

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

Washington, DC 20594



HWY24MH005

SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

First Responder Interview Transcripts

(99 Pages)

INTERVIEW CLARIFICATION

The NTSB Office of Highway Safety returned a copy of the transcript to the interviewee for review. If the interviewee has noted any clarifications or additions, they will be included immediately following the unaltered transcript.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: VIC MENELY, Fire Chief
Rushville Fire Department

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Vic Menely:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
3 Ronald Kaminski, I'm with the National Transportation Safety
4 Board. Kaminski is spelled K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, first name Ronald,
5 R-o-n-a-l-d. I'm here at the Rushville Fire Department,
6 Rushville, Illinois fire department. This is case HWY24MH004
7 (sic), Case Number 193921.

8 So I'm going to be talking with Chief Nick Menelee (ph.)?

9 MR. MENELY: Vic Men-eel-e.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Vic Men-e-a (ph.). And Chief, why don't you
11 spell your name and give us your title?

12 MR. MENELY: My name is Vic Menely, V-i-c, Menely,
13 M-e-n-e-l-y. I'm the fire chief for the Rushville Fire Department
14 and the Schuyler County Fire Protection District.

INTERVIEW OF VIC MENELY

15
16 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

17 Q. Okay. And why don't we start with the time you were notified
18 and when you got out there and what all you did.

19 A. We were notified, the page come in 11:31 and I responded to
20 the firehouse, got my squad out, and went to the scene. We had a
21 pumper engine in front of me, they got on scene a little bit
22 before I did. The first thing we did is see what we had, looked
23 things over, I did not see any drivers to either vehicle. We
24 always usually find the driver laying out in the road or standing
25 around or something and there was nobody, so we was thinking maybe

1 we was going to have some fatalities for that reason. The truck
2 ahead of me pulled off the line and started extinguishing the
3 fire, the other trucks come in behind me and started doing the
4 same thing and we had the fire under control and basically out
5 within 10 to 15 minutes. After the fire was secure, I told
6 dispatch to notify the coroner, the coroner was notified, and when
7 the coroner come on scene, I turned the scene over to him.

8 Q. Okay. And how many vehicles -- vehicles did you have out
9 there?

10 A. Well, we had one, two, three, four, five, and Truck 10 would
11 be six.

12 Q. Okay. And you said there were three engines --

13 A. It was my squad, the three engines and a tanker.

14 Q. Okay. And the brush unit?

15 A. And the brush unit.

16 Q. Okay. And any issues out at the scene? There was -- you had
17 plenty of water, there was --

18 A. We had no issues, we had plenty of water, all equipment
19 worked sufficiently. We had the fire out, as far as I'm
20 concerned, in record time.

21 Q. Okay. And if you don't mind, if I have any follow-up
22 questions, I can call you back and --

23 A. That's fine.

24 Q. Okay. Oh, and I forgot to ask, I apologize. You don't mind
25 that I recorded this information?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A. No, that's fine.
MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.
(Whereupon, the interview concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Vic Menely

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.

A thick black horizontal line redacting the signature of Karen D. Martini.

Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

From: Schuyler Fire
To: Ronald Kaminski
Subject: RE: NTSB Interview Transcript and Sign-off Errata Sheet
Date: Friday, October 25, 2024 9:11:44 AM

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows

From: [REDACTED] Kaminski
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 8:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NTSB Interview Transcript and Sign-off Errata Sheet

Chief Menely,
You can easily sign off on your transcript electronically.
Please take a minute to open and quickly sign and send back.

Thank you sir,

Ron K.

From: Schuyler Fire <schuyler@schuylerfire.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Ronald Kaminski <kaminski@ntsb.gov>
Subject: RE: NTSB Interview Transcript and Sign-off Errata Sheet

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

YES LOOKS GOOD TO ME THANKS VIC MENELY FIRE CHIEF

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED] Kaminski
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:28 AM
To: [schuyler@schuylerfire.com](#)
Subject: FW: NTSB Interview Transcript and Sign-off Errata Sheet

Hello Chief Menely,
Friendly reminder to sign off on your interview transcript and return it.

Thank you,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: BILL REDSHAW, Sheriff
Schuyler County Sherriff's Department

Rushville, Illinois

Friday,
March 15, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Bill Redshaw:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 15th, 2024, my name is
3 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, I'm with the National
4 Transportation Safety Board and I'm going to be talking to
5 Schuyler County Sherriff Bill Redshaw and this is regarding the
6 crash in Rushville, Illinois, highway crash 24MH005.

7 Sheriff, do you mind if we record our conversation?

8 MR. REDSHAW: I do not mind.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

10 MR. REDSHAW: That's fine.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Great.

INTERVIEW OF BILL REDSHAW

12
13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. So why don't you give us a description of when you were
15 notified and you got out there, what you saw.

16 A. Yeah, I was standing -- I remember I was standing right in
17 front of the office here and that's probably three-quarters of a
18 mile away and I heard, through the door out front, the dispatch
19 make reference to a semi/bus accident, I didn't catch it all,
20 where it was, I was outside, and then it came through 9-1-1, our
21 9-1-1 operator's in McDonough County.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. And so anyway, I heard that part, I stuck my head back in, I
24 said fill me in on what and where that was, they explained where
25 it was, out on the other side of the intersection on 24 near the

1 golf course and I looked that way from right here, say probably
2 three-quarter of a mile away, and the black smoke was rolling
3 probably a hundred feet in the air at that time, it was
4 unbelievable. So anyway, I proceeded. On the radio, I did hear
5 that my chief deputy and the chief of police had been on a call
6 together on a stolen vehicle and they left from there, so they
7 were right ahead of me.

8 When I got there, I radioed to the chief deputy, since he was
9 on the scene first, where he might need me at first and I stopped
10 right at the Ellen Scripps street and blocked traffic. I did
11 radio back to the office and asked them to get somebody else out
12 here as soon as possible so I could proceed on down and -- which
13 is only a few hundred feet from where it was and which they did,
14 and two other officers come out besides my chief deputy and I.

15 So I proceeded down there, I did see that it was a school
16 bus, I couldn't tell if it was one of the Schuyler-Industry school
17 buses, I wasn't sure. I did get the license plate, I did call the
18 -- Dr. Beau Fretueg, the superintendent of the schools, he
19 answered on his cell phone, I told him what we had, wasn't sure
20 what it was, I gave him the plate number, it was still smoking and
21 you couldn't see a lot. I did finally cross the ditch, get into
22 the field and I did see the Schuyler-Industry on the side of it,
23 actually, just the Schuyler. And I talked to him, I don't know if
24 I called back or I was still on the phone, I explained to him that
25 yes, it was one from their district and if there was any way

1 possible that they could get us some info on possibly the driver
2 and if there was anybody aboard, et cetera, because there was --
3 you know, from where we had -- we could not tell, I did take some
4 pictures while I was right there. I started calling other people,
5 I had the office call (indiscernible), my chief deputy had already
6 said he got a hold of the Illinois State Police, the captain of
7 Troop 6 phoned me personally and we started talking and he
8 explained more what we had and she started the -- everything
9 rolling as far as the state police, you know, their
10 reconstruction, et cetera and et cetera.

