



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Ford Fusion Driver Interview

North Las Vegas, Nevada

HWY22FH004

(18 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL CAR ACCIDENT IN *

NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA *

ON JANUARY 29, 2022 *

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Interview of: TIFFANI MAY

Accident Victim

Las Vegas, Nevada

Thursday,
February 3, 2021

APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ELLEN LEE, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DEREK FRECKLETON, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Interview of Tiffani May: | |
| By Ms. Lee | 4 |
| By Mr. Barth | 5 |
| By Ms. Lee | 5 |
| By Mr. Barth | 8 |
| By Ms. Lee | 8 |
| By Mr. Barth | 8 |
| By Ms. Lee | 10 |
| By Mr. Barth | 10 |
| By Ms. Lee | 13 |
| By Mr. Barth | 13 |
| By Ms. Lee | 14 |
| By Mr. Barth | 14 |
| By Mr. Barth | Error! |
| Bookmark not defined. | |

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. BARTH: Okay, so this -- it is February 3rd, North Las
3 Vegas, interviewing Tiffani May and Christopher -- what's your
4 last name?

5 MR. NOEL: Noel.

6 MR. BARTH: Noel.

7 MS. LEE: All right, so again, yeah, my name's Ellen if you
8 have any questions or just, you know, shout. So, would you mind
9 first just starting out telling us what your date of birth is?

10 MS. MAY: If I tell you, you have to give me a gift every
11 year.

12 MS. LEE: All right.

13 MS. MAY: [REDACTED].

14 MS. LEE: And I think Derek has your cell phone, so I won't
15 get that. If we come up with some questions later that we forget
16 to ask or whatever, would it be okay if we contact you at a later
17 time?

18 MS. MAY: Sure.

19 MS. LEE: Okay, I don't know that that would happen, but --

20 MS. MAY: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF TIFFANI MAY

21
22 BY MS. LEE:

23 Q. If you want to just start out, like, before the crash, just
24 kind of describe the trip you were taking, you know, where were
25 you going, what was it like that day? That kind of thing.

1 A. Sure, my son had COVID, so he had just had his home test done
2 at the house. He and I both had just gotten tested and we both
3 tested negative. I am very COVID cautious, so I went with another
4 appointment to get another COVID test and I did that on the strip.
5 So, I went there, got another negative, then I came home, and then
6 I saw these cute end tables that I wanted to buy off the internet
7 and I just wanted them. So, I just left home and it was on the
8 same street that I live on, off of Cheyenne (ph.). It was, like,
9 I think 20 minutes away.

10 BY MR. BARTH:

11 Q. So, you were going to a department store or something?

12 A. Somebody's house. The seller off of Marketplace.

13 Q. Oh, okay.

14 A. Yeah, and then I just did what I normally do. I was on the
15 phone with my husband at home before I left because he had a
16 layover because he was deployed. And I want to make sure
17 everybody knows I put my phone always on the hands-free thing and
18 we were talking through the speakers in the car. So, the day was
19 clear, everything was -- birds chirping and stuff, normal. And
20 now you want me to talk about the crash?

21 BY MS. LEE:

22 Q. Let me just ask a couple more quick ones. So, just -- you
23 were just feeling it was a normal day, like, everything was fine?

24 A. Yeah, I got a deal -- a sale, I felt happy.

25 Q. Yeah, right.

1 A. Two tables for 40 dollars, I can't beat that.

2 Q. And you had just been driving a short while because you said
3 you live near there on Cheyenne?

4 A. Yeah, it's literally like three -- maybe three lights from my
5 house.

6 Q. And, like, what was the traffic kind of flow, how many cars
7 were around kind of thing?

8 A. I can't really remember, but it flowed. I think it's like
9 how it always is. I mean, I'm from here, born and raised, you
10 know?

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It's Cheyenne.

13 Q. It seems like a pretty busy road? I mean, just like from my
14 view, like, not knowing the area, you know, like, it seemed
15 pretty --

16 A. Yes, it's one of our what we call main streets.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Our busy streets. So, same regular traffic, you know, cars
19 at the light on both sides. For me, it's just normal, it wasn't
20 heavy like congested or anything. It was just light to moderate
21 traffic, I guess.

