA field
18 inspector. C-H-R-I-S M-A-R-T-I-N-E-Z.

19 MR. TORRES: All right, thank you. Well,
20 can you please tell us what you witnessed that day or
21 what you were doing, you know, prior to the --

22 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

23 MR. TORRES: -- accident and everything that
24 you saw?

25 MS. WALTZ: Okay. Well, I was sitting in my

1 papasan chair on my porch and I lit up a cigarette and
2 I heard screeching like a brake noise. And then I took
3 a drag from my cigarette and it got intensely louder.
4 So I was -- I walked around the campers -- getting
5 ready to walk around the campers to see what the noise
6 was and I heard a boom and then I saw an explosion
7 above the roof of the campers. And I started running
8 over there, and I thought what was an engine car but
9 now that the wreckage has been moved it was an orange
10 train car, but I -- what I initially thought it was it
11 was an engine car getting crumpled as other train cars
12 from both sides just started crashing into it and it
13 crumpling and piling on top of each other. Everything
14 was already in flames --

15 MR. TORRES: Yes.

16 MS. WALTZ: It was already burning. The
17 explosion I saw it looked like a big cloud of -- big
18 burst of fire came up and then it boosted out and then
19 black smoke.

20 MR. TORRES: Yes.

21 MS. WALTZ: And it was instantaneously, like
22 the second I heard the screeching, I started walking
23 and I heard a boom and then explosion.

24 MR. TORRES: Yes.

25 MS. WALTZ: And it just happened

1 instantaneously. And I had saw the trains and the one
2 going westbound was moving a little bit slower.

3 MR. TORRES: Now that direction?

4 MS. WALTZ: Yes, the one that was moving
5 towards Pampa.

6 MR. MARSHALL: That's east.

7 MR. TORRES: That's east.

8 MS. WALTZ: Oh, that's east.

9 MR. TORRES: Yes.

10 MS. WALTZ: The one moving towards Pampa --

11 MR. TORRES: Right.

12 MS. WALTZ: -- was moving a little bit slower
13 and the one coming from Pampa moving less towards
14 Amarillo was moving pretty fast but I see that often
15 because there's two railway tracks.

16 MR. TORRES: Yes.

17 MS. WALTZ: So I know normally one of them
18 kind of slows down while the other one's passing and
19 that didn't seem like anything to me and then I heard
20 the screeching, and then it got incessantly louder. I
21 mean it sounded like -- it sounded 100 times worse than
22 a big rig pulling its E-brake like --

23 MR. TORRES: Oh.

24 MS. WALTZ: -- full blast.

25 MR. TORRES: Yes

1 MS. WALTZ: And at first I heard it and it
2 was a little bit and then it grew, and I mean it
3 instantaneously just screech.

4 MR. TORRES: Hmm.

5 MS. WALTZ: And --

6 MR. TORRES: And that was before they hit?

7 MS. WALTZ: Yes, that was before they hit.

8 MR. TORRES: So you heard the screech first,
9 right?

10 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

11 MR. TORRES: When you heard the screech,
12 from what direction was it coming from, Amarillo or it
13 was it coming from the Pampa side?

14 MS. WALTZ: I heard it from both sides.

15 MR. TORRES: From both sides.

16 UNKNOWN: Yes.

17 MS. WALTZ: I mean it had just sounded all
18 around me, I could hear it because the way my papasan
19 chair is set up I faced the railroad tracks.

20 MR. TORRES: Yes.

21 MS. WALTZ: And I could hear it from both
22 sides of -- both of my ears very loudly, and normally
23 when a sound is coming from direction you will hear it
24 louder --

25 MR. TORRES: Yes.

1 MS. WALTZ: -- on the side it's coming from.
2 I heard it equally loud on both sides.

3 MR. TORRES: But you can't say which one you
4 heard first? I mean like --

5 MS. WALTZ: I think --

6 MR. TORRES: I know that it was probably
7 like one, two, you know, but would you be able to say,
8 you know, I heard Amarillo screech first or the Pampa?

