



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

First Responder Interview Transcripts

Andrews, TX

HWY22MH006

(45 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION *

IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS *

Accident No.: HWY22MH006

ON MARCH 15, 2022 *

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Interview of: MARCOS GARCIA, Lieutenant
Andrews Volunteer Fire Department

Via telephone

Sunday,
March 20, 2022

APPEARANCES:

RON KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Marcos Garcia:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. GARCIA: My name is Marcos Garcia, M-A-R-C-O-S, Garcia,
3 G-A-R-C-I-A.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you're with the Andrews Volunteer
5 Fire Department.

6 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. I'm a lieutenant on the Andrews
7 Volunteer Fire Department.

INTERVIEW OF MARCOS GARCIA

8
9 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. Okay. And basically, what I'm looking to get is just a
11 description from the time you got the call and then when you got
12 out there, what you saw, what you all did.

13 A. Okay. Just basically, report what I all did?

14 Q. Yes, yeah.

15 A. Okay. (Indiscernible) around 8:30, 8, 8:30 -- I think it was
16 8:30, I believe, I was in head of command. I was in the Tahoe
17 headed straight to the scene. On my way to the scene, I got a
18 quarter of the way there, and I could see black smoke immediately.
19 So I contacted my station, told them to bring one of the fastest
20 trucks we've got so the (indiscernible) knockdown on the fire.
21 When I got on scene, you could see two vehicles fully engulfed,
22 one on the east side of the bar ditch, one on the west side. The
23 truck was on the west side of the bar ditch, and the van was on
24 the east side or still on the road but more on the east side of
25 the bar ditch. When 52 showed up, I told them to put a quick

1 knockdown on the van. And I told them we had three for sure
2 confirmed still in the van.

3 So I told them to only do power cone, no straight stream, out
4 of respect of the people that are in there. And then not too
5 long, Rescue 1 showed up. And I told them to put a quick
6 knockdown on the pickup truck. And I knew for sure we had two
7 confirmed in there, so I told them the same thing, power cone, no
8 straight stream, out of respect to the victims that are inside. I
9 knew we had two that are red, confirmed red, as in EMS confirms
10 them red as in they're in critical but still alive. I have no EMS
11 experience, so I let them handle the two patients.

12 Q. The two that were ejected or --

13 A. Yes, sir, yes, sir. We put quick knockdowns on both
14 vehicles. Let's see here. We had one confirmed 79 in the middle
15 of the road too, which was the female.

16 Q. Okay. So by the time you got there, there was then three or
17 just the two that were ejected?

18 A. As in confirmed dead?

19 Q. No, just as for who was out of the van.

20 A. Out of the van, there was the confirmed 79 in the middle of
21 the road and two more males that were -- one was laying on the bar
22 ditch, and one was in the middle of the road.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Pretty much we extinguished the fire, and then we accounted
25 for bodies the best we can. We confirmed there was six in the

1 van, the female in the middle of the road, and two in the pickup
2 truck. And after that, we assessed the team to make sure -- or I
3 talked to all my firemen to see if they're okay, to see if they're
4 good with the situation at hand. And they all said they're okay.
5 And DPS said that they're going to do a full-on investigation,
6 contact in a crash crew or crash investigation crew, and this was
7 going to be a long night. It's what they told me. So we stayed
8 there the whole night until probably about 5:30.

9 At 6:00, maybe, we started body recovery. And we started
10 with the female in the middle of the road. And once we got her,
11 we went to the two in the pickup truck. And we started with the
12 passenger. And then after we got him out, we got the driver out
13 of the pickup truck.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And after that, we moved to the van. There was three bodies
16 sticking out the van, not ejected, still in the van but still in
17 the van. I can see they're in the van. Couldn't tell which one
18 was which. They were pretty burnt up. But we started with the
19 three that are easiest to get to. And once we got the three,
20 believe we got the driver next after the three. Then there was
21 two in the back seat that we got out too.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. I'm just trying to write all this down.

23 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. I understand.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Well, that was a long night. You got
25 there about 8:30ish --

1 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. We got there at 8:30 and didn't get
2 back in town until 8:30 the next morning.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Holy cow, yeah. Well, I talked to
4 your -- there's another gentleman that came out. We were -- did
5 some work out at the --

6 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir, at the wreckage, the wreck yard.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah. And another younger guy, tall, thin --

8 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. Levi Price.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah, okay, yeah. And --

10 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: -- yeah, he gave me a lot of good information
12 as well. It sounds like you guys did an awesome job out there for
13 it, you know, being a tough situation.

