



Crash Summary Report

Alachua, Florida

HWY19MH007

(2 pages)

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On Thursday, January 3, 2019, about 3:41 p.m., eastern standard time, a 2016 Freightliner truck-tractor in combination with a semitrailer was traveling north on Interstate 75, near mile marker 393.53, 1.89 miles south of the city of Alachua, Alachua County, Florida, when it swerved to the left and struck a 2016 Acura passenger car that was also traveling north. The Freightliner continued to the left along with the redirected Acura, crossed the center median, drove through the median barrier and entered the southbound lanes—striking a 2006 Chevrolet 12-passenger van. Following the impact, the van rolled over twice before coming to rest upright. The impact to the van created an opening that allowed 10 passengers to be ejected. Two of the ejected passengers were thrown into a 2006 Chevrolet pickup truck traveling south in the center lane, behind the passenger van. The 2016 Freightliner continued across the southbound lanes and struck a 2018 Freightliner truck-tractor semitrailer that was traveling in the far-right southbound lane. At that point, the unbelted driver of the 2016 Freightliner was ejected. A post-crash fire ignited, fed by fuel from a breeched fuel saddle tank on the 2016 Freightliner. The Acura was wedged underneath the Freightliner's semitrailer, and the driver was able to self-extricate before the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames.

Five vehicles with a total of 16 occupants were involved in the crash. Seven vehicle occupants were fatally injured, including the two Freightliner drivers and five passengers ejected from the van. Of the remaining nine vehicle occupants, only the driver of the pickup truck was uninjured. Five van passengers were wearing their available restraints—including three that were ultimately ejected from the vehicle. The driver and front seat passenger were restrained with lap/shoulder belts. The drivers of the passenger car, the 2018 Freightliner, and the pickup truck were all wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.

I-75 is a divided highway with three lanes in each direction, separated by a depressed earthen median and incorporating a beam median barrier. The posted speed limit is 70 mph.