9 MS. WALTZ: I think the coming from
10 Amarillo, I believe that's the one I heard first.

11 MR. TORRES: And then -- and other one?

12 MS. WALTZ: And then the other one. Yes,
13 the one that was heading towards Pampa -- coming from
14 Amarillo heading towards Pampa.

15 MR. TORRES: You heard it first?

16 MS. WALTZ: I heard that one -- that's the
17 first one I believe I heard that had the lower brake
18 sound before it -- the only analogy I can give is it
19 sounded like they pulled the brakes on every single
20 train tire.

21 MR. TORRES: Yes.

22 MS. WALTZ: All at the same time.

23 MR. TORRES: Yes.

24 MS. WALTZ: The first one I heard, I've
25 heard train brakes before, and it was a low train brake

1 and then I, literally I was taking a drag off the
2 cigarette and screech, just super loud.

3 MR. TORRES: That -- after you heard the
4 screeching, how long do you think it was -- I mean
5 estimate time that you heard the impact?

6 MS. WALTZ: It was about ten steps because I
7 was -- I got up out of my papasan chair because when
8 the noise got louder, I, of course being me wondering
9 what's going on --

10 MR. TORRES: Yes.

11 MR. WALTZ: -- and I -- so probably about
12 eight seconds.

13 MR. TORRES: (Inaudible) whatever.

14 MS. WALTZ: Five to eight seconds and I
15 heard the boom and I immediately -- like immediately it
16 was boom and then explosion.

17 MR. TORRES: Yes.

18 MS. WALTZ: And I saw the explosion and it
19 was just as I was getting around the corner of the
20 camper blocking my view, and I saw the orange car, like
21 just a little bit left of it getting crumpled in as the
22 other train cars kept on coming before they all came to
23 a complete stop.

24 MR. TORRES: Okay. So everything was
25 stacking up towards, you know, where they hit?

1 MS. WALTZ: The first couple just crumpled
2 into each other.

3 MR. TORRES: Yes.

4 MS. WALTZ: And I thought it was an engine
5 car and then, yes, I knew somebody had died.

6 MR. TORRES: I know -- notice there was some
7 crossings here, do they -- do the trains sound for
8 them, you know?

9 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

10 MR. TORRES: That day could you hear the
11 horn go off?

12 MS. WALTZ: Yes. I had heard two horns
13 going off. I heard one going off going towards Pampa
14 because there's a crossing up there and I had heard the
15 other one at this -- at the first crossing and the
16 second crossing because there's two crossings.

17 MR. TORRES: Two?

18 MS. WALTZ: And they always --

19 MR. TORRES: So they sounded the whistle or
20 the horn on both crossings?

21 MS. WALTZ: Yes. And I heard both of them
22 and I'm used to hearing them.

23 MR. TORRES: Yes.

24 MS. WALTZ: And I -- that's how I can tell
25 which way they're coming from is because if there's one

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1 horn, two horn, then I know they're coming from
2 Amarillo going towards Pampa.

3 MR. TORRES: Right. So that day you heard
4 the train coming out of Amarillo sound the horn?

5 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

6 MR. TORRES: And you also heard (inaudible).

7 MS. WALTZ: The one further up. There's a
8 train crossing --

9 MR. TORRES: Yes.

10 MS. WALTZ: -- quite further and I had heard
11 it, and I had heard it sound its horn and it didn't
12 dawn on me they were on the same track --

13 MR. TORRES: Yes.

14 MS. WALTZ: Because I've seen trains pass
15 each other all the time which is a little unnerving but
16 I had heard the horns and it was just a few seconds
17 after the screeching.

18 MR. TORRES: Yes, but you didn't see the
19 actual impact? You just --

20 MS. WALTZ: I did not see the initial impact
21 but I saw everything afterwards. The initial impact, I
22 believe, was the explosion I saw.

23 MR. TORRES: Yes.

24 MS. WALTZ: And right after the explosion is
25 right when I came around the corner. And I saw

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1 everything else just crumpling in and then start
2 stacking up before the other train cars came to a stop.