14 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. Our department really relies on
15 respect to the patients or respect to the victims that were lost.
16 So we lie heavy on making sure everything's respectful and in good
17 hand for the funeral home and for DPS and for us in general as
18 well.

19 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

20 Q. That's great. And I appreciate that. So, okay, let me just
21 go over this real quick. You got paged out somewhere around 8:30.
22 So as a lieutenant, you were the commanding officer on scene,
23 pretty much.

24 A. Yes, sir, yes, sir.

25 Q. You got about a quarter way there, you could see there was

1 lots of smoke, so you called for your fastest truck to get out
2 there because you knew there was a fire going so you -- you got
3 there, saw two vehicles fully engulfed. The van was still
4 partially on the road. The truck was off the road, told them to
5 knockdown the van, no streaming, just to go for power cone. Then
6 52 came on, and you told them to do the same with the van. Then,
7 I guess, was it EMS that came when you told them to tend to the
8 ejected victims?

9 A. We were already attending to them.

10 Q. Oh, okay.

11 A. They had started (indiscernible).

12 Q. Okay. And the female that was out, she was DOA. The other
13 two that were out were males. Extinguished the fire then
14 afterwards, DPS told you probably it'd be a long night, you'd be
15 there -- you ended up being there until, like, 5:30, 6. You
16 confirmed there was six in the van, two in the pickup truck and
17 then you know, proceeded to remove the two from the pickup truck.
18 And then you went to the van, removed the three bodies in the van
19 that were, I guess, the easiest to remove. And then you got the
20 driver out next. And then I guess there was three towards the
21 back that weren't piled up towards the front. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes, sir. There was two in the back --

23 Q. Two in the back. Okay.

24 A. Three partially, not all the way out the van but they were
25 the easiest one to get to. And then we got the driver. And then

1 there's two more in the back seat. So there's two in the back.

2 Q. Okay. So how many units did you have out there?

3 A. Fifty-two, Rescue 1, Tanker 2, 58, and 51, so five units.

4 Q. Fifty-two, Rescue, 58, the Tanker truck, and 51.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And you guys had plenty of water and all that out there to
7 extinguish fires.

8 A. Yes, sir. There was plenty of water. We usually just
9 (indiscernible) one for vehicle fires, but I called in and gave
10 two, one and two water trucks (indiscernible) that way.

11 Q. Right, right. Okay. Okay. Is this a good number to call
12 you back on if I happen to have any follow-up questions? It's

13 [REDACTED].

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Great. Okay. Well, lieutenant, I appreciate your
16 (indiscernible), and you gave me a great description and really
17 appreciate the respect you gave the victims out there, and the
18 families would appreciate it as well.

19 A. Yes, sir. Also, after the fire was extinguished, I did put
20 52 to put a landing zone for the helicopters to land. I don't
21 know if you needed that or not.

22 Q. Oh, sure. Yeah, yeah. I got your dispatch logs and all that
23 for -- but I did see that there was -- you had two helicopters
24 come out, correct?

25 A. Yes, sir. After the fire was extinguished, I sent 52 to help

1 our chief of police and more city police land the helicopter with
2 a LZ, which is a landing zone.

3 Q. Yeah, yeah. So would that have been north or south of where
4 the crash was because I think north was the hill, there was kind
5 of a hill up there.

6 A. Yes, sir. It was about, maybe three miles north or about two
7 miles north of the crash scene.

8 Q. Two miles north, okay. Okay. Great. Again, I appreciate
9 your help out there and as well as giving me a call back and
10 giving me a great description of what you all did.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, sir.

13 MR. GARCIA: Is this just for, to, like, you in general or
14 this is for investigation-wise (indiscernible)?

15 MR. KAMINSKI: No. Yeah. No, this is for the investigation.
16 We're doing parallel investigations with the DPS so probably be,
17 you know, we're not going to compare statements if you forgot, you
18 know, sentences here and there. It's just basically, it's part of
19 my job as survival factors investigator. Everybody has their own
20 expertise. So I deal with (indiscernible) issues, seatbelts,
21 things like that --

22 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: -- and then I also deal with emergency
24 response. And I always like to talk to several of the first
25 initial DPS, EMS, and fire that were out on the scene and just get

1 kind of a brief description of what they all saw and did out
2 there.

3 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. I completely understand. I was just
4 wondering. I didn't know what this was going to be something that
5 was -- well, of course, it's an intense thing, but I'm just
6 curious, you know.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Sure, sure. Yeah. And being that, you know,
8 everyone as, you know, sadly has been deceased, I don't think
9 there's going to be any kind of criminal charges or anything like
10 that so -- yeah, you won't have to worry about being deposed or
11 anything like that.