22 Q. Okay, yeah, that makes sense. So, there were cars on both
23 sides you said?

24 A. Uh huh.

1 Q. And then so, as you kind of come up to that intersection, the
2 lights -- just describe, like, what the light was like, you know,
3 did you slow down or just going steady, that kind of thing?

4 A. So, it gets fuzzy.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Because all I can remember is just, you know, driving normal.
7 I am a very defensive driver because I have defensive training and
8 I have motorcycle training, so in motorcycles you've got to look
9 past the light, you know, so I look past to see if there's
10 anything within view. But I didn't see anything. I mean, I think
11 there were cars in front of me and I think there was a
12 (indiscernible) but I know for certain there were cars turning
13 left at the light for sure.

14 Then I don't know, it was strange because out of nowhere I
15 just felt and got hit and I know it was my right side. But I knew
16 that the car was taking me -- what's that, like, northeast -- and
17 there were three-lane cars there and I was trying to steer so I
18 wouldn't hit the cars in front of me because we were going towards
19 the -- and I think that's how we ended up in that ditch. I swore
20 I was the first car that only -- I thought it was only me, so I
21 felt a hit on the right, then I swear I felt a hit on the left,
22 and then the next thing I knew I was -- my car was smoking from
23 the front, right side. I was telling my husband that somebody hit
24 me, I was like somebody hit -- I'm hit, someone hit me and then
25 there was a fire in my car and my dog was underneath the seat.

1 BY MR. BARTH:

2 Q. Did you say there was a fire in your car?

3 A. It felt like -- I thought I saw fire and smelled smoke in my
4 car.

5 BY MS. LEE:

6 Q. Sort of, like, in the hood area or which area of the car?

7 A. The passenger side is -- I know I saw fire. So, I got -- my
8 dog was kind of pinned underneath and I reached over to her -- I
9 took off my seatbelt and I reached over as far as I could and got
10 her out while she was whimpering and I let her out the side
11 because it was pinned -- I was pinned underneath the sign.

12 BY MR. BARTH:

13 Q. Pinned underneath what?

14 A. I was pinned under a sign.

15 Q. Oh, yeah, okay.

16 A. The sign was on the side of me and all I can remember is
17 thinking that I was going to die if I stayed there and I'm pretty
18 sure I got out of the car and the next thing I saw was
19 boots -- just some people's shoes, you know, boots. And I know I
20 saw -- I think I saw a fire canister, like, a fire fighter, the
21 canister to put out a fire. I thought that's what I saw and I
22 just was hearing screams and cries and I didn't know what else was
23 going on. I just thought it was just me, I didn't know until they
24 got --

25 Q. Sorry to interrupt you.

1 A. Sure.

2 Q. Let me ask you, so where -- your dog was in the front seat
3 next to you?

4 A. Yeah, she was on the -- laying down, she's little. She was
5 just laying, she's a prissy dog and she's --

6 Q. What kind of dog is it?

7 A. A Maltipoo. She was just laying and reclining all across the
8 seat. She was being so good, she doesn't, like, move around, she
9 just sits.

10 Q. So, she landed in the, like, the floor area?

11 A. Yeah, so when we were driving, she was on the seat. When we
12 got hit, she was underneath the seat because she's so small and
13 she was kind of -- like, I think the seat moved up or something.

14 Q. Is this the -- we heard about the fire fighters helping to
15 find a dog. Is this the dog --

16 A. The dog, yeah.

17 Q. Oh, you found her and she's okay?

18 A. Yeah, we found her. She's okay.

19 MR. FRECKLETON: Her name is Magic, right?

20 MS. MAY: Magic.

21 MR. BARTH: Oh, that's good.

22 MS. MAY: She thinks she's famous now. Yeah, she got out of
23 the car and she ran away. I tried to call for her and everybody
24 when I was telling them where's my dog, they were like what dog?
25 I'm like my dog, that's it.

1 MR. FRECKLETON: I'm glad you found her.

2 BY MS. LEE:

3 Q. So, when you got out, were you able to just kind of open the
4 door as normal and get out or do you remember exactly how you got
5 out of the car?