11 And they -- they arrived, you know, pretty quick like on the
12 scene at different times and they started in on their
13 investigation. I asked the Illinois State Police if they would
14 take over that investigation because of the, you know, commercial
15 vehicle and the fatalities and that and they said they sure would.
16 So mine was mainly either making phone calls to here and getting
17 other officers on the -- out there to help what we do, so people
18 started showing up on the Ellen Scripps Drive, which is across the
19 field there, probably a hundred yards.

20 Q. By the golf --

21 A. Yes, right by the golf course, right at the pro shop, they
22 were on the west side of it.

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. Word had gotten out, I was receiving phone calls from people
25 that knew me wanting to know, you know, like if their kids were on

1 board, which, part of the time I did not know, later on I did
2 know, but I just -- if it was somebody I knew, I said well, I'm
3 certain they're not. But anyway, that just -- it just seemed like
4 all the time it was nothing but phone calls and then the state
5 police started arriving, and so I went and I gave them the best
6 information I could on what was happening, where and what, and
7 what we had. And then as more of them showed up, we went through
8 that again and the captain and Acting Lieutenant Ed Kopp (ph.)
9 showed up and I, you know, briefed them on everything that was up
10 to date and everybody like started doing their job, what needed to
11 be done and what had to be done.

12 Of course, you know, the fire was out pretty quick like, no
13 question about that, in fact, the time I approached from where I
14 was blocking traffic up to there, the fire was pretty much out, it
15 was still -- still smoldering, but most of it was done, we started
16 checking, we checked on the driver of the truck and the others and
17 has been said before that we soon realized there was nothing we
18 were going to do as far as saving lives. So most of it after that
19 was just, you know, addressing the police with stuff and -- hang
20 on just a minute.

21 Q. Sure. Okay.

22 A. So yeah, to just finish up there, yeah, we -- and then people
23 started showing up. We had to, you know, address that, too, and
24 of course, by that time I had two deputies and the chief of police
25 and my chief deputy and they were keeping an eye on things and I

1 think, from your testimony, the chief of police, he helped in
2 getting a lot of witnesses and talked, which helped out immensely,
3 because then we related that all to the Illinois State Police what
4 we gathered and we just kind of worked together and gathered all
5 the information.

6 People started showing up, we started backing them off and
7 then myself, the coroner -- and once we were pretty much so
8 certain of who was on the bus and the truck driver and the owner
9 of the truck, the company had shown up, and so he talked to
10 -- he spoke to -- he's the only one I didn't communicate with, but
11 I did go with the captain of Troop 6 and the master sergeant and
12 I, myself, and the coroner, we went.

13 We had asked -- we called in some ministers and we even got a
14 hold of the school, we got counselors and ministers at the school
15 pretty quick like, then we asked -- we asked the families to go
16 over to the pro shop, which is just right across there, near,
17 which they did, and we went over and met with them and explained
18 with the families, it would've been the families of the two -- the
19 three children, one family, the Millers, there was two, and the
20 other, the Driscoll, was one.

21 All the family was there and we had to, you know, explain to
22 them and notify them that yes, we were certain that it was their
23 children that was on that bus. And we had a minister there at the
24 time and we talked with them and the best we could do, we had went
25 and had -- then they wanted to have news media, wanted to have a

1 news deal set up, there was a couple TV stations, some others, we
2 went to the firehouse and set that up there. And I can't remember
3 exactly in order everything that was happening, but anyway, they
4 did have -- we did have a news release as soon as we could to
5 explain what took place and what we knew at that time. We did go
6 to the -- and then myself, again, and the trooper I went with and
7 the coroner, we went to the bus barn and we met with the daughter
8 of the driver of the school bus --

9 Q. Um-hum.

10 A. -- and she was there with a young child in her vehicle. One
11 of the school board members was there, just happened to be there,
12 and he was there with her to console her. And actually, another
13 bus driver, who used to be a former chief of police in this town,
14 was there. And so I asked her if she needed anything, right off
15 she wanted her other two children present, one was in the middle
16 school and one was at what we call Webster School.

17 So I got a hold of the principal there and they brought the
18 child from the middle school and they were going after the other
19 and we explained to her at that time, also, you know, that it was
20 her mother that -- you know, that was driving the bus and she
21 called her husband at that time. I asked her if she'd like to
22 have a ride home, she said she was fine, she'd wait for her
23 husband and he was probably 30 minutes out or more, 45. So --
24 excuse me -- and then, like I said, I don't remember the news
25 conference before or after that time, but after we completed that,

1 went back to the scene. I think our first call was right around
2 11:30 in the morning and I left there approximately 7:30 at night,
3 after I went back up to the scene after the other stuff, and just
4 to get everything finished up, it took that long to get the
5 vehicles separated and get the trailer set back up --

6 Q. Sure.

7 A. -- and then I asked them if they would go -- we went a
8 roundabout way to get to Beardstown, we didn't go through our
9 intersection, didn't go through town. I asked them to -- you
10 know, I didn't want that bus to be seen by -- the least amount of
11 people as possible, so we took it down to 24 and 103 and crossed
12 across 103 going east and then across the Illinois River and to
13 Cass County and took it to Belville Garage and parked it inside.
14 So that's where the -- and it's still in there, that's --

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. -- that's what we did with the bus, just to try and do that
17 stuff. We had earlier parked the fire trucks and our equipment
18 and everything else we could to block people from seeing across
19 that field and seeing it. And some of the parents did come within
20 close and of course, we asked them not to and they -- and they
21 listened, they went back and even when we went to, you know, talk
22 to them and explained that, you know, yes, it was your child and
23 all three of the children, and they -- of course, any parent
24 would, right off, you know, wanted to see them, one of the last
25 things and of course, you know, that couldn't be and we explained

1 that the best we could, that it just can't be. So what else?
2 Yeah, so like I said, we -- and then once we got to the -- bus
3 moved on a trailer, they were actually able to set up the semi and
4 got it set back up after they unloaded a lot of sand and they just
5 hooked up to the front end of the semi itself and they towed it
6 back to Beardstown. And I think they went the same route that we
7 took to Belleville's garage over there, so --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Most of the day was, like I said, you know, taking phone
10 calls and talking to people and trying to get everything
11 straightened out and just working with the Illinois State Police
12 and everybody else that showed up, so --

13 Q. It sounds like you guys, you all did a great job there.

14 A. Well, we just -- you never know, you know what I mean,
15 something like is -- you don't train for those kind of things, you
16 just -- common sense, I guess, helps you through it, so --

17 Q. Right, right. Okay. And I have your phone number and
18 e-mail, I'll --

19 A. Yeah, that's my cell phone, you have the office number, and
20 that cell phone's good any time, I gave it to everybody, I don't
21 -- anybody can call me, so --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- it's not a problem, so --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And I'll give you Chief Deputy Boyd's, also.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great. That will conclude our interview
2 here with Schuyler County Sheriff Bill Redshaw.

3 (Whereupon, the interview concluded.)
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Bill Redshaw

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 15, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: RICHARD WRIGHT, Chief of Police
Rushville Police Department

Rushville, Illinois

Friday,
March 15, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Richard Wright:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(11:43 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 15th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, I'm with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board. This is regarding highway crash
6 24MH005. I'm here at the Rushville County Sheriff's -- excuse me,
7 Schuyler County Sheriff's Department and I'm going to be talking
8 to the Rushville police chief, Mr. Rick Wright.