3 MR. TORRES: Right.

4 MS. WALTZ: And I still don't know how the
5 other train cars stopped --

6 MR. TORRES: Yes.

7 MS. WALTZ: -- without more of them
8 crumpling into each other but it seemed weird me to
9 because there were -- they started crumpling and then
10 stacking and then out of nowhere, I just saw the trains
11 on this side, the panhandle side, heading towards
12 Amarillo, they just stopped.

13 MR. TORRES: Hmm.

14 MS. WALTZ: And they didn't crumple. So and
15 --

16 MR. MARSHALL: Could you repeat that for me
17 please?

18 MS. WALTZ: When I saw the train cars
19 crashing into each other and crumpling and stacking up,
20 it seemed weird to me ever since I saw it, after they
21 were crumpling and stacking up, all of a sudden the
22 other train cars behind them, instead of the train cars
23 just keep on crumpling, it -- they just stopped.

24 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

25 MS. WALTZ: And they didn't -- I mean they

1 didn't fall over, they didn't keep on crashing in.
2 They just stopped.

3 MR. TORRES: Yes. You got any questions?

4 MR. MARTINEZ: I was just thinking how long
5 -- I mean from the time that you saw the accident
6 occurring, how long did it take for everything to come
7 to a standstill?

8 MS. WALTZ: I know that time gets skewed
9 when you're panicking so I may not be able to guess
10 correctly but to me it seemed like it took forever.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

12 MS. WALTZ: But me knowing about science and
13 what I know about time, I'm guessing it only took 15,
14 20 seconds.

15 MR. TORRES: Yes.

16 MS. WALTZ: But to me it seemed like it took
17 minutes and once the train cars stopped -- I mean I
18 went around the corner and then I grabbed -- I pounded
19 on my neighbor's window to tell her we might have to
20 leave.

21 MR. TORRES: Yes.

22 MS. WALTZ: And then immediately called 911
23 and the cars had already stopped. So I was sitting in
24 my chair.

25 MR. TORRES: Yes.

1 MS. WALTZ: Ran around the corner of the
2 campers, saw, saw them coming, crashing, and then they
3 stopped. It had to only of been like 15, 20 seconds,
4 maybe 30 but I don't think it was that long. To me it
5 felt like it took forever.

6 MR. TORRES: Yes.

7 MS. WALTZ: And at the same time it felt
8 like it was just all done and over with.

9 MR. TORRES: Okay.

10 MS. WALTZ: So -- and I was kind of
11 panicking because I know there's kids here.

12 MR. TORRES: Yes.

13 MS. WALTZ: And I thought that was an engine
14 car so I was already calling 911. So I'm sure it only
15 took a few seconds considering the time it took me to
16 run over there and see the cars crumpling and stacking
17 and then it stopped.

18 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

19 MR. TORRES: Did you manage to get a hold of
20 911?

21 MS. WALTZ: Yes. I had called 911 and I had
22 said I'm at the Country Sunset RV Park on Highway 60
23 just outside of Panhandle, there are two trains that
24 have collided into each other just outside of Panhandle
25 just before Junction 293. And then I -- one lady said

1 we will send everyone right away. And then I do have
2 some pictures.

3 MR. TORRES: Thank you for calling that in.

4 MR. MARTINEZ: Do you know what time
5 happened because you'd have it on your phone, right?

6 MR. TORRES: Say your name.

7 MR. MARTINEZ: Chris with FRA.

8 MR. TORRES: What was the question?

9 MR. MARTINEZ: If she has it on her phone
10 what time she called 911?

11 MS. WALTZ: Yes. And actually I have it on
12 9:20, I was leaving a voicemail and my neighbor, Stacy,
13 (phonetic) you can hear the screeching and the crash on
14 the voicemail.

15 MR. MARSHALL: Okay. Hold on, can you
16 repeat that again please?

17 MS. WALTZ: I was leaving a voicemail, my
18 neighbor Stacy. I called her at 9:20, I was leaving
19 her a voicemail and you can hear the explosion on the
20 voicemail.