6 A. So, it's flashes, right, so I got a couple flashes of -- I
7 remember, like, something white, I think it was maybe the bags
8 that was, like, covering the side or something. But it was, like,
9 jammed and I kept pushing. I got a big booty, so I was trying to
10 push myself through the door. I was, like, really tight. I
11 remember just kind of, like, pushing myself through that side, the
12 crack, and then I just hit the floor after that. I don't know,
13 like, how far I went from the car or what, but I was just, like,
14 trying to get away thinking that the car was on fire.

15 BY MR. BARTH:

16 Q. Can you describe more of what you remembered about the fire
17 or smoke that you smelled?

18 A. It was in the -- I swear I can't tell you completely, but I
19 just know it looked like -- it wasn't sparks, it was fire that I
20 could see, like red and it was, like, flames, and the smoke was
21 like something was burning.

22 Q. And, like, what area of your vision, like off --

23 A. Oh, it was my right side -- on the right side of the car
24 where Magic was. That's why I was panicking.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I would've normally probably stayed still if I didn't fire,
2 or smoke, or smell smoke. But I saw that and I had to get out of
3 there.

4 Q. Okay, and then once you were outside of the car and -- what
5 do you remember next?

6 A. Boots, people -- like, big boots and everybody just telling
7 me stay still, don't move. A lot people were, like, crying and --

8 Q. And at that point, was there -- do you remember if those
9 were, like, fire fighters or was it just people for other -- by
10 standers or whatever?

11 A. I tell you -- this is unfortunate, but I'll tell you what I
12 do remember. The one thing I could, like, really recall is there
13 was a -- I'm sure it was a fire fighter or a paramedic, but I'm
14 pretty sure it was a fire fighter maybe just looking at their
15 boots. They all had the same kind of like boots like my husband
16 wears because he has to wear them for work. But he was like you
17 need to get up because there's more people that are hurt more than
18 you and I was like more people and hurt more than me, I can't
19 move? That's all I remember, I don't remember anything. I
20 wasn't -- I couldn't lift my head, I was face down and all I could
21 see were feet.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I couldn't see -- I think there was something, like, blocking
24 my vision. I saw people, like, around maybe somebody at the
25 light, like, maybe right there on the sidewalk and they were

1 crowded around something. I'm sure there was probably a person
2 now that I think about it. But I just saw people kind of walking
3 around. There were some pedestrians -- citizens, but I think I
4 could tell the difference between first responders and citizens,
5 yeah.

6 Q. Okay. And do you remember what happened, like, when they put
7 you in an ambulance or anything? What happened next?

8 A. Yeah, after that guy told me to get up, another guy came over
9 and said don't you move. He said don't move, don't do nothing,
10 just stay still, I'm about to call someone over with you. He said
11 he was going to get a gurney, I think, and then maybe, like, for
12 guys picked me up and put me on the gurney and told me not to
13 move. I was like well, my dog, and get my phone, and my purse and
14 everything is in the car. They said that they have to take me to
15 trauma and he just started cutting my clothes off and I told him
16 he was moving a little fast, we don't even date yet and I was a
17 married woman. Sorry. I'm like wait a minute. But he just cut
18 everything off and talked to me and just told me that I was in an
19 accident and started asking me about the year, and my name, and
20 that they were taking me to UMC. I told them don't take me to
21 UMC, they said it's the only trauma center.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And that was that and then I've been touched probably a
24 hundred people since I've been here.

25 MR. BARTH: Okay.

1 BY MS. LEE:

2 Q. Do you mind giving us, like, basic -- like what kind of
3 injuries you had if you don't mind?

4 A. So --

5 Q. Just, like, from your perspective.

6 A. The thing that hurt the most was my stomach. My stomach hurt
7 me so bad. I had a really bad bruise across my stomach. They
8 told me that -- today that day was a lesson about seatbelts and I
9 was probably the only one who had one on. So, I had a bruise
10 across my shoulder, and my chest, and my stomach, and they kept
11 asking me how I wore my seatbelt. I think my purse was underneath
12 it so it was, like, high.