12 MR. GARCIA: No. Yes, sir. I completely understand. I was
13 just curious like I said.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Sure, sure. Okay. I appreciate, lieutenant.

15 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Thank you. Be safe out there, sir.

17 MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir. I appreciate it.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Bye-bye.

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 TWO VEHICLE COLLISION
 IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS
 ON MARCH 15, 2022
 Interview of Marcos Garcia

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22MH006

PLACE: Via telephone

DATE: March 20, 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.



Your Name
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION *

IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS * Accident No.: HWY22MH006

ON MARCH 15, 2022 *

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Interview of: CHARLES PRICE, Lieutenant
Andrews Volunteer Fire Department

Via telephone

Sunday,
March 20, 2022

APPEARANCES:

RON KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Charles Price:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Name is Ron Kaminski. I'm with the
3 National Transportation Safety Board. Today's date is March 20th.
4 And I'll be talking to the firefighter who was on scene. So why
5 don't you start with your name, title, and we'll go from there.

6 MR. PRICE: My name is Charles Price, C-H-A-R-L-E-S
7 P-R-I-C-E. I'm a lieutenant on the Andrews Fire Department.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Volunteer fire department, yeah.

9 MR. PRICE: Yes, yes, sir.

INTERVIEW OF CHARLES PRICE

10
11 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12 Q. And then I guess tell me what rig you're on, and when you got
13 the call, and your dispatch, when you got out there, what you saw,
14 what you did.

15 A. Okay. We were -- (indiscernible) 8:17, we went to a vehicle
16 fire about a mile north of 115 and 1788. (Indiscernible) the
17 station I got on, search, rescue on. I was the officer on that
18 truck along with -- Daniel Armento (ph.) was driving. And I had
19 firefighter Paco Koski (ph.) and fireman Cody Alanese (ph.) and
20 fireman Boslo Pez (ph.) on my truck. On the way out, they
21 updated, said we were going to have a head-on. We were going to
22 have head-on collision. Both vehicles were fully engulfed at the
23 time we left the station. I kind of updated my guys, told them
24 some of my guys were going to drop telephone lines off our truck.
25 We were going to start attacking as soon as we (indiscernible) on

1 the scene.

2 When I arrived on scene, I had noticed a pickup in the west
3 bar, the west bar ditch on 1788. It was fully engulfed. And then
4 I had a bus in the middle of 1788. It was also fully engulfed at
5 the time. When I started my attack on the pickup, I had another
6 quick attack truck. He was starting their attack on the bus.
7 Once I got the fire out, I started looking for any occupants. I
8 found two in the pickup. And then I walk over to the van and make
9 sure they didn't need anything. And we started looking and
10 initially found four in the pickup that were all towards the front
11 of the van -- or the front of the bus.

12 And then I started looking around a little more, and I
13 actually found two more occupants in the back of the bus. And
14 then I had noticed one female lying in the middle of the roadway.
15 We walked around and made sure everything was cool, made sure we
16 weren't going to have any rig knots, anything like that. And then
17 we started bussing down our hoses. We got our hoses put back on
18 the truck. And then (indiscernible) we were waiting on DPS to
19 come in. The DPS officer on scene told us that, you know, we
20 couldn't start any body recovery until the district crash team got
21 there.

22 The district crash team got there. We kind of assisted them
23 however we could. And then once they got set up, we let them
24 (indiscernible). They told us about 5:30 that morning that we
25 could start body recovery. Then we put the female passenger, the

1 female that was in the roadway, put her -- the cons team
2 investigation, they took multiple photos. We assisted them in
3 that, then we put her in the body bag and after that, we started
4 on the pickup. We started on the passenger side of the pickup.
5 We cut the door off. The passenger had plastic melted all around
6 his feet. So we had to pry the plastic from around him so we
7 could get it out. And then we went to the driver's side, started
8 on the driver's side, got the door off.

9 (Indiscernible) same thing, had to pry the plastic off to get
10 him off. And then (indiscernible) got the passenger and the
11 driver both in the body bags. Then I stepped off to make sure --
12 one of my rookies was actually, he was kind of keeping media and
13 everybody back at the time -- to check on him. Went back -- once
14 I walked back up there, they were working on the van at the time -
15 - or the bus at the time. They were actually pulling the back two
16 passengers out. And they had already put the front forward. I
17 helped them kind of pull the front four out or the -- I'm sorry --
18 the back two, had to pull them out. And then after that, we kind
19 of just busted down our trucks and make sure that everything was
20 good for us to leave. We went back to town to get our trucks back
21 in service.