21 MR. RATLEDGE: Wow.

22 MR. MARTINEZ: Are you sure that it was 9:20?

23 MS. WALTZ: Yes, because that's what her
24 call log says that I called. What day was it that I --

25 MR. TORRES: Was it 8:20 maybe?

1 MS. WALTZ: 8:20, Yes, I'm sorry. What day
2 was it?

3 MR. TORRES: The 28th, on a Tuesday.

4 MS. WALTZ: The 28th, okay. Sorry, I've
5 been kind of shocking.

6 MR. MARSHALL: No, No, understood.
7 Emergency number, 8:21 a.m., Stacy Bradford, (phonetic)
8 8:19 a.m.

9 MR. TORRES: And what time were you leaving
10 the message to your friend?

11 MS. WALTZ: At 8:19 a.m. her phone shows
12 that the voicemail was left at 8:20 because she showed
13 me yesterday. I apologize for saying nine, I'm --

14 MR. TORRES: That's okay.

15 MS. WALTZ: I haven't been sleeping well.
16 I've been having nightmares about it but her phone
17 shows I left a voicemail at 8:20 and I called 911 at
18 8:21, so it must have taken a minute since the initial
19 impact to the time it stopped because I called them
20 immediately after the cars stopped.

21 MR. TORRES: Okay.

22 MS. WALTZ: I mean I know I should have
23 called them while it was happening but I was --

24 MR. TORRES: Taking a minute, yes.

25 MS. WALTZ: I -- I've never seen anything

1 this horrific in my life and I do have anxiety disorder
2 and it's -- I'm not, I haven't been doing very well
3 with this.

4 MR. TORRES: Can I take a snapshot of the
5 call, I mean just to get the time?

6 MS. WALTZ: Hold on -- oh.

7 MR. TORRES: I got it. Nope.

8 MS. WALTZ: No.

9 MR. TORRES: I got a reflection there.

10 MS. WALTZ: Oh.

11 MR. TORRES: Maybe you guys know how to do
12 this better than I do.

13 MS. WALTZ: Yes, you take the flash off.

14 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

15 MR. TORRES: Oh, how do you take that off?

16 MR. MARTINEZ: Or you could just use your
17 phone.

18 MR. TORRES: Hey, can use your cell phone,
19 I'm just going to. I'm new to the camera.

20 MR. MARSHALL: Chris, you could take it with
21 this and I'll just send it to everybody.

22 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

23 MR. TORRES: Can you just (inaudible).

24 MR. MARTINEZ: If it wants me to.

25 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

1 MR. MARTINEZ: I don't know if that could be
2 higher.

3 MS. WALTZ: Will it help if I set it up
4 here?

5 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

6 MR. MARTINEZ: Guess I got that one.

7 MS. WALTZ: How do you take your flash --
8 oh, okay. See this button? This is the flash button.

9 MR. TORRES: Yes.

10 MS. WALTZ: That little symbol shows it's
11 off. So that's the flash button and you can set it
12 always activated, LED, auto flash, red eye, flash is
13 always on, flash is off.

14 MR. TORRES: Thank you.

15 MS. WALTZ: Is it still there?

16 MR. TORRES: Oh.

17 MS. WALTZ: Do you all want me to send the
18 pictures and video that I got to one of you all?

19 MR. TORRES: Sure.

20 MR. RATLEDGE: That'd be great.

21 MR. TORRES: You send it to me, you can send
22 it to my phone number.

23 MS. WALTZ: All right, one second. Phone.
24 I will send the pictures first because I will have to
25 send the two videos I have one at a time.

1 MR. TORRES: Would -- can we listen to the
2 voicemail or --

3 MS. WALTZ: I can ask --

4 MR. TORRES: I mean is it anything very
5 private?

6 MS. WALTZ: No.

7 MR. TORRES: We just want to hear the
8 background noise actually so we get a --

9 MS. WALTZ: I can ask Stacy to forward it to
10 me. She can share her voicemail. I can ask her if she
11 still has it and have it forward it to me. She's not
12 here right now. She had to go help her mother.