13 BY MR. BARTH:

14 Q. Do you remember disconnecting your seatbelt after the crash
15 or do you not remember?

16 A. Yeah, when I got Magic out.

17 Q. Oh, you said that, yes.

18 A. Yeah, when I got Magic out because I was stuck. It was
19 locked or something. I couldn't move it, so I let it go to get
20 Magic. But my injuries, they did a surgery, so from the
21 crash -- not the surgery -- but I have a lot of bruising, no
22 internal bleeding happened, I couldn't move and I still have a
23 hard time right now. My whole right side, my leg, and my knee,
24 and my ankle, and my hips, and a fracture in my collar bone, a
25 herniated disk my neck, bad headaches, lower back pain too. But

1 they said that nothing broke, my spine is okay, and my brain is
2 okay. But I don't know if they checked it right. But its good
3 and I'm okay, it's just that stuff still.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Do you wear corrective lenses?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. So, contacts?

9 A. Yeah, I had just went and gotten my contacts, too, from
10 the -- I just started them the day before because I had been
11 wearing my glasses.

12 MR. BARTH: Okay.

13 MS. LEE: Anything else?

14 MR. BARTH: I'm trying to think if there's anything else.

15 BY MS. LEE:

16 Q. Is there anything that you can think of that you haven't
17 already said that we haven't asked?

18 A. I think that our government invest in better streets in
19 predominantly black neighborhoods.

20 BY MR. BARTH:

21 Q. So, you feel like the streets are not in good condition?

22 A. No, they're not. I'm a native and if you just take a ride
23 around our city, you'll know where who lives, honestly. You know,
24 Henderson, Summerland (ph.), all the nicer areas, they invest
25 there. They don't invest where we're poverty stricken and

1 minority people live. They -- we call them ghost ditches,
2 especially on Cheyenne where you got some ditch. I think there's
3 even, like, a roller coaster on Bonanza (ph.) and Cheyenne where
4 the street just randomly dips and then you kind of go up and down.
5 So, I think it might cause speeding problems, but the street that
6 the guy was on, I don't know what that's about because that's not
7 the same street that he hit, I don't think. I think he was on
8 Commerce coming down. Commerce is flat. But as far as our roads
9 go, I know that there's trillions of dollars that came from the
10 government to invest in infrastructure and I'm really hoping that
11 it goes into the neighborhoods that need them. That's all I
12 think.

13 MR. BARTH: Okay.

14 All right, Christopher, do you have any perception from the
15 crash from anything you heard on the phone?

16 MR. NOEL: No, because I didn't even really hear the crash to
17 be honest.

18 MR. BARTH: Okay.

19 MR. NOEL: You know, I didn't -- I just heard Magic.

20 MR. BARTH: Oh, Magic, the dog, you heard him barking or
21 whining?

22 MR. NOEL: Yeah, so -- and after that, I kept calling her
23 name, she didn't respond to me. So, that's when I heard On Star
24 in the background.

25 MR. BARTH: Oh, so you hear the vehicle On Star system over

1 the phone?

2 MR. NOEL: Yeah, but that was it. Yeah, I heard On Star and
3 they were calling for her. But, like, I just kept calling her
4 name and she wasn't responding, so I was like okay, I don't know
5 what's going on, let me hang up, call her back, see if she'll
6 answer me, and she didn't respond. So, I just kept on calling and
7 calling and I didn't get her until I got -- I didn't get a phone
8 call until I got back here.

9 BY MR. BARTH:

10 Q. Tiffani, do you remember hearing the On Star system?

11 A. Yeah, I forgot about that part. See, I don't know if I lost
12 consciousness maybe because --

13 Q. You don't know if what?

14 A. I don't know if I lost consciousness at any time or anything
15 because I do remember hearing them, they kept saying, like, you've
16 been in an accident, we're going to alert the authorities. And
17 especially if Chris heard it, then I had to (indiscernible) and
18 Chris still heard the dog, that must've woken me up to get Magic
19 out because I don't think -- yeah. In between that time, I did
20 hear them say that.

21 MR. BARTH: Okay. I'm going to stop the tape.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CAR ACCIDENT IN
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
ON JANUARY 29, 2022
Interview of Tiffani May

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22FH004

PLACE: Las Vegas, Nevada

DATE: February 3, 2022

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Carolyn Hanna
Transcriber