22 Q. Okay. So you mentioned you took off both the driver and a
23 passenger door on the pickup truck. What parts did you remove off
24 of the van, do you --

25 A. The van -- I didn't do any cutting on the van. Some of my

1 other guys were working on it. Some of my other guys were working
2 on it once I stepped back to make sure my rookie was kind of,
3 making sure he wasn't having any problems with the media or
4 anything like that. Officially, I cut on the pickup. And we cut
5 the passenger side front door, got it out of the way and then we
6 cut the driver's side front door off.

7 Q. Okay. Now, I mean, we were at the vehicle, the van yesterday
8 initially. And I think we talked that it appeared that the
9 sliding door on the van looked to be removed, correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Like what I saw on scene when I pulled up, it didn't look
13 like the sliding door was there at all anymore. I know the
14 (indiscernible) post was still there, you know, the post right
15 behind the driver's door was still there. But from what I saw, I
16 believe that door was gone.

17 Q. Who worked on that --

18 A. We had -- let's see, he had a lieutenant Marcos Garcia, I
19 had --

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. He told me yesterday --

21 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. He worked on the van.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: -- yeah. I would have to look back over his
23 interview, and maybe I can text him back and ask him a follow-up
24 on that because I told (indiscernible), you know, as I'll tell
25 you, is, you know, when I get through and I read through

1 everything and I got questions, I may follow you up with a text or
2 a quick call or something.

3 MR. PRICE: Yeah, yeah. No problem at all.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So, yeah, I talked -- I think it was
5 Marcos Garcia, yeah.

6 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir, yes, sir. And him and then there was
7 Brandon Dominquez (ph.), he helped, and Toll Kumer (ph.), he
8 helped us, or he helped them on that. Josh Lopez (ph.), he helped
9 on the van. I had JJ Vera (ph.), he helped on the van. I kind of
10 just kind of run through everybody that was there that I saw
11 actively in it.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Right --

13 MR. PRICE: And --

14 MR. KAMINSKI: -- go ahead.

15 MR. PRICE: -- Paco Koski. I want to say that was all of
16 them I had right there.

17 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

18 Q. Okay. And your chief's name, is his last name is Hobbs?

19 A. Yes, sir, first name is -- real name's Vernon.

20 Q. How do you --

21 A. V-E-R --

22 Q. Oh, Vernon.

23 A. -- N-O-N Hobbs. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Vernon. Okay.

25 A. Sure.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah. I think, you know, he was nice enough,
2 and you guys were all nice enough to come out and help us. And
3 then I'm sure you heard that we ended up calling the chief back
4 and a couple of the other guys to help take off a wheel that was
5 on the pickup truck.

6 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir, yes, sir.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

8 MR. PRICE: And any way we can get help in order -- we're
9 always available so --

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah. It worked out great because, you know,
11 we could have gotten that wheel off, but that was the left front
12 wheel, and we're kind of preserving that for some evidence to take
13 a closer look at it. So, yeah, we didn't want to -- we tried to
14 take it off without damaging any evidence, I guess you can say
15 but --

16 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay . And Charles, you go by Levi? Is that
18 what I --

19 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And is that your middle name or --

21 MR. PRICE: That's actually just a nickname that I've had
22 forever. And it's pretty much what everybody called me.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That's cool. Okay. Okay, Levi. Well,
24 I appreciate you helping me out yesterday and taking the time to
25 give me a call back. Hey, is there anybody -- you probably know

1 the guys with the EMS, is there anybody at EMS you think that
2 would probably be beneficial I talk to to get a good statement
3 from?

4 MR. PRICE: As far as -- I know a Fran Van Zant (ph.), he was
5 our first EMS on scene. He was working on the (indiscernible) at
6 the time we pulled up so --

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

8 MR. PRICE: -- he could probably give you a pretty good idea
9 (indiscernible) as far as survivor-wise kind of way. He saw stuff
10 like that so --

11 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12 Q. Okay. And then there was two that were ejected, right? One
13 was deceased, the female and then there was a male that was also
14 ejected. Is that what I understand?