13 MR. MARSHALL: Does she live here with you?

14 MS. WALTZ: Yes, she lives -- where my
15 camper is, she is at this angle.

16 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

17 MS. WALTZ: So what is your number?

18 MR. TORRES: It's 4-zero-4.

19 MS. WALTZ: 4-zero-4.

20 MR. TORRES: 3-zero-9.

21 MS. WALTZ: Oh, hold on. Stupid thing. 4-
22 zero-4-3-zero-9.

23 MR. TORRES: 5-9.

24 MS. WALTZ: 5-9.

25 MR. TORRES: 7-6.

1 MS. WALTZ: 7-6.

2 MR. TORRES: Do you have any video?

3 MS. WALTZ: Yes, I have two videos.

4 MR. TORRES: Yes, on the -- on that
5 voicemail, we just want to listen to the background. I
6 mean, the -- if it's real private.

7 MS. WALTZ: 4-zero-4-3-zero-9 --

8 MR. TORRES: 5-9.

9 MS. WALTZ: 5-9.

10 MR. TORRES: 7-6.

11 MS. WALTZ: 7-6. All right, there's the
12 first video. Phone, I know you don't like me but
13 really? And there's the second video. 4-zero-4-3-
14 zero-9-5-9-7-6.

15 MR. TORRES: Correct.

16 MS. WALTZ: Okay. And then I will ask
17 Stacy, hey, send me the voicemail. Voicemail, I'm not
18 saying just -- And I'll try calling her too. If
19 she's driving she might not answer her phone because
20 she has her child with her so she doesn't answer her
21 phone when she's driving.

22 MR. MARSHALL: Good for her.

23 MR. TORRES: Yes.

24 MS. WALTZ: But if nothing else, when I do
25 get ahold of her and she still has it and can send it,

1 I will send it to you if it's later this afternoon.

2 MR. TORRES: No, that's fine and -- I mean
3 we really appreciate if we can get it, just want to
4 create a timeline for everything.

5 MS. WALTZ: Hey, Stacy, can you send me that
6 voicemail?

7 MS. BRADFORD: I can but (inaudible).

8 MS. WALTZ: Oh, you're almost home? All
9 right, yes. I'm here doing an interview with the BNSF,
10 NTSB, the ones who are investigating.

11 MS. BRADFORD: Okay.

12 MS. WALTZ: So --

13 MR. BRADFORD: I'll be there in like five
14 minutes.

15 MS. WALTZ: Five minutes? Okay, because they
16 would like to hear the voicemail so they can create a
17 timeline.

18 MS. BRADFORD: Okay.

19 MS. WALTZ: ALL right, we're in the laundry
20 room.

21 MS. BRADFORD: Yes. All right.

22 MS. WALTZ: All right, thank you.

23 MS. BRADFORD: Yes, bye.

24 MS. WALTZ: Bye. She'll be here in about
25 five minutes.

1 MR. TORRES: All right. Any questions?

2 MR. RATLEDGE: Yes, I just had one, Aaron
3 Ratledge, BNSF. So just want to make sure I've got the
4 timeline right in my mind. Sitting on your porch, had
5 just lite up, heard screeching, like screeching sounds
6 and at that point in time, you got up to see what was -
7 - or why it was getting louder.

8 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

9 MR. RATLEDGE: Is that correct?

10 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

11 MR. RATLEDGE: And then you start to go
12 towards around the trailer and before you could
13 actually see the impact, you heard the loud bang.

14 MS. WALTZ: Yes. And --

15 MR. RATLEDGE: And then you rounded the
16 corner and saw the fire?

17 MS. WALTZ: Actually I heard the loud bang
18 and immediately after bang, was an explosion.

19 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay.

20 MS. WALTZ: And I got around the corner and
21 everything was already up in flames.

22 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. Before the screeching
23 of the -- of what that screeching noise was that you
24 heard, you stated that you heard a train whistle coming
25 from the Amarillo direction?

1 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

2 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. And -- but you also
3 heard a train whistle coming from the Pampa direction
4 as well, correct?

5 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

6 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. WALTZ: Yes, sir.

8 MR. TORRES: Tomas Torres, with the NTSB, on
9 the whistle, was it here or was it further out? I mean
10 was it -- were those crossings that are nearby?

11 MS. WALTZ: This crossing that's nearby.
12 The other one was at the crossing that's actually much
13 further up but I could still hear the whistle. It's
14 not as loud as this crossing because it's right here.