9 Chief Wright, can you spell your first and last name?

10 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, my full name is Richard, R-i-c-h-a-r-d,
11 Wright, W-r-i-g-h-t, Chief of Police of Rushville.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And why don't you give us -- oh, do you
13 mind if I record this conversation?

14 MR. WRIGHT: I do not mind.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. I believe I forgot to ask the deputy
16 that.

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD WRIGHT

17
18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. So why don't you give us a description of when you got the
20 call or when you were notified and you got out there, what you
21 saw.

22 A. As previously stated by Chief Deputy Boyd, we were together
23 on Lawn Street investigating a vehicle theft, both of us were out
24 of our patrol vehicles, so we were on portables. We heard -- it
25 was scrambled to me, we just heard somebody say that -- something

1 like all units, Rushville units or Schuyler units or something,
2 there is a vehicle crash, a semi versus a semi (sic) coming into
3 town. I did not know which direction at that time and before -- I
4 think I might've asked where it was at and the next thing I heard
5 was our central dispatch, out of McDonough County, come across and
6 then they said it again that there was a semi versus -- a bus
7 versus semi and I asked where, you know, east or west, and they
8 said -- or I asked for a cross street and they said Parkview or
9 Scripps, so that told me it was out by the golf course.

10 So we both took off, I was in my vehicle at the time, headed
11 that direction, and when I turned off of Wilson onto 67, I could
12 see a huge plume of black smoke and I radioed -- I said it out
13 loud to Chief Deputy Boyd, I said, do you see that smoke and where
14 it was at, I knew it was close to town just by where I could see
15 it. As he said, we -- we proceeded through, as we drove through,
16 I could see, out of the corner of my eye, vehicles off on the
17 shoulder on the right side, I did not identify how many. I could
18 see somebody was there.

19 I was watching the fire and as I come up, I could see the
20 semi was rolled over in the ditch and as said before, we couldn't
21 even see the school bus at that time until we got right up on it,
22 you could see the school bus. Chief Deputy Boyd pulled over,
23 closer to the scene, I went on past so I could go up and block
24 traffic at Scripps, the other end, and I observed a Hickory-Kerton
25 Water pickup setting there blocking traffic and spoke to the

1 gentleman there, who I knew, and I just said do you want me to
2 take over, do you have it, he said I'll stay here and turn
3 traffic. So I went -- turned around and went back a ways and put
4 my car crossways in the road to ensure nobody came any closer.

5 Q. And who was that, that you ran into?

6 A. Kraig Kotter.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. He was -- he's -- I don't know if he's still on the fire
9 department, I believe, but he works for Hickory-Kerton Water
10 department, also.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But Kraig was blocking traffic and he said he would do it, so
13 I went back to see if I could assist. I went back and I spoke to
14 Chief Deputy Boyd, I remember him telling me just -- he said stay
15 back, it's still exploding, and then I said okay and I went on
16 past the scene, walking, and I knew at that time, being it was a
17 county and we help each other, my job at that point is to assist
18 them and go talk, try to get information. Let him handle the
19 scene if he needs to.

20 And I went back and there were two semis setting along the
21 road and one car, the car was in front, there was a female
22 standing outside and I -- I knew who she was, she's one of my
23 officer's wives, that witnessed it. So I went to her and I asked
24 her if -- her name is LeeAnn Eifert, E-i-f-e-r-t. I asked LeeAnn,
25 I said, did you witness it, she said yes, I was right behind the

1 semi. And I got her -- I know her information, so I said what did
2 you see, I turned my -- made sure my body camera was on and I said
3 tell me exactly what you saw, and she went through that.

4 Q. Would we be able to get a copy of that?

5 A. Yes, you can -- I haven't even given it to the state police
6 or anybody yet, but yes, you can get that.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I can tell you now what was said.

9 Q. Sure, sure.

10 A. So she said that she looked up and saw the bus was across the
11 line in the wrong lane. She said approximately in the wrong lane
12 for 15 seconds and I said that's an awful long time, but okay.
13 She said it was in the wrong lane, she watched the truck driver
14 try to move over, she could see him moving over off into the ditch
15 or onto the shoulder and she said then she saw them impact and she
16 said both vehicles, the -- or the -- both vehicles come off the
17 ground, as soon as they impacted, they both come off the ground
18 and immediately exploded into a ball of flame.

19 After I got that information from her, I said okay, I went
20 back to the next driver, truck driver, and asked them what they
21 saw and the first truck driver said we were about a mile behind,
22 we all have been traveling from Macomb, we were probably a mile
23 behind that truck. He said we knew -- half a mile or a mile, but
24 he said we had been following it all the way from Macomb, but he
25 said we didn't see a thing. He said he didn't see anything, the

1 next truck driver said the same thing, so at that time I directed
2 them -- I said you can back up and there's a place to turn around
3 and you can go around Scripps, I said we have another officer --
4 at that time I knew the sheriff, because I heard the radio
5 traffic, I knew the sheriff was on scene down there blocking
6 traffic, so I told them to back up and go, to get them out of
7 there --

8 Q. Um-hum.

9 A. -- and not being there when everybody got -- everybody else
10 got there that we needed, responders. And I believe that was the
11 first and then, at the other end, on the west end, we had a truck,
12 and I don't think any other vehicles, just one truck, semi, and we
13 went and told him to back up and get turned around and I remember
14 Jeff asked me to go move -- to Dep. Boyd, move my vehicle so we
15 could let that semi back up and get out of there, and we did that.

16 And then at that point, sometime in that point, one of my
17 off-duty officers, who I believe is the one that actually called
18 it in, because his wife called him, he come and he's also EMS, so
19 he was there to help block traffic, I believe he -- and I went and
20 started talking to any witnesses, any others, or looking for any
21 other witnesses, and the superintendent, I believe the sheriff had
22 called him, I know he did, and the superintendent came out and the
23 director of the bus barn came out and I went up and started
24 talking to the director of the bus barn and said do you know who's
25 on it, who the driver is, what bus this is and how many children

1 could be on it and I just started gathering information. He gave
2 me a preliminary of who he thought might be on it, but then he
3 went back to the bus barn and wrote a note with all the names on
4 the bus, including the driver, would they ask him for -- I said I
5 needed middle initials, dates of birth and everything, because I
6 knew when the state got there, they would need this.

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. So I collected all that. And at some point, another
9 gentleman brought that to us and we -- state police had been on
10 scene by this time and we provided the information to them and, as
11 Chief Deputy Boyd said, we -- at that point, we -- we become scene
12 security just to keep everybody back because we were starting to
13 get a lot of spectators and family members showing up, so at that
14 point we were just there to assist the state and make sure the
15 scene was kept secure.

16 Q. Okay. And so -- yeah, that's interesting, we have the -- I'm
17 not sure that the state police were aware of the woman because
18 they just mentioned the off-duty firefighter, Tanner Carson, I
19 talked to, we talked to.

20 A. I told them, they -- and I gave her name and maybe -- there
21 was a lot going on --

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. -- so I don't know.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I thought they talked to LeeAnn.