15 A. I believe so. I can't really say, you know. Once I pulled
16 up, I had already heard that we had two of them that were out that
17 were living, and we had the one deceased in the middle of the
18 road. And from what I got from it, I'm getting the same thing you
19 are that one of them seemed like he had to crawl himself out, and
20 one of them was ejected. And then the deceased was also ejected.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. Fair enough. So -- okay.
22 Thanks, Levi. Again, if there's any other questions, I may follow
23 up if going through this, I come up with something else. But I
24 appreciate your time and cooperation, sir.

25 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir, no problem. If you need anything, just

1 shoot me a text, or holler at me.

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. It sounds like you did a great job. I
3 appreciate it.

4 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: And the family do too, I'm sure.

6 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

8 MR. PRICE: And I really appreciate it.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, sir. Take care.

10 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Bye-bye.

12 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

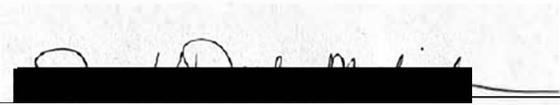
IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION
IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS
ON MARCH 15, 2022
Interview of Charles Price

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22MH006

PLACE: Via telephone

DATE: March 20, 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.


Your Name
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION *

IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS * Accident No.: HWY22MH006

ON MARCH 15, 2022 *

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Interview of: RYAN TAYLOR, Deputy
Andrews County, Texas Sheriff's Office

Via telephone

APPEARANCES:

RON KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of Ryan Taylor:

By Ron Kaminski

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MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, Deputy Ryan Taylor.

DEPUTY TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

MR. KAMINSKI: Hey, this is Ron Kaminski with the NTSB calling you back.

DEPUTY TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

MR. KAMINSKI: Hey, I appreciate you giving me a call. Do you have a couple minutes to talk to me?

DEPUTY TAYLOR: Sure.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great. And if you don't mind, I'm going to record this so I don't have to interrupt you, and I can just let you talk, and then I'll -- may have some follow-up questions at the end.

DEPUTY TAYLOR: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF RYAN TAYLOR

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

Q. So you're Deputy Ryan Taylor, R-a-r-y-a-n (verbatim), Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And, I guess, why don't we just start from the time you got dispatched, and you get out there, and then what you saw, and what you all did out there.

A. Okay. Oh, well, I was actually sitting in line getting dinner because we weren't doing anything, and I saw on our mobile CAD a vehicle fire pop up. And of course I was scanning radio --

1 I heard them dispatch an ambulance, which was odd for a vehicle
2 fire. So I started heading in that direction, and I could just
3 tell in the dispatcher's voice this wasn't a vehicle fire. So,
4 obviously, you know, get there pretty quickly. As more
5 information was coming along, you know, they, they said, hey, this
6 may be a head-on 1050 with people trapped in the car, and they're
7 on fire, and there's civilians trying to, to extricate them.

8 So as I get closer, I can see the smoke, and I realized
9 through my experience this is not good so we need to get
10 additional resources. So I'm telling dispatch call -- who to
11 call, and that go ahead and get TxDOT because we're probably going
12 to be out there for awhile.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And trying to get the road closed, and that kind of just
15 normal stuff for accident. I get there and, of course,
16 immediately I grab a fire extinguisher out of -- just out of
17 habit, I guess. I run up there, and it's just so hot that I can't
18 even get close to it, and I see the young lady that was laying in
19 the road. I hear the other young man. He's hollering. There's
20 people hollering. So I run up to them. He, the young man that
21 was burned, I can't remember -- I didn't never really remember his
22 name. I got it way later.

23 Q. Dayton Price.

24 A. I mean, he was trying to -- he's trying to get up and, and
25 both of them were trying to get up, and I was, like, keep them

1 still, hey, and I was telling them you all just stay still, help
2 is coming, and I'm relaying information to our EMS whose coming,
3 and one of the passengers -- I said, there's people still in the
4 van what was left of it. And I was, like, well, there's nothing
5 we can do. You can't even get close to it because it's so hot.
6 And, of course, the grass was still burning. There was a guy
7 throwing water bottles in the van just -- I mean, he was trying to
8 do something. Obviously, a fire extinguisher isn't -- wasn't
9 going to put that out.

