



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Driver of the Ford Explorer Interview Transcript

Greenville, AL

HWY21MH009

(18 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE ACCIDENT *

NEAR GREENVILLE, ALABAMA, *

Accident No.: HWY21MH009

ON JUNE 19, 2021 *

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Interview of: HALEY MORGAN, Driver
Survivor

Wednesday,
June 23, 2021

APPEARANCES:

TOM BARTH, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

TURAN KAYAGIL
National Transportation Safety Board

TIM ANDERSON, Father of Haley Morgan

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Haley Morgan:

By Mr. Barth

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By Mr. Barth

6

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. BARTH: Okay. So again, my name is Tom Barth, and I'm
3 speaking with Haley Morgan, on -- what is this, June 23rd?

4 INTERVIEW OF HALEY MORGAN

5 BY MR. BARTH:

6 Q. And so, one thing I wanted to do first was just understand
7 exactly who was in the Ford SUV?

8 A. Me.

9 Q. And were you the driver, or --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. My fiancé, Cody Fox --

13 Q. Mm-hmm, okay.

14 A. My son, [REDACTED], and my daughter, [REDACTED].

15 Q. Okay. And your fiancé was in the right front passenger seat?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And [REDACTED] was he in the --

18 A. Behind me.

19 Q. In the toddler seat?

20 A. He was in a five-point harness, yes.

21 Q. Mm-hmm and then your daughter, where was she seated?

22 A. Behind Cody.

23 Q. Okay. And was she in a car seat?

24 A. Yes. She was in a rear-facing five point harness.

25 Q. Okay. Can you remember -- when was the first time you

1 realized something was wrong?

2 A. I mean we were just driving down the road. Everything was
3 perfectly normal, everybody was going the same speed, everything
4 was fine. And then everybody started slamming on their brakes,
5 everybody started sliding, spinning. So I slammed on my brakes
6 and it was wet, and that's really the last thing I remember.

7 Like, I don't --

8 Q. Okay. And if you remember like, during the trip leading up
9 to that point where everybody really started slamming on their
10 brakes, was there -- you know, the weather was pretty bad, or --
11 was the weather pretty bad?

12 A. It was raining. It was --

13 Q. And were there -- did you notice other instances where the
14 traffic was you know, like, starting to get a little bit sketchy
15 and stop and starting, or?

16 A. Not really, not stopping and starting. It was getting a
17 little bit heavier per se.

18 Q. Mm-hmm.

19 A. But I mean, we wasn't having slowdowns and speed-ups or
20 anything like that yet.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And so, you -- so all the sudden you start seeing brake
23 lights come on and you actually saw other cars losing control and
24 starting to spin in front of you?

25 A. Like, I don't remember, I think if -- it was a smaller car.

1 Like, I mean, I know they slammed on their brakes, I mean -- and
2 went completely sideways and just slid like that.

3 Q. Okay. Was that directly in front of you, or do you remember
4 where that was?

5 A. I don't --

6 MR. ANDERSON: Take your time.

7 MS. MORGAN: I don't remember.

8 MR. BARTH: Okay.

9 MS. MORGAN: I don't remember if they were in this lane and
10 they slid that way, or they were in front of me, I don't remember.

11 BY MR. BARTH:

12 Q. No problem. Was there more than one car that was fully out
13 of control that you remember?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Like, everything was just -- I mean, everybody was trying to
17 stop, the roads were wet, everybody was slamming on their brakes,
18 and it was just like, everybody went to sliding.

19 Q. Okay. The car that was sideways, that was like a passenger
20 car?

21 A. I believe.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. And then other vehicles that you saw that were out of
25 control, that -- were they other cars, or trucks, or?

1 A. I don't know, I think there was an empty car hauler, like,
2 somewhere in there.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But I don't remember like -- I remember seeing him just
5 before, but I don't know --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I don't know what happened to him.

8 Q. Okay. No problem. And then do you remember if you lost
9 control of your vehicle, or did you get hit, or?

10 A. Yes. I slammed on my brakes and all I remember is it was
11 sliding.

12 Q. Your car was sliding?

13 A. Yes. I mean, I don't know. I don't know where we ended up,
14 I don't know.

15 Q. Okay. No problem. And then, you say you kind of don't
16 remember really anything after that. What's the first that you
17 remember next?

18 A. The paramedic on the side of the road. He had me lying in
19 the grass. I said I was -- I was like, (indiscernible).

20 Q. And so you don't remember how you were -- how you got out of
21 the car or anything like that? You just remember waking up in the
22 side of the grass with a paramedic?

23 A. Yeah, like -- I mean, he told me that they pulled me out but
24 I don't recall it.

25 Q. Okay. Do you know who pulled you out?

1 A. I have no idea. I'm guessing one of the EMTs or paramedics
2 or something.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I mean, I don't know.