25 MR. WRIGHT: I thought so, but I don't know. I gave them --

1 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

2 Q. They did say there's some witnesses but they were saying that
3 like they didn't see much or something, but --

4 A. The female and I -- I mean, I can give you her phone number
5 and name and -- if you needed to talk to her, because I already
6 cleared it through her, said are you okay with me giving -- I
7 mean, obviously she was a witness.

8 Q. Yeah, I think we'll definitely want to -- if you could get me
9 her contact information, I think our reconstruction guy would
10 definitely want to talk with her.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. That was Elaine Eifert, you said?

13 A. LeeAnn.

14 Q. LeeAnn.

15 A. LeeAnn.

16 Q. E-i-f-e-r-t, right?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

18 MR. WRIGHT: Yes. So it's L-e-e-A-n-n E-i-f-e-r-t.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: A-n-n E-i-f-e-r-t.

20 MR. WRIGHT: F-e-r-t.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Her phone number is [REDACTED].

23 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

24 Q. Okay. And I didn't -- what's a good e-mail for you?

25 A. A good e-mail for me would be policechief --

1 Q. One word?

2 A. All -- yeah, all run together, [REDACTED], spelled
3 out, .us.

4 Q. [REDACTED] -- all one word --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- [REDACTED]

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay, great. Okay. Very good description, thank you for the
9 info.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And did she happen to say how long she was -- well, we can --
12 we can ask. Did she happen to say how long she was driving behind
13 the -- or behind the -- this Mack truck?

14 A. She did not say, but I don't know if it started at the --
15 because she's here local, I don't know if she started like at the
16 stoplight or something.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. I don't think she was there that long, but she was, she said,
19 right behind and --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- witnessed, like I said, she told me that you -- she knew
22 that he could see what was going on because he started trying to
23 get over, he slammed on his brakes, I left out, she -- she said I
24 could tell he slammed his brakes on, locked them up and then tried
25 to move over but it was just like the bus was going right for it,

1 there was nothing he --

2 Q. Right.

3 A. Nothing he could do.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. And I mean, we saw that and he tried everything.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Right, right. Okay. Well, I've got your
7 contact information, if we have any follow-up, do you have any
8 problem with us giving you a callback?

9 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, thank you. That concludes our interview
11 here with the chief, it's about five minutes to 12:00.

12 (Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., the interview concluded.)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Richard Wright

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 15, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: TERRY MILLSLAGE, Coroner
Schuyler County, Illinois

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Terry Millslagle:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(2:25 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, I'm with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board. I'm here at the Rushville, Illinois
6 fire department and we're going to be talking to Schuyler County
7 coroner, Terry Millslagle, and he'll give us his -- he'll spell us
8 his name.

9 And sir, do you mind if we record this conversation?

10 MR. MILLSLADGLE: Go ahead.

INTERVIEW OF TERRY MILLSLADGLE

11
12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. Okay. So why don't you start off with -- if you could spell
14 your first and last name.

15 A. First name is Terry, T-e-r-r-y. Last name is Millslagle,
16 M-i-l-l-s-l-a-g-l-e.

17 Q. Okay. And you're the county coroner for --

18 A. I'm the Schuyler County coroner, yes.

19 Q. Right. And you spell Schuyler S-c-h-u-y-l-e-r?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So I guess, why don't you tell us -- you got the page
22 and -- or you got the dispatch from the chief and you got out
23 there and what --

24 A. I received the call from central dispatch, 9-1-1 center, at
25 11:46 on Monday the 13th (sic).

1 Q. And central dispatch is Schuyler County or McDonough?

2 A. It's based in McDonough County, it's where the 9-1-1 --

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. -- calls directly go to.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Or not the 13th, but on the 11th, March 11th.

7 Q. Yes, yes. Okay.

8 A. And after I got the call, I contacted the on-duty deputy and
9 went home and got the equipment prepared and I responded in my
10 vehicle with her following in the coroner's vehicle.

11 Q. Okay. You responded in the coroner's vehicle?

12 A. I responded in my vehicle --

13 Q. Your vehicle, okay.

14 A. -- and my --

15 Q. The deputy.

16 A. -- deputy brought the -- brought the coroner's vehicle,
17 transport vehicle.

18 Q. Okay. Okay.

19 A. And when I arrived on scene, Rick, the fire chief, you know
20 -- bodies was involved, deceased bodies, so the scene became the
21 coroner's -- the coroner's purview and the practice of the office
22 has always been to not go in and disturb any more than necessary
23 to -- to make the determinations of the deceased --

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. -- until the state police get there and work with them on

1 what -- what and when we can do stuff so we don't disturb their
2 evidence and possibly incriminate their investigation.

3 Q. Sure. Okay. So then you were out there -- you weren't there
4 for the removal of the bodies, correct?

5 A. No, I was --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I was meeting with the families, making the notifications to
8 them and meeting with the immediate down here at the fire station.

9 Q. Sure, sure. And so you completed the autopsies yesterday.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is there anything else you want to tell me about the scene?

12 A. We did photograph it --

13 Q. Okay, good.

14 A. -- videotaped it prior to doing anything while we was waiting
15 on the other law enforcement people to get there, so we -- like I
16 say, we videotaped and photographed --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- 360 around the scene and one of the deputies took a video,
19 a 3-D video, while he was doing --

20 Q. Will we be able to get copies of that?

21 A. Sure.

22 Q. I don't think the state police has that, do they? Because
23 we're getting --

24 A. No, we don't -- we haven't -- we haven't given pictures,
25 nobody's ever requested any of our pictures yet because --

1 Q. Is that an issue, is that okay, I can --

2 A. Yeah, it's just that it's early in the investigation.

3 Q. Yeah, yeah.

4 A. Things are moving so fast and in so many directions that --

5 Q. We're going to be here all week.

6 A. -- nobody's -- nobody stopped and took a breath and --

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. -- figured out who does have what, so --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. But yeah, that's --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. That's fine.

13 Q. And if it isn't and you don't get around to it until next
14 week, that's fine, too, so -- okay, so with the -- after that,
15 then, the autopsies, then, were yesterday morning?

16 A. Yeah, after the bodies was removed. During the investigation
17 while the bodies were still in place and on scene, I went ahead
18 and called our pathologist at Springfield Memorial just to give
19 him a heads up that we're going to be bringing five over and he
20 informed me later that Sangamon County coroner's office could
21 assist with that, so actually Sangamon County coroner's office
22 transported all the bodies for us over to Springfield.

23 Q. Okay. And how did the procedures go?

24 A. Went fine. Preliminary findings was blunt force trauma,
25 varying degrees, on all of the decedents.

1 Q. And you guys did do a carboxyhemoglobin test on the --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. On all of them?

4 A. Yes. If memory serves me, three of the five, two children
5 and the truck driver, they did find soot in the trachea.

6 Q. So the truck driver is one of them?

7 A. Yes, the truck driver and two of the children had evidence of
8 soot when they did the examination of the trachea and the lungs.

9 Q. Happen to know which children it was, was it the two boys?

10 A. No, I don't --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- at the top of my -- I don't want to -- I don't want to
13 speak to that right now --

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. -- because I'd be doing it from memory and I don't want to do
16 that.

17 Q. Sure, I understand. So the truck driver and two of the
18 children had soot in their trachea?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. Okay. And anything other -- any other interesting facts or
21 anything you find out?