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. Another guy, he's like can I try to -- the grass fire? I
12 was, like, yeah, because it was -- where we were at was really
13 small. He got that out. At that time, I -- the fire marshal
14 showed up. I was, like, we got to get this road blocked because
15 there was people trying to -- unfortunately, there are some people
16 that just don't care, and there were people trying to drive
17 through because it inconvenience.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. Sad to say that but --

20 Q. Yeah, yeah.

21 A. Then they were like -- they see me and I'm, you know, you
22 need to get the -- back, you know, and then the passersby that
23 were helping, I say, just keep them still. Don't let them get up,
24 just talk to them. I don't care what you say to them. Just talk
25 to them, just talk to them. That one kid that had the head

1 injury, he was, he was pretty vocal. But that's common with head
2 injuries. EMS got there. I told them this is what we've got.
3 And then the fire department showed up, and we cut the fence so we
4 could get around to the other side where they needed to be because
5 they couldn't pass through there because of the debris and the
6 fire and whatnot. And then we started -- once the fire was put
7 out, that began the painstaking process of how many victims do we
8 have, and who are they? And where -- and, actually the van was
9 from because we had no idea, obviously. And then my people
10 started showing up; other law enforcement. We just started kind
11 of combing through the debris field, and we found a paper tag and,
12 of course, that came back to the University. And then they -- I
13 think they found the other vehicle's 28 as well, and that's how we
14 found the young man and his father.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. And we just kind of started slowly. It just -- and the
17 troopers that got on scene, we decided amongst ourselves, like, we
18 need the crash team. So we just -- EMS did their thing, and got
19 the helicopters and all that. Our PD went down the way, and set
20 up the landing zones and all that stuff. And I just preserved
21 evidence for helping to keep the scene intact without too many
22 people walking through it. That was the unfortunate part. You
23 had to -- you have to leave it there, and you can't touch it until
24 -- of course, then advising our JP of what's going on. And we're
25 in the process of trying to identify who these people are because

1 they were, you know, obviously, I don't know if you, you saw
2 photographs or what you saw.

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. I mean, they're burnt. They're burnt beyond recognition. It
5 comes down to DNA or dental records that kind of ID'ing, and
6 trying to piece together what caused the accident from what the
7 witnesses told us --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- and everything. So that's really what I did as far as my
10 part. I took photographs, initial photographs. I mean, within --
11 the fire department was just finishing up when I started taking
12 photographs for the troopers just so they could have a record.
13 Obviously, the crash team took additional photographs.

14 Q. Did you share your photographs with DPS?

15 A. They should have a copy of them. I think my captain download
16 them, and they gave it to them.

17 Q. Okay. Yeah, we'll be getting --

18 A. He gave --

19 Q. We'll be getting everything from them. They're getting
20 everything from us. But --

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And, well, you gave me a great description. So I take
23 it -- you're one of the first ones out there then.

24 A. I was the very first one out there, yes, sir.

25 Q. Wow. That had to be quite the scene to be the first one out

1 on there, yeah.

2 A. You know in all my -- I've been doing this job 21 years, it's
3 probably one of the worst I've been on in a long time.

4 Q. Sure, sure.

5 A. And --

6 Q. I imagine, yeah.

7 A. -- there's nothing you can do for that young lady. As a
8 matter of fact, there was a car -- as I rounded the corner on 115
9 just -- on 217, there was a car that drove through it.

10 Q. Jesus.

11 A. I was like you've got to be kidding me. How could you drive
12 through that? And I'll be honest with you, I couldn't really tell
13 it, but I think they hit that girl again. But her injuries, I
14 mean, she had multiple injuries, burns, I mean. So, I mean, I
15 don't think she was alive when it happened.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. So that's the way I'm going to go with that, but that's just
18 -- in our business, unfortunately, it does happen.

19 Q. Yeah, yeah. That's just crazy.

20 A. I don't know if they were just in the wrong place, and they
21 needed to get through there or who, who knows.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Nothing I could do about it because I was still too far away
24 to deal with it.

25 Q. Right. Do you recall were the EMS the next ones out there,

1 fire? Do you recall who was next after you?

2 A. My other deputy that was on duty at the time, and then I
3 believe -- well, the fire marshal came first, then the fire
4 department, EMS kind of all showed up at the same time.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And of course my captain showed up, and then the other
7 deputy. She was there for a little bit. She had to leave due to
8 something else. So and then the troopers showed up, and then of
9 course the JP showed up a little bit later.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. Was probably one of the last. And then the crash team
12 started showing up and then, of course, unfortunately, the media
13 who we all love.

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. They started showing up, but we, DPS, dealt with them.

16 Q. You were out there probably quite a long time then huh? Or
17 were you able to --

18 A. I was out there 'till 7:30 --

19 Q. (Indiscernible).

20 A. -- when the next shift came and relieved me.

21 Q. Yeah, the next morning.

22 A. But --

23 Q. Wow.

24 A. Yeah, the next morning. We were in the process of -- they
25 had removed all the bodies when I left, and the -- release to the

1 funeral home was, was doing that when I left. I think they stayed
2 out there until about 11:45 when they finally got everything
3 cleared off --

4 Q. And what -- I guess I was thinking that the, that the coroner
5 came out and removed the bodies, but they put them in a
6 -- the funeral home came out? Which one was that?