5 Q. Okay. And then what happened next?

6 A. I mean, there was a lot of screaming. And then they put me
7 on a back board and motored me and took me to Greenville.

8 Q. Okay. Was there anyone else in the ambulance with you? Do
9 you remember?

10 A. I think it was just a paramedic.

11 Q. Okay. But no other patients?

12 A. No, not that I recall.

13 Q. Okay. So they loaded you onto the ambulance, took you to
14 Greenville, and then what happened? Were you treated at
15 Greenville, or were you transferred right away, or?

16 A. They did a CT of my neck and spine and found out I had
17 compression factor -- fractures from T2 to T7, and I needed a
18 trauma center.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So they sent me here.

21 Q. And they just -- they sent you by ground ambulance they --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. They brought in a ground ambulance and sent you here?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Let's see. Is there anything else -- I mean, I pretty

1 much -- I don't -- that's mostly of what we need. Do -- is there
2 anything else that you can think of that may be important for us
3 in this crash?

4 A. I told you just about every -- like, what I can remember.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I mean, the people that were on the bus have been calling and
7 offering me money.

8 MR. BARTH: The -- do you mean the people that run the bus or
9 the --

10 MR. ANDERSON: I think they're being represented. They
11 represented theirself (verbatim) as part of the organization and
12 offered help with -- you know, expenses and stuff, and they wanted
13 you to join the lawsuit and that's when that conversation ended
14 at.

15 MS. MORGAN: Yeah --

16 MR. BARTH: Okay, so this is the ranch that was calling?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The ranch, yes. These people posing
18 to --

19 MR. ANDERSON: They already have --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- be with the ranch, but they're
21 actually with an attorney's office.

22 MR. BARTH: Okay.

23 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

24 MR. ANDERSON: They already have resimitation (verbatim) and
25 they're in full force.

1 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

2 MR. BARTH: Okay. I'm going to end the recorded part of the
3 interview.

4 (Off the record)

5 (On the record)

6 MR. ANDERSON: And as soon as you get good with it, they will
7 update it again.

8 MR. BARTH: -- always. All right, so I'm review -- returning
9 back to the interview. I wanted to ask about -- there was a
10 report that -- was there two vehicles in your group that was
11 traveling?

12 MS. MORGAN: Yes.

13 MR. BARTH: Okay. Can you tell me about -- was that vehicle
14 involved in the crash?

15 MS. MORGAN: Yes.

16 MR. BARTH: What was that vehicle?

17 MR. ANDERSON: It was a Kia minivan.

18 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sedona?

20 MS. MORGAN: Sedona, I think

21 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, yes.

22 MR. BARTH: Okay. What are the Kia --

23 MS. MORGAN: Think it's a 2019.

24 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

25 MR. BARTH: 2019 KIA Sedona?

1 MS. MORGAN: I believe that's correct.

2 MR. BARTH: And were they traveling behind you, in front of
3 you? Do you remember where they were?

4 MS. MORGAN: Behind me.

5 MR. BARTH: Okay. And -- so that vehicle was damaged in the
6 crash?

7 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, yes, it's also there.

8 MS. MORGAN: It's totaled.

9 MR. BARTH: Okay. Who was driving that vehicle?

10 MS. MORGAN: James Whited.

11 MR. BARTH: How do you spell that last name?

12 MS. MORGAN: W-H-I-T-E-D.

13 MR. BARTH: W-H-I-T --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: E-D.

15 MS. MORGAN: E-D.

16 MR. BARTH: Okay. And who else was in that car?

17 MS. MORGAN: His wife, Caitlin Whited.

18 MR. ANDERSON: His mother.

19 MS. MORGAN: Yeah, his mom, Malana Whited. M-A-L-A-N-A,
20 Whited.

21 MR. ANDERSON: And their two kids.

22 MS. MORGAN: Yes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [REDACTED].

24 MS. MORGAN: Yes.

25 MR. ANDERSON: What's -- are they --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're Whited's.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. All right.

3 MR. BARTH: [REDACTED]

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're family friends?

6 MR. ANDERSON: Yes -- well, no. They're -- James is --

7 MS. MORGAN: They're my brother, my sister-in-law --

8 MR. ANDERSON: Technically, a whole (indiscernible) --

9 MS. MORGAN: And my mama. Yeah.

10 MR. BARTH: Okay.

11 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, they're all immediate family.

12 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

13 MR. BARTH: Gotcha, okay. And do you know if any of them
14 were injured or treated?

15 MR. ANDERSON: They were all transported to the hospital, but
16 they were all later released that night, so --

17 MR. BARTH: To Greenville Regional?

18 MR. ANDERSON: No, it was -- James went to Greenville.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Caitlyn went to Jackson.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, Caitlyn went to Jackson, and I'm not
21 sure where --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know where the kids went.