22 A. No. The bus driver had the most significant injuries of all
23 of them.

24 Q. Okay. Now, did you do a dissection of the heart, looking at
25 any of the arteries or --

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. Okay. And do you recall, was there any -- anybody see any
3 clots?

4 A. Nothing, nothing that anybody mentioned.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. They did find the aortic arch ruptured on the bus driver,
7 which is very typical with that high --

8 Q. Impact, high impact.

9 A. -- with that hard of an impact, that's -- that wasn't unusual
10 and that wasn't -- but nobody -- nobody mentioned finding any
11 other medical issues and I don't believe there's any mention on
12 the preliminary autopsy reports.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. I thank you for taking the time
14 to come out and talk with me and if you have any -- oh. Why don't
15 you give me your -- oh, I have your phone number, I have your
16 e-mail, so --

17 MR. MILLSLADGLE: Yeah.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: -- we don't have to worry about that, but I'll
19 also send you back the transcript, that you can sign off on that.

20 MR. MILLSLADGLE: Okay.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: And that should conclude our interview here
22 with the coroner. It is approximately 2:33 p.m.

23 (Whereupon, at 2:33 p.m., the interview concluded.)
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
 COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
 IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
 ON MARCH 11, 2024
 Interview of Terry Millslagle

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

From: [Ronald](#) [REDACTED]
To: [schuy](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: NTSB Transcription Errata Sign-Off Sheet
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:34:00 AM
Attachments: [HWY24MH005_Millslagle](#) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hello again Mr. Millslagle,
Friendly reminder to sign off on your interview transcript and return it.

Thank you,

Ron K.

Ronald A. Kaminski
Sr. Survival Factors Investigator
NTSB Office of Highway Safety
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Ronald Kaminski
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 2:36 PM
To: [schuy](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: NTSB Transcription Errata Sign-Off Sheet

Hello again Mr. Millslagle,
As I promised you several months ago, I have attached the interview transcript from the interview I conducted with you back on March 13, 2024.
The attached Interview Errata sheet is primarily for you to note any changes or corrections that you feel need to be made after reading over your interview transcript which is also attached. I sent you a Word docx and a PDF of the same.

Please read the transcript over and If there is something you would like to add or clarify what you said, just write down the page and line number that you want to make the change and include how you want it changed and why. Even misspellings.

Even if there are no changes or additions, please sign the Interview Errata sheet and email it back to me. We would appreciate it.

I apologize for the inconvenience. Any questions, feel free to call or email me back.

Kind Regards,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: JEFFREY BOYD, Chief Deputy
Schuyler County Sherriff's Department

Rushville, Illinois

Friday,
March 15, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Jeffrey Boyd:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(11:40 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 15th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, with the National Transportation
5 Safety Board. This is regarding crash HWY24MH005. I'm here at
6 the Schuyler County Sherriff's Department here in Rushville,
7 Illinois and I'm going to be talking to Chief Deputy Jeffrey Boyd
8 and he's going to give us a description here as one of the first
9 people on scene and he's going to give a description of what he
10 saw.

11 Mr. Boyd, can you spell your name, first and last name, and
12 give me your title, please.

13 MR. BOYD: My first name is Jeffrey, J-e-f-f-r-e-y, last name
14 Boyd, B-o-y-d. I am the chief deputy sheriff, Schuyler County
15 sheriff's office.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF JEFFREY BOYD

17
18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. And so did you get toned out, did you get -- did they call
20 you on the radio, dispatch, did you hear it, see it?

21 A. I heard it on my portable radio on my chest. I heard an
22 off-duty officer state that there was a bus versus semi accident
23 on 24 coming into Rushville and I wasn't for sure what was going
24 on, because we hadn't got toned out for it or dispatch hadn't said
25 nothing. So myself and Chief Rick Wright from Rushville PD were

1 working together on a vehicle theft on Lawn Street and we both
2 looked at each other and took off towards the scene of the
3 accident.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. When I turned on to Route 24, I was heading west towards the
6 accident scene. I could see a semi laying, trailer laying on its
7 side and a lot of black smoke and flames, but I could not see the
8 school bus at that time. As I passed the semi truck that was in
9 the ditch, there was nothing on the roadway, it was in the ditch
10 on the north side of the road, I could clearly see a yellow school
11 bus, short school bus, and there was flames coming out of every
12 window. The roof was still on the bus, the semi tractor part was
13 in flames.

14 And when I say flames, I mean very big flames, the wind -- it
15 was wind-driven flames, the wind was blowing decently out of the
16 west to the east, so it was blowing flames from the bus straight
17 into the semi. I immediately knew that if there was drivers in
18 the vehicle that they were probably deceased because we were told
19 that the drivers did not exit the semi or the bus.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So I pulled onto the shoulder, Chief Wright went past me,
22 heading west, and blocked off vehicles coming from the west
23 towards Rushville, so vehicles traveling east were shut down. I
24 got out of my vehicle and I stood probably, what I would say, you
25 know, a hundred and 50 feet away from the bus that was burning

1 because I could hear the tires exploding, pops and bangs and
2 different things.

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. And it wasn't even 30 seconds later, I would say, that I
5 heard Sheriff Redshaw say I'm almost on scene, where do you want
6 me, I said we need to shut down traffic coming from the east
7 heading west, he said okay, I'm shutting it down, and he shut down
8 and diverted traffic on -- I don't know the name of the street
9 right now.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ellen Scripps.

11 MR. BOYD: Ellen Scripps Street. And then Chief Wright had
12 the other end of Ellen Scripps Street moving traffic. I witnessed
13 the ambulances pull up, they stayed out of the way, and I waited
14 for the fire department to get there.

15 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16 Q. Yeah, I was surprised the EMS beat the -- well --

17 A. Yeah. According to --

18 Q. -- EMS is full --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- they work full-time, so that's --

21 A. According to my body camera, it was about five, four and a
22 half minutes from the time I started my recording until the fire
23 department got there, which is pretty dang good. I mean, it
24 really was pretty amazing on how fast the fire department got
25 there.

1 Q. Right. Okay. And --

2 A. And that's in -- then when the fire department got there, I
3 went to my job of basically securing the scene --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- not allowing witnesses and other people to come in and let
6 the firemen and the state police do their job because -- and when
7 I first arrived, I did ask dispatch -- I forgot about that part --
8 the moment I seen the bus involved in the flames, I immediately
9 said contact ISP right away.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And then other than that, my job was pretty much just seeing
12 to security.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I didn't do much other than that. I did, you know --

15 Q. You did -- all you guys did plenty out there. And there
16 really wasn't a heck of a lot -- I mean --

17 A. Yeah, I knew there was not much we could -- I knew there
18 wasn't anything we could do at that time --

19 Q. Right.

20 A. -- I was just hoping that it wasn't any worse than what I
21 first saw, so --

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Right. Okay, that will conclude our interview
23 here. It is approximately quarter until 12:00.

24 (Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the interview concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Jeffrey Boyd

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 15, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: ERIC STAUFFER, Deputy Fire Chief
Rushville Fire Department

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Eric Stauffer:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(1:38 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, R-o-n-a-l-d K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board. I'm going to be talking with Deputy
6 Chief Eric Stauffer and this is regarding crash HWY24MH005.