15 MR. TORRES: Yes.

16 MS. WALTZ: But that one I could still hear
17 especially since I was sitting outside.

18 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. So this Aaron
19 Ratledge. So it's fair to say that the whistle at this
20 crossing here at -- I'm not sure the name of the
21 crossing, is it Elsie?

22 MS. WALTZ: Elsie.

23 MR. RATLEDGE: Yes, Elsie -- the Elsie
24 crossing was louder and more profound than what you
25 heard back at the -- I think it's the County Road O

1 crossing, which is --

2 MS. WALTZ: Yes, sir.

3 MR. RATLEDGE: -- to the right. Thank you.

4 MR. MARSHALL: This is Rafael. Tomas, I
5 don't know if this the right time for me to talk about
6 this timeline afterwards. I just want to find out the
7 emergency response was like. Is there other --

8 MR. TORRES: Yes, ask her -- I mean the --
9 how soon after you dialed 911 and they told you that
10 they were going to send all the emergency personnel,
11 how soon did they arrive from that?

12 MS. WALTZ: It was not even two minutes and
13 there were people coming from -- here in town, they
14 arrived like barely a minute afterwards and then people
15 coming from White Deer like two minutes, they were
16 coming.

17 MR. MARTINEZ: Can you describe what their
18 activities were, what you were able to see? What did
19 they do first?

20 MS. WALTZ: Well, had their sirens on, they
21 came barreling down the highway, there were people
22 parked on the side of the road and very close to the
23 flames taking pictures and they immediately tried to --
24 you all must leave, you all have to leave. This is
25 very bad, and after that I didn't really see, I kind of

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1 had a panic attack.

2 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

3 MS. WALTZ: And threw up. So, but I know I
4 saw them. They started moving people away because
5 people had stopped, people were walking up. The only
6 person they let stay there was Kat (phonetic, my
7 neighbor. She's a licensed paramedic and she
8 immediately was running over there to see if there was
9 anyone she could help.

10 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

11 MS. WALTZ: And we were trying to get people
12 away and the police immediately tried because there
13 were people that were really close --

14 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

15 MS. WALTZ: And all they were doing was
16 taking pictures.

17 MR. MARSHALL: Can you -- this is Rafael
18 Marshall with the NTSB, could you describe any smells
19 or anything like that that you -- was there smoke and -
20 - coming this way and --

21 MS. WALTZ: Yes, the smoke was going just a
22 little west of the RV park but I could smell the fire
23 and whatever was burning. It's not something I've
24 smelled before. I mean at first I thought it was a
25 smell of a plastic burning.

1 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

2 MS. WALTZ: But it -- that -- it wasn't
3 quite right and it smelled like gasoline or like gas
4 when you throw gas on a bonfire when you're a kid.

5 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

6 MS. WALTZ: You know, that it had that smell
7 to it, like somebody put gas on a fire.

8 MR. MARSHALL: And you said that emergency
9 response started evacuating people away from just that
10 side or did they come over here as well and try to
11 evacuate the park?

12 MS. WALTZ: Well, it -- mainly they were
13 evacuating the people from that side and from what I
14 know, they went to help to see if there's anything they
15 could do to help see if -- from what Kat told me to see
16 if anyone jumped. And at that time I called the RV
17 park manager and I was on the phone with him and my
18 husband and they were telling me to leave.