23 MR. ANDERSON: I don't know where the boys went. I
24 (indiscernible) with several -- it took some transportation to get
25 them all reunited and stuff, so I know it was three different

1 places, but I don't know where --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I don't know.

3 MR. BARTH: Would you have a contact number for them?

4 Because I'd like to be able to talk to them as well, if I could
5 get their --

6 MR. ANDERSON: Do you know it?

7 MS. MORGAN: I -- [REDACTED]

8 MR. BARTH: [REDACTED]

9 MS. MORGAN: Yes.

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. And that's James'.

11 MS. MORGAN: House phone.

12 MR. BARTH: Okay. All right.

13 MR. ANDERSON: And --

14 MR. BARTH: That's the house phone?

15 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

16 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

17 MR. ANDERSON: And James and Caitlyn and Malana all are
18 there. Now Malana, she is deaf, so you'll have to communicate
19 through James with her, unless you're in person, she can read lips
20 but she can't talk on the phone.

21 MR. BARTH: Okay. Yeah, so -- and where do they live?

22 MS. MORGAN: Bryant.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bryant, Alabama.

24 MR. ANDERSON: Bryant, Alabama.

25 MR. BARTH: Yeah so what I would -- and it's okay if I use

1 that number to contact them?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, yes.

3 MS. MORGAN: Yeah, go ahead.

4 MR. BARTH: Okay. I'll give them a call and probably just do
5 a phone interview with them.

6 MR. ANDERSON: And I have been in contact with them about the
7 other matter, and we are obtaining a lawyer. So if James wants to
8 call me and ask -- tell him to, you know.

9 MR. BARTH: Okay.

10 MR. ANDERSON: Because we've become very wary who we're
11 talking to.

12 MR. BARTH: Absolutely.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Because that's not -- that's not a road we're
14 looking to participate in.

15 MR. BARTH: Right.

16 MR. ANDERSON: I mean, fair is fair, but I'm not looking to
17 sign somebodies statement the next day.

18 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

19 MR. ANDERSON: I mean, they're wanting to post fault and they
20 don't even know what happened. I mean --

21 MR. BARTH: Yeah. Okay, any other -- any info -- any other
22 information from their perspective that you think might be
23 helpful?

24 MR. ANDERSON: No.

25 MR. BARTH: Okay.

1 MS. MORGAN: Not really.

2 MR. BARTH: All right, I'm going to end this again then.

3 (Off the record)

4 (On the record)

5 MS. MORGAN: I mean, I do remember noticing like, a little
6 bit on the shoulders, per se.

7 MR. ANDERSON: So in other words, it probably had rained
8 pretty significantly --

9 MS. MORGAN: Yeah, but it wasn't rain --

10 MR. ANDERSON: Because (indiscernible) it was like, raining
11 like crazy one minute, then it wasn't raining the next minute.

12 MS. MORGAN: Yeah. I mean, it was --

13 MR. ANDERSON: And then it'd be raining like crazy, so.

14 MS. MORGAN: I mean --

15 MR. ANDERSON: And like I said, obviously, we were up north
16 coming down but --

17 MS. MORGAN: Yeah.

18 MR. BARTH: And then one other question I thought of too, was
19 when you were being treated and transported, do you remember
20 anything about the fire that occurred? Like, do you remember --

21 MS. MORGAN: They said that there was a fire next to me. I
22 don't recall it.

23 MR. BARTH: Okay.

24 MS. MORGAN: Like the paramedic, I asked, I was like, please
25 don't move me just yet, I'm hurting. And he said nope, we got to

1 go, there's a fire. That's all I remember.

2 MR. BARTH: Okay. Great, thanks.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember by any chance like, a
4 light bus -- medium sized passenger kind of bus in the vicinity
5 when this happened?

6 MS. MORGAN: I remember the empty transfer truck -- like, the
7 car alarm. And I think the church bus like, I don't know. I
8 think I remember a church bus passing us.

9 MR. BARTH: Passing you?

10 MS. MORGAN: But I do -- yeah, but I don't know, I don't know
11 if that's the one you're looking for.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) it's not a question,
13 it's just asking --

14 MR. BARTH: Yep.

15 MS. MORGAN: Yeah, like, I think I remember a white like,
16 medium-sized bus, I guess?

17 MR. BARTH: Mm-hmm. Okay.

18 MS. MORGAN: Passing us.

19 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE ACCIDENT
NEAR GREENVILLE, ALABAMA
ON JUNE 19, 2021
Interview of Haley Morgan

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21MH009

DATE: June 23, 2021

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.

Brittany Hay 181

BRITTANY HAY
Transcriber