7 And Deputy Chief Stauffer, can you spell your first and last
8 name, please?

9 MR. STAUFFER: It's Eric, E-r-i-c, Stauffer, S-t-a-u-f-f-e-r.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And is it okay that I record this
11 conversation?

12 MR. STAUFFER: Yes, it's fine.

INTERVIEW OF ERIC STAUFFER

13
14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. Okay, so why don't you start off from the time you got toned
16 out and what you saw and what you did?

17 A. Okay, the page came in at approximately 11:31 a.m. and left
18 my office and went to the fire station and started getting reports
19 other than the page of what's going on. At the firehouse, the
20 trucks were leaving, I got into the brush truck and made it onto
21 scene on the west side of the incident. At that time, the three
22 trucks that were on the scene were extinguishing flames.

23 Q. Okay. And so you're off to the west side and what was your
24 duties in this?

25 A. We put out a little bit of brush fire and also, we were just

1 trying to add assistance to the three main pumpers, were actively
2 spraying water.

3 Q. Okay. And how long were you on scene?

4 A. We were on the scene until, basically --

5 Q. Until they had the bodies removed, the coroner was there and
6 you stayed after that?

7 A. We stayed until we were released at 16:42 p.m.

8 Q. Okay. So who would remove the deceased, would that have been
9 the coroner --

10 A. That would have been the --

11 Q. -- and the firefighters?

12 A. -- coroner and the EMS.

13 Q. And the EMS.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay. Any issues you came across out there?

16 A. No issues. They got the flames knocked down fast and
17 extinguished fast and then, like Vic said, they got turned over
18 under the direction of the coroner.

19 Q. Okay. Okay, if you don't mind if I have any follow-up
20 questions, call you?

21 A. Absolutely.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And that will conclude our interview
23 here at 1:40.

24 (Whereupon, at 1:40 p.m., the interview concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Eric Stauffer

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: ERIC THURMAN, Firefighter
Rushville Fire Department

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Eric Thurman:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(1:55 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, I'm with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board. I'm going to be talking to
6 Firefighter Eric Thurman with the Rushville Fire Department
7 regarding crash Number HWY24MH005. It is approximately five
8 minutes to 2 o'clock in the afternoon here in Rushville.

9 And Mr. Thurman, why don't you spell your first name and last
10 name and give me your title, please.

11 MR. THURMAN: First name, Eric, E-r-i-c. Last name Thurman,
12 T-h-u-r-m-a-n. I'm the public works director for the City of
13 Rushville and a volunteer firefighter for Schuyler Fire Protection
14 District/Rushville Fire Department.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, what's a good phone number for you?

16 MR. THURMAN: [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED].

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And do you have any problem with me
19 recording this conversation?

20 MR. THURMAN: No, that's okay.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Thank you.

INTERVIEW OF ERIC THURMAN

22 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

23 Q. So why don't you just start from the time when you learned
24 about the crash or heard the crash and what all you did.
25

1 A. I was discussing with some of my workers out by the area it
2 happened, we heard a big bang and as we got across the parking
3 lot, some other people were out looking, I found out what it was,
4 I heard it was a bus and a tractor trailer. I started on my way
5 to -- on the way to the firehouse, while I'm in the process of
6 coming here, I did hear the page. I was trying to listen to the
7 page and get here as quick as possible. I got here, I got suited
8 up, I got in the truck, I waited for the next firefighter to
9 arrive on scene and when the next firefighter arrived here, then
10 we took off toward the scene.

11 Q. Okay. And what vehicle were you in?

12 A. I was driving Truck 2.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. When we were arriving on scene, I was looking to see -- the
15 smoke was rolling towards the highway, so I drove past the scene
16 and at a decent distance where Mr. Wilson pulled some hose, I
17 helped pull some hose, he notified me of which line we had pulled,
18 I charged the line and he started fighting the fire.

19 Q. Okay. And after you suppressed the fire, what did you all
20 do? Did you hang around and just wait in case there was another
21 hot spot or something?

22 A. Yes, yeah, we -- yeah, we stayed on scene in case there was
23 any more hot spots or if anybody needed anything else there.

24 Q. Okay. And have you had any training with the IFSI, Illinois
25 Fire Safety Institute?

1 A. No, I have not.

2 Q. Okay. And you -- well, you've done most of your training
3 here at the station?

4 A. Training, yeah. Training's been here and you learn from
5 older firefighters and -- um-hum.

6 Q. Okay. Anything else you want to add?

7 A. I was originally on Truck 2 and I wind up manning Truck 10
8 for a little while, just --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- for hot spots. We did pick up Truck 2 after, you know,
11 most of the fire was down, so we -- but we stayed on scene and
12 kept the line charged just in case there was any other.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Anything was needed.

15 Q. And you don't mind if I call you back if I have any follow-up
16 questions?

17 A. That's okay.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Yeah.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Great. That will conclude our interview here
21 at about three minutes to 2 o'clock.

22 (Whereupon, at 1:57 p.m., the interview concluded.)
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Eric Thurman

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: MARC WILSON, Firefighter
Rushville Fire Department

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Marc Wilson:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(1:47 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, with the National Transportation
5 Safety Board. This is regarding highway crash HWY24MH005. I'm
6 here at the Rushville Fire Department, it is approximately 1:50
7 p.m. and I'm going to be talking with Firefighter -- Rushville
8 Firefighter Marc Wilson.

9 Mr. Wilson, why don't you spell your first and last name?

10 MR. WILSON: M-a-r-c W-i-l-s-o-n.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And what's a good phone number for you?

12 MR. WILSON: [REDACTED].

INTERVIEW OF MARC WILSON

13
14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. Okay. And why don't you give us a description of what you
16 were doing or when you got toned out and when you got out and seen
17 what you all did at the scene.

18 A. I received the page off of my phone while I was at the city
19 shed and hopped in one of the trucks and got down to the station
20 as soon as possible, grabbed my gear and hopped in the truck that
21 Thurman had running already and we arrived at the scene. I
22 grabbed a pre-connect 2 and got the hose all the way strung out
23 and he got the pump started up and we started suppressing the fire
24 as soon as possible.

25 Q. Okay. And did you -- did you stay with the fire suppression

1 until it was out?

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. And how many out there were you with hoses trying to put out
4 the fire?

5 A. I'd say three.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. All three trucks were running, I believe.

8 Q. Okay. And you guys were all stationed around or --

9 A. Pretty much so, yes.

10 Q. Okay. And so after the -- you just did the fire suppression,
11 I shouldn't say "just did," but after the fire suppression, you
12 just wrapped things up and anything else?

13 A. We kept the hose charged after the scene was turned over in
14 case if any hot spots came on, to get them down so then the
15 coroner was able to do their job.

16 Q. Okay. You didn't have any issues out there, you had plenty
17 of water and all that?

18 A. Um-hum. Yeah, no issues whatsoever.

19 Q. And one thing I forgot to ask the deputy chief, but as for
20 you guys, did you guys have your standard training, firefighting
21 training that they do or even hazmat training, just your basic
22 awareness class, you've taken that?

23 A. We've had trainings here during our meetings and stuff about
24 stuff like that.

25 Q. Okay, okay. But I mean as for did you go to Illinois Fire

1 and Safety Institute? Are you guys doing any of that?