7 A. McNetts did all of that.

8 Q. How do you spell that?

9 A. M-c-N-e-t-t-s.

10 Q. McNetts. Okay.

11 A. Yeah. So they're our -- one of our locals. We've got -- I
12 think we've got two now. I mean, McNetts is kind of our primary
13 one because they have the facilities for -- they have several
14 locations. So they have more of -- more available, and that's who
15 we called.

16 Q. Sure.

17 A. That's who the JP -- that's kind of our, kind of go-to.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And, yeah, the JP makes -- since we don't actually have a
20 coroner's office in our county, the JP handles that.

21 Q. Sure, yeah.

22 A. She tells us who to call. She decides -- they decide who,
23 you know, autopsies, obviously, that kind of stuff. She got in
24 touch with the forensic doctor up in Lubbock.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. Because that's usually -- that's where we send ours to if
2 they need autopsy because (indiscernible) the resources.

3 Q. Yeah. Yeah. Well, I did read that -- or there were some
4 reports maybe from DPS that, yeah --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- the South Plains Forensic Pathology --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. -- took the, took -- they didn't do autopsies. They just did
9 the autopsies on the drivers externals and --

10 A. Yeah, yeah. There wasn't kind of any point doing the rest of
11 --

12 Q. Right, and then --

13 A. -- autopsy.

14 Q. -- collect blood from everybody else just to --

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. -- maybe identify them but --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Well, I really don't have any follow-up questions.

19 You've given me some great information here. Oh, and the
20 witnesses, did you talk to any witnesses that were out there?

21 A. Yeah. I didn't get their names. My other deputy got their
22 names, and we gave it to DPS. That's usually what we do on
23 accidents.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I kind of briefly asked them what happened, and they told --

1 initially it came out that there was two vehicles racing, and one
2 was on the wrong side of the road, and they had a head-on. I'm
3 like, well, that don't make any sense because there's -- vehicles
4 involved.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. So they kind of clarified it. What they told us was the kid
7 was on the wrong side of the road, and where that happened at -- I
8 don't know if you've been out there.

9 Q. Yeah, yeah. There's a slight hill coming up where the, where
10 the --

11 A. Yeah, and they --

12 Q. -- coming.

13 (Simultaneous comments.)

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. Yeah. My take on it from what he told me was this kid was
16 trying to pass somebody or passing, and he just was in the wrong
17 place at the wrong time, and bam there it was. He came up -- he
18 passed on the hill. There's a little --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- dip, and then the hill.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. And when he come to the top of it, there they were, and
23 nowhere to go.

24 Q. Sure, yeah.

25 A. And that's my take on what he told me, and I was, like, okay.

1 And then later on somebody said something about a flat tire. I,
2 honestly, don't know where the flat tire thing came in. I was,
3 like, looking at the vehicle, I was, like, how could you tell he
4 had a flat tire. I mean, the tires melted. They're gone.
5 They're gone. Their done. The rims are even melted.

6 Q. Right, yeah.

7 A. So I was, like where -- I don't know where that came from,
8 but seemed to kind of stick with the crash team. So I was, like,
9 that's -- they'll figure it out.

10 Q. Right. Yeah, right. I think they're still in the process of
11 putting all the pieces together between them and our
12 reconstructionists they're putting it all together. So --

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Yeah. We'll figure it out eventually here --

15 A. But I don't know where that theory came from because I was,
16 like, there's no marks from -- I mean, usually when you get a
17 flat, even a blow-out, there's going to be some type of mark, and
18 then the rim marks if it gets the tire --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- in theory, if he's going 75, which is the speed limit. I
21 don't know exactly, you know, but I'm basing it off of my
22 experience, you know, my limited reconstruction. Of course, it's
23 all changed since I went through reconstruction. So --

24 Q. Yeah. I hear you.

25 A. I was old school. You had to do it with measure tape and --

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. -- sticks and stuff like that. Now they've got all that
3 fancy laser. So that tells you how old I am.