19 MR. RATLEDGE: Hi.

20 MS. BRADFORD: Hello.

21 MR. RATLEDGE: How are you? Come on in.

22 MR. TORRES: Come on in.

23 MS. BRADFORD: Watch out.

24 MR. TORRES: Hi.

25 MS. WALTZ: Come here, Sophia (phonetic).

1 MR. RATLEDGE: My name is Aaron, I'm with
2 the BNSF Railroad.

3 MS. BRADFORD: Stacy.

4 MR. MARSHALL: Hi, I'M Rafael, I'm with the
5 NTSB.

6 MR. MARTINEZ: Chris Martinez with FRA.

7 MR. TORRES: I'm Torres with the NTSB.

8 MS. BRADFORD: Okay.

9 MR. RATLEDGE: Thanks for coming over.

10 MS. BRADFORD: All right. No problem.

11 MS. WALTZ: And you might want to play that
12 near here, where the mic is.

13 MS. BRADFORD: Okay.

14 MR. RATLEDGE: True.

15 SOPHIA: (Inaudible).

16 MS. WALTZ: I see, sweetheart.

17 MS. BRADFORD: You ready?

18 MR. TORRES: Yes.

19 MS. BRADFORD: See, it's all the way.

20 MS. WALTZ: "Hey, girl. I was wondering if
21 I could some help real quick pretty, pretty, pretty
22 please. I got coffee." And that was about it.

23 MR. TORRES: And that was the screech from
24 the train?

25 MS. BRADFORD: Yes, that was --

1 MS. WALTZ: That was --

2 MS. BRADFORD: -- at 8:20.

3 MR. RATLEDGE: Is there a second interval in
4 that? It's not down to the second resolution, it's
5 just to the minute?

6 MS. BRADFORD: Yes.

7 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay.

8 MS. WALTZ: My phone might say how long I
9 was on the phone.

10 MR. TORRES: You can check.

11 MS. WALTZ: With her voicemail.

12 MS. BRADFORD: Just 10 seconds long so.

13 MS. WALTZ: It's just 10 seconds long?

14 MS. BRADFORD: It'd be on the --

15 MS. WALTZ: Let's see.

16 MR. RATLEDGE: I don't think the phones go
17 to the second when you call. I think it's just to the
18 minute, right?

19 MR. TORRES: Yes.

20 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. When the call was
21 placed, right?

22 MS. WALTZ: 8:19 a.m. 27 seconds I was on
23 the phone.

24 MR. RATLEDGE: With the voicemail? Okay.

25 MS. WALTZ: From the initial calling and it

1 ringing and then going to voicemail, and it shows it
2 right here.

3 MR. TORRES: 8:19.

4 MS. WALTZ: A.M., 27 seconds.

5 MR. MARSHALL: That's how long the call
6 lasted?

7 MS. WALTZ: Yes.

8 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

9 MS. WALTZ: And that's including her phone
10 ringing and then going to voicemail.

11 MR. MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. TORRES: When you heard that screeching
13 as you were making -- doing the voicemail, what
14 direction was it coming from?

15 MS. WALTZ: I heard screeching from both
16 sides.

17 MR. TORRES: From both sides?

18 MS. WALTZ: Both sides, definitely both
19 sides. And the silence at the end is -- I was already
20 --

21 MR. TORRES: You --

22 MS. WALTZ: I hadn't hung up. I didn't -- I
23 just start running.

24 MR. TORRES: But did you hear any one side
25 first, screech, I mean, a second or two or --

1 MS. WALTZ: I can't honestly say. Without a
2 definitive yes, this side first, I couldn't -- I
3 couldn't tell you that. I wish I could. I think it
4 might have been from the left side.

5 MR. TORRES: So the Amarillo side?

6 MS. WALTZ: The Amarillo side but I can't
7 say for sure, like without a doubt I can't say so I
8 apologize for that.

9 MR. TORRES: No, that's fine.

10 MS. WALTZ: I was already kind of panicking.

11 MS. BRADFORD: Yes, I just heard the
12 screeching and a boom and (inaudible).

13 SOPHIA: The ground shaking.

14 MS. BRADFORD: Yes, that's what woke us up.

15 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay. So --

16 MR. TORRES: What --

17 MR. RATLEDGE: Go ahead. I -- you were
18 going to ask the same question so --

19 MR. TORRES: No, but what was your location,
20 where were you at, Stacy?

21 MS. BRADFORD: I live right beside her so.

22 MR. TORRES: Oh, I see. So --

23 MS. BRADFORD: But we were asleep and I
24 heard the really loud screeching and then the initial
25 hit I guess.

1 SOPHIA: And then --

2 MR. TORRES: Then you wouldn't be able to
3 determine where you heard the screeching first from or
4 you just a heard a noise?