2 A. I have not, no.

3 Q. No, okay. So where do you get your training, then?

4 A. At the station.

5 Q. At this station here?

6 A. Um-hum.

7 Q. Okay. And they'll go over the suppression and things like
8 that?

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. Okay. Okay, any problem, if I have any follow-up questions,
11 to give you a call back?

12 A. No.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That concludes our interview here with
14 Firefighter Marc Wilson, it's approximately 10 minutes to 2
15 o'clock.

16 (Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m., the interview concluded.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Marc Wilson

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS *

COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE *

Accident No.: HWY24MH005

IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS ON *

MARCH 11, 2024 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: ROSEMARY HAYS, EMT/Chief of Rescue
ANDREW GRENLUND, EMT-B/Assistant Chief of Rescue
Schuyler County EMA/EMS

Rushville, Illinois

Wednesday,
March 13, 2024

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Highway
Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Rosemary Hays & Andrew Grenlund:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(2:10 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is March 13th, 2024, my name is
4 Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i, with the National Transportation
5 Safety Board. I'm here at the Rushville Fire Department regarding
6 the crash HWY24MH005, it is approximately 10 minutes after 2:00
7 and I'm going to be talking to the EMT assistant chief for the
8 Schuyler County EMS and the rescue chief for the EMS.

9 So why don't we start off, if you could spell your -- oh,
10 first of all, are you both okay with me recording this
11 conversation?

12 MR. GRENLUND: Yes.

13 MS. HAYS: Yes.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: And if you could each state and spell your
15 first and last name and give me your title.

16 MR. GRENLUND: Andrew Grenlund, A-n-d-r-e-w G-r-e-n-l-u-n-d,
17 EMT-Basic, Assistant Chief of Rescue.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

19 MS. HAYS: Rosemary Hays, R-o-s-e-m-a-r-y, Hays, H-a-y-s,
20 Rescue Chief and EMT.

INTERVIEW OF ROSEMARY HAYS & ANDREW GRENLUND

21
22 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, so why don't you all give me -- one of
23 you give me a description of you got toned out, you got out there
24 and what happened?

25 MR. GRENLUND: We received a call for a bus versus semi

1 accident, we were the first on scene, me and my partner were.
2 Upon arrival we found a semi half on its side, fully engulfed in
3 flames. We stopped on the east side of the accident to talk to
4 bystanders, none of them were a patient. We proceeded to the west
5 side of the accident where there were more vehicles and more
6 people standing by, none of them were patients, they were just all
7 bystanders, they stated the same thing as the first group, that
8 they never seen anybody get out of the vehicles. About 60 seconds
9 on scene, our second ambulance arrived, I had them stage on the
10 east side of the accident to take care of anything that was on
11 that end and we had the other end.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: You were on the west side?

13 MR. GRENLUND: Yes, sir, we were on the west side 3-Board-11.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

15 MR. GRENLUND: Shortly after that, Rushville Fire Department
16 showed up on scene --

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, so you guys beat the fire department.

18 MR. GRENLUND: Yes, sir. Not by much. We were only there a
19 minute or two before Rushville Fire Department showed up and they
20 took over the scene due to the fire and the crash in that nature,
21 they took over the scene until they got the fire put out.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

23 MS. HAYS: I believe it was after they got the fire out is
24 when it was confirmed that there was just more than the driver in
25 the bus.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And then once the fire was out, can you
2 -- I hate to, again, put you through this, but if you can kind of
3 give me a description of where the -- all the deceased were
4 located that you removed.

5 MR. GRENLUND: We'll start with the semi. The semi driver
6 was in a kneeling position in between the driver's seat and the
7 passenger seat.

8 MS. HAYS: It was like his shoulder was wedged behind the
9 passenger seat.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

11 MR. GRENLUND: It would've been his right shoulder.

12 MS. HAYS: Right shoulder.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

14 MS. HAYS: So he was like slumped over and his right shoulder
15 was between like the back of the seat and the --

16 MR. KAMINSKI: The cab back --

17 MS. HAYS: Yeah.

18 MR. GRENLUND: Yes.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: -- and the seat back.

20 MS. HAYS: Yes.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

22 MS. HAYS: Because he had -- when we went to remove him, he
23 had to be lifted up to get from wedged between the seat and the
24 back of the semi.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So it sounds like -- well, we don't

1 know if he's belted or not, but it doesn't sound like it, if he
2 goes over in that position, unless -- yeah. So okay, how about --

3 MR. GRENLUND: The next would've been --

4 MS. HAYS: So we removed the driver of the semi first, out
5 the passenger side because the gas tank was melted and we didn't
6 want to risk somebody stepping into the gasoline or --

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

8 MS. HAYS: -- him falling into the gasoline when we were
9 pulling him out.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Sure.

11 MS. HAYS: We had to remove -- was it his right leg? No, his
12 left leg.

13 MR. GRENLUND: Left lower.

14 MS. HAYS: Left lower limb to get him out because he was --

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Stuck in there.

16 MR. GRENLUND: Everything was melted --

17 MS. HAYS: Melted.

18 MR. GRENLUND: -- around it.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. Did you have to -- the passenger
20 door, did you have to pry that open, the passenger door?

21 MS. HAYS: No, it was already partially open because I think
22 they might have -- I don't know if they partially opened it to
23 extinguish the fire, I'm not sure, but we didn't have to pry it
24 open --

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

1 MS. HAYS: -- because it was able to be opened.

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Was it closed when you opened it or --

3 MS. HAYS: No, when I --

4 MR. GRENLUND: No, it was --

5 MS. HAYS: When I got to that side --

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, just ajar.

7 MR. GRENLUND: It was just --

8 MS. HAYS: -- of the vehicle, it was ajar.

9 MR. GRENLUND: -- ajar, I don't know, a foot or so, so it was
10 partially opened.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

12 MS. HAYS: And then we were able to push it more all the way
13 open like to the -- where the front end would've been --

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum, yeah.

15 MS. HAYS: -- to gain more access.

16 MR. GRENLUND: Just to gain a little more access.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. And then you guys got him out,
18 you had to remove his left lower limb, you got him out, and the
19 coroner was there by this time, right?

20 MS. HAYS: Well, the coroner had already been there, but he
21 left his deputy coroner on scene because the coroner had to leave
22 for, I think, notifications and dealing with media.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

24 MR. GRENLUND: We actually had three deputy coroners --

25 MS. HAYS: Yeah, there was --

1 MR. GRENLUND: -- on scene.

2 MS. HAYS: Actually, we had three deputy coroners because one
3 is also our director of ESDA (ph.).

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh.

5 MS. HAYS: He's our main boss at the ambulance, he's one of
6 the deputy coroners, as well.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

8 MS. HAYS: So he partook in removing the five victims.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Partook or watched or just overseeing?

10 MS. HAYS: No, he --

11 MR. GRENLUND: He assisted, yes.

12 MS. HAYS: He assisted, yes.

13 MR. GRENLUND: Actually, two of the three.

14 MS. HAYS: Two of the three were -- that were on the scene
15 were in the vehicles helping remove the victims.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. And what are their names?

17 MS. HAYS: Michael Hardy is one of them.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: How do you spell his last name, do you know?