4 Q. Yeah. Well, I'm --

5 A. So --

6 Q. -- ahead of you. I'm sure I'm ahead of you. I've been doing
7 this for 40 years. So --

8 A. Oh, man. So you really know, you really know it. So I just
9 didn't see that no the roadway what little I looked at it. I saw
10 one little yellow mark, and I was like, well, that has to be from
11 when the van spun or from him. I really didn't -- I was, like,
12 well, they'll figure it out. So --

13 Q. Yeah, yeah. I kind of stay out of that myself. Because --

14 A. You know but it is --

15 (Simultaneous comments.)

16 Q. -- like you --

17 A. -- couple hours later we're -- he had a flat tire, and how in
18 the -- where did this come from?

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. We don't need to be speculating because the media -- they're
21 sitting there listening and --

22 Q. Yeah, yeah, exactly.

23 A. -- the firemen sometimes they hear stuff, and it got put out
24 over the -- I don't know if it ended up on the radio or not, but,
25 you know, you know how the media is. They try to get -- we had

1 that one kid that we caught trying to sneak up there, and he's the
2 one that got the shot that they put on Facebook and every -- and
3 it still had the bodies in it and everybody was a little PO'd.

4 Q. No, I didn't see that, not that I care to.

5 A. Yeah. It was the initial photograph --

6 Q. Wow.

7 A. -- that came out.

8 Q. Horrible, horrible.

9 A. Oh, yeah. Which you have to look for it. So, I mean, if you
10 don't know what you're looking at, you probably won't notice it.

11 Q. And the report -- so who -- the -- one of the witnesses said
12 that the kid was driving? I mean, we're still trying to put that
13 together too, really.

14 A. Yeah, that's what it came out. I don't -- from what I saw of
15 the bodies, I mean, it was hard to tell.

16 Q. Sure.

17 A. But --

18 Q. Yeah, I --

19 A. -- that got put out there, and the next thing you know it
20 spread like wildfire that the kid was driving, and the dad was
21 drunk. I was like you can't tell that.

22 Q. Right. Well, that's why I --

23 A. Honestly, it --

24 (Simultaneous comments.)

25 A. -- looked like --

- 1 Q. -- blood tests on the driver.
- 2 A. -- an adult to me.
- 3 Q. Yeah.
- 4 A. They both did.
- 5 Q. Yeah. That's why we're doing blood tests on the driver to
6 make it for sure --
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. -- who was driving. So no need to --
- 9 A. And then of course we had heard about their -- the dad's
10 previous law enforcement contacts.
- 11 Q. Right.
- 12 A. I'm like that has nothing to -- you know?
- 13 Q. Yeah, that has, yeah, that has nothing to do with --
- 14 A. I knew about their -- I worked in Denver City before that.
15 So I -- we dealt with quite a few of the Mennonite community. So
16 most of them are decent people, and just a little different.
- 17 Q. Yeah. I was a little surprised to hear some of the stuff
18 from DPS about the carryings on of some of the Mennonites. Most
19 of them, like you said, are very decent people, but there's some
20 that --
- 21 A. There are some that just -- and, unfortunately, I think the
22 dad was part of that little group.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. And it was, like, everybody was asking why (indiscernible).
25 I said, well, you know, their deal is the boys go to school 'till

1 about the eighth grade, and then after that they go work the farm.

2 They go to work.

3 Q. Yeah, yeah.

4 A. And then when they turn 16, 17, they're allowed to leave, and
5 go do whatever they want; live like us, have phones, stuff like
6 that. And then they do that for a year, and come back, and they
7 decide do you want to be part of the community or do you want to
8 keep doing what you're doing? If you keep doing what you're
9 doing, you're basically excommunicated from the family, and you
10 have no contact after that.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. It's strange to us, but that's how they live.

13 Q. Right, yeah.

14 A. So but --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- yeah, that was --

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. -- those things.

19 Q. Well, again, I thank you very much for giving me a very, very
20 good description of everything what you all did out there, and I
21 thank you for your service out there and --

22 A. No problem, no problem (indiscernible) just holler at me.

23 Q. You have my contact number?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And if I have any follow-up, I'll give you a call, but I

1 appreciate --

2 A. Yeah. Feel free to call me any time.

3 Q. I appreciate you taking time, Deputy Taylor.

4 A. No problem, sir. You have a good one.

5 Q. You too, sir. Keep up the good work out there.

6 A. Thank you, sir. Appreciate you.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Thank you. Bye-bye.

8 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

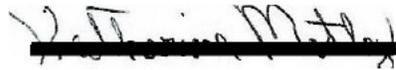
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION
 IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS
 ON MARCH 15, 2022
 Interview of Ryan Taylor

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22MH006

PLACE: Via telephone

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.



Katherine Motley
Transcriber