5 MS. BRADFORD: Yes, just heard the
6 screeching and then the boom and that just woke up and
7 flew the door open and asked her --

8 MR. TORRES: And what's your name again,
9 your full name?

10 MS. BRADFORD: Stacy Bradford.

11 MS. WALTZ: Yes, the trailers did shake from
12 the explosion. It jolted them.

13 MS. BRADFORD: It's like a little --

14 MS. WALTZ: And that's what woke --

15 MS. BRADFORD: Like a little mini --

16 MS. WALTZ: -- Sophia up.

17 MS. BRADFORD: Earthquake is kind of what it
18 felt like to me. It was pretty powerful.

19 MR. TORRES: Yes. Do you have any more
20 questions?

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Not at this time.

22 MR. MARSHALL: I just wanted to -- I guess -
23 - this is Rafael Marshall again with NTSB. I just
24 wanted to get a more specific sequence of how the
25 emergency responders arrived. Like who was the --

1 would you recognize who the first people were or whom
2 any of them --

3 MS. WALTZ: No.

4 MR. MARSHALL: Who they were?

5 MS. WALTZ: I would recognize the vehicles.

6 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

7 MS. WALTZ: They were Panhandle police.

8 MR. MARSHALL: They were Panhandle.

9 MS. WALTZ: Police officer vehicles and it
10 was very quickly after that the White Deer's police
11 vehicles arrived.

12 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

13 MS. BRADFORD: Yes.

14 MR. MARSHALL: Did you -- about how long did
15 it take for the ambulances to come in?

16 MS. WALTZ: About --

17 MS. BRADFORD: They were here within five
18 minutes.

19 MS. WALTZ: About five minutes, yes.

20 MS. BRADFORD: They were there.

21 MS. WALTZ: And those ambulances were kind
22 of faraway normally but they were here in about five
23 minutes.

24 MR. RATLEDGE: This is Aaron Ratledge, so
25 it's fair to say from you all's perspective and point

1 of view, you were on the south side of the tracks the
2 whole time, you weren't able to see anything that was
3 going on on the other side of the train?

4 MS. WALTZ: No, we were not.

5 MR. RATLEDGE: Thank you.

6 MS. WALTZ: We saw everything from the south
7 side and everything that happened on the south side.

8 MR. RATLEDGE: Okay.

9 MR. TORRES: Okay. I don't have anything
10 else. Anybody?

11 MR. MARSHALL: This is Rafael Marshall, I
12 just wondered whether there was anything that we missed
13 that stuck out in your mind on this?

14 MS. BRADFORD: No. Not really. No.

15 MS. WALTZ: The only thing that I thought is
16 if that that crash happened just a little bit sooner,
17 it would have been what I thought was the propane farm
18 but it's the fertilizer and things would have been much
19 worse.

20 MR. TORRES: Yes.

21 MR. RATLEDGE: Right.

22 MS. BRADFORD: Lot's worse.

23 MS. WALTZ: But, yes, the flames were -- by
24 the time I saw them the flames were already massive,
25 intense. The black smoke was thick. You couldn't see

1 through the smoke.

2 MR. TORRES: All righty. I'm done, no --
3 anybody has any more questions, we'll conclude. And
4 thank you very much.

5 MR. MARSHALL: Yes, thank you for --

6 MR. MARTINEZ: For your time.

7 MR. TORRES: Yes, thank you.

8 MR. RATLEDGE: Answering the questions.
9 Thank you very much.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
11 off the record at an undisclosed time)

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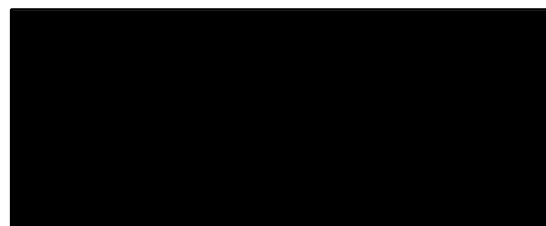
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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Head-on Collision that Occurred
Near Panhandle, TX on June 28, 2016
Accident No. DCA16FR008
Interview of Janelle Waltz

DATE: June 30, 2016

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 33 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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