19 MS. HAYS: H-a-r-d-y.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

21 MS. HAYS: Thompson?

22 MR. GRENLUND: Thompson?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bill.

24 MR. GRENLUND: Bill Thompson.

25 MS. HAYS: And then, is her name Cheryl?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cheri.

2 MS. HAYS: Cheri.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cheri Triplett.

4 MS. HAYS: Triplett.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One "p," two "t's." Because it was
6 spelled wrong.

7 MS. HAYS: But I don't know if she was there the whole time
8 because we were fixated on trying to remove the victims.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, so then moving on then, you got the bus
10 driver or the semi driver out --

11 MS. HAYS: Um-hum.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: -- and then you guys moved over to the --

13 MS. HAYS: We did the children first.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And --

15 MR. GRENLUND: Then removed --

16 MS. HAYS: Front or passenger Seat 2, we removed one John
17 Doe, I believe.

18 MR. GRENLUND: First.

19 MS. HAYS: He, John Doe.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: So passenger side?

21 MS. HAYS: Um-hum. Seat 2.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Seat 2 would've been what, the --

23 MS. HAYS: The second seat behind the door.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, the second row.

25 MS. HAYS: Yeah.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah, okay. And they were on the floor, I
2 assume?

3 MS. HAYS: Yes.

4 MR. GRENLUND: Correct.

5 MS. HAYS: Well, everything had melted, there was no seats
6 other than the --

7 MR. GRENLUND: The frames.

8 MS. HAYS: The frames.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: But they remained on the floor --

10 MS. HAYS: They were on the floor.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: -- at that position there?

12 MR. GRENLUND: Correct.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: So it maybe looks like they were either in the
14 aisle seat or in the passenger seat, but right there --

15 MS. HAYS: Yeah.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: -- in that second seat.

17 MS. HAYS: And it appeared that he was sitting in that seat
18 by himself.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And the other child?

20 MS. HAYS: The two other decedents, I believe, were driver
21 side Seat --

22 MR. GRENLUND: One.

23 MS. HAYS: -- 1, I believe. One, I think they said, appeared
24 he might've been in the aisle, like he had either fallen out of
25 the seat or -- but he was located more in the aisle than the --

1 MR. GRENLUND: That would've been the --

2 MS. HAYS: The seat.

3 MR. GRENLUND: -- passenger side Seat 1.

4 MS. HAYS: Yes. Well, behind the driver, Row 1.

5 MR. GRENLUND: There's two -- there's two of them, one was in
6 Seat 2, passenger side; one was in Seat 1, passenger side; one was
7 in Seat 1, driver's side.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, passenger Seat 1, passenger side, Seat
9 1, Row 1, and then passenger side, Row 2 --

10 MR. GRENLUND: Correct.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: -- there's somebody right at those positions,
12 what looked to be.

13 MS. HAYS: Well, they said the -- it appeared the one that
14 they classified as Seat 1, passenger side, it appeared that he had
15 fallen out into the aisle is where they found him, he was kind of
16 in the aisle.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And then the child that was on the
18 driver's side, was that in Row 2 or Row --

19 MR. GRENLUND: Row 1.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: So we had two in what looks --

21 MR. GRENLUND: Row 1, Row 1, driver's Row 1, passengers Row
22 2, passenger.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

24 MR. GRENLUND: And then the driver.

25 MS. HAYS: And I believe the one that was in Row 1, driver,

1 was Jane Doe.

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

3 MS. HAYS: The P. Jane Doe, I believe, is what -- because
4 when I was digging for bones later, we -- they said it probably
5 belonged to her.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you guys were able to remove them
7 in a body bag and put them --

8 MS. HAYS: Yeah.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: -- and then hand them out the window?

10 MR. GRENLUND: Correct.

11 MS. HAYS: And then they were handed out the window.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Did you take off any doors, cut any
13 doors, remove any --

14 MR. GRENLUND: No.

15 MS. HAYS: No.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: -- windows, anything like that?

17 MS. HAYS: No. All the windows were already gone.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Broke out, gone. Yeah, it was just a shell.

19 MR. GRENLUND: Yeah, there was just a shell.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

21 MR. GRENLUND: The only thing that we did have to do is we
22 used the fire department's spreaders because the driver of the bus
23 was pinned --

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

25 MS. HAYS: Between the engine compartments.

1 MR. GRENLUND: Right, right leg, right lower leg --

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

3 MR. GRENLUND: -- was pinned between the floorboard, the
4 dash, and the motor compartment.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

6 MR. GRENLUND: So we used their spreaders and kind of spread
7 everything back apart to where we could remove -- remove her.

8 MS. HAYS: And we did end up having to remove part of her
9 lower limb to --

10 MR. GRENLUND: Right, lower leg we had to remove.

11 MS. HAYS: -- get her out. And then she was taken out the
12 back of the --

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Out the back door?

14 MS. HAYS: Um-hum.

15 MR. GRENLUND: Um-hum.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: I did notice that was ajar, so --

17 MS. HAYS: Well, we didn't even have to open it, it was
18 already busted.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: The back door was already open?

20 MR. GRENLUND: Yeah, it was -- there was nothing but the
21 metal.

22 MS. HAYS: It was just the frame.

23 MR. GRENLUND: It was just the outside frame.

24 MS. HAYS: The windows were already broken.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, yeah. But I did note that the door itself

1 was ajar, but --

2 MR. GRENLUND: That wouldn't have been us.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. You handed them out the window through
4 the back door?

5 MS. HAYS: No, we just slid her out the back door frame.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh.

7 MS. HAYS: In the body bag.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

9 MS. HAYS: So we put her in the body bag in the bus in like
10 what would've been the aisle or what was left of it and then we
11 slid her out.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Out the back door?

13 MS. HAYS: Out the back door in the body bag.

14 MR. GRENLUND: It was the easiest way to --

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Sure.

16 MR. GRENLUND: -- extricate out.

17 MS. HAYS: Instead of up and out the window.

18 MR. GRENLUND: Yeah, then you have to lift and it's --

19 MS. HAYS: Um-hum.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah. Sure. Okay. And if you all -- I need
21 to get -- could you each give me your phone numbers?

22 MR. GRENLUND: Yes, sir. Mine is area code [REDACTED].

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And Rosemary.

24 MS. HAYS: [REDACTED]

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And what I'm doing is get your e-mail

1 and so when we have this transcript, I can send it to you and you
2 can just read through it and make sure everything is proper,
3 because sometimes they'll make -- the transcriber will have a word
4 wrong or something and we'll be able to -- and we can fix that if
5 they say it wrong or they print it wrong, what they hear. So why
6 don't you give me your --

7 MR. GRENLUND: Okay. Mine is country, [REDACTED]

9 MS. HAYS: I'm only laughing because when you hear mine,
10 we're just going to be a bunch of idiots.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

12 MS. HAYS: It's [REDACTED].
13 Now you see why I was laughing.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you guys don't mind if I have any
15 follow-up questions to call you back?

16 MR. GRENLUND: You're more than welcome to.

17 MS. HAYS: Yeah.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That concludes our interview here, it
19 is approximately 25 after 2:00.

20 (Whereupon, at 2:25 p.m., the interview concluded.)
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL SEMI-TRUCK & SCHOOL BUS
COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE
IN RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
ON MARCH 11, 2024
Interview of Rosemary Hays
& Andrew Grenlund

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY24MH005

PLACE: Rushville, Illinois

DATE: March 13, 2024

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.



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber

