

Date: May 21, 2024

To: Robert Molloy, Director, Office of Highway Safety

Through: Thomas Barth, Chief Special Investigations Branch, Office of Highway Safety

From: Michael LaPonte Motor Carrier Factors Investigator

Subject: Close Out Memorandum Roadway Departure and Crash with Parked Vehicles, Millersburg, Marion County, Oregon.
HWY23FH013

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, about 2:45 p.m. Pacific daylight time, a 2018 Freightliner truck-tractor in combination with a 2014 Utility soft-sided semitrailer, operated by Waypoint Logistics, was traveling northbound on Interstate 5 (I-5) north of Millersburg, Marion County, Oregon. A 2001 Ford Econoline van towing a small utility trailer, operated by J. Ruiz Farm Labor Contractors, was parked on the 25-foot-wide right shoulder north of the highway exit ramp leading to the North Santiam rest area. A 2023 Freightliner Cascadia truck-tractor in combination with a 2023 Utility enclosed semitrailer, operated by C.R. England, was also parked on the right northbound shoulder of I-5 in front of the van. The 2018 Freightliner departed the highway travel lanes while approaching the location of the stopped vehicles and collided with the rear of the van and its trailer. The van was subsequently pushed forward into the rear of the 2023 combination vehicle.

As a result of the crash, seven van occupants were fatally injured, three were seriously injured, and one sustained minor injuries. The drivers of the combination vehicles were not injured.

At the crash location, I-5 comprises two travel lanes in each direction with the north and southbound lanes separated by an earthen median and a median guardrail barrier. The speed limit is 65 mph with a reduced speed limit of 60 mph for trucks. At the site of the crash, the highway was straight and level. At the time of the crash, the weather was clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

This investigation was initiated to support the NTSB's interest in roadside truck parking for operators of commercial motor vehicles and also noted the impairment of one of the commercial vehicle operators. No further action beyond this memorandum will be taken; however, information from the items in the docket were used to support safety issues identified in the Safety Board's Highland, IL investigation, and may be used in other mission-related activities.

Approved: _____

Robert Molloy

Date