



**Highway Attachment -Statement of Off-Duty Incident Response Unit**

**Phoenix, Arizona**

**HWY21MH008**

(2 pages)

**TELEPHONE INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**Date and Time: September 30, 2021, 1 P.M. Central Standard Time**

**Person Interviewed: Sylvester Mitipok ADOT Incident Response Unit (IRU)**

**Others present on Telephone Interview:**

**Christopher Davis Attorney General:**

**Interviewer: David S. Rayburn NTSB**

**Summary:**

Mr. Mitipok was traveling on S/B 51 and, he entered 202 east near mile marker 1. He had just completed another traffic control assignment and was headed home. He did not notice wording on the DMS overhead sign that was located about mile marker 2.25. "I did not pay attention to the overhead. I was too busy talking to the crew on my truck radio about the incident on SR51." Traffic started slowing on the bridge about a mile from where police had closed the road. He came upon the road closure between 9-9:30 P.M. Waited in line and traveled with traffic to where road was blocked. Doesn't recall police officers name he talked to. He asked police if they needed any help and they replied, "No".

Mr. Mitipok stated they used cones shorter than the ones he was equipped with to establish a short taper across all the lanes of traffic and rerouted traffic onto the Priest Dr. exit ramp. He wasn't sure how short the taper was just that it appeared short. Departed road closure scene on Priest Dr. ramp with traffic moving slow but not stopping. Did not have to stop at light, and arrived home about 10 P.M.

Lives about 25 miles away from where road was closed. He arrived home about 10 P.M. Did not get called back out for the fatal milk truck crash— another crew was on call.

His Incident Response Unit (IRU) truck was not equipped with a portable changeable message board, only cones and flashing lights. Interview ended about 1:20 P.M.

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