



## **SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT**

### **Driver and Passenger Interviews**

**Phoenix, AZ**

**HWY21MH008**

(38 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER \*

ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA \* Accident No.: HWY21MH008

ON JUNE 9, 2021 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: NICHOLAS GREEN, Driver

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

DAVID RAYBURN, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Nicholas Green:

By Mr. Kaminski

4, 6, 7, 8 9

By Mr. Rayburn

4, 6

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: My name is Ronald Kaminski with the National  
3 Transportation Safety Board. I'm here with David Rayburn with the  
4 Board. We're at Mr. Nicholas Green's residence and along with him  
5 is his parents, Marty and Andrew, and he's going to give us a  
6 brief description of what he remembers regarding the crash of June  
7 9th.

## INTERVIEW OF NICHOLAS GREEN

8  
9 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. So why don't you just start with what you remember?

11 A. So I remember I was driving home from downtown on the 202. I  
12 was approaching Priest, there was a police stop spot. The signs  
13 were reading police stop ahead on Priest Avenue, or Priest -- not  
14 avenue, street.

15 I remember I looked back and I saw the semi-truck approaching  
16 me quite quickly in the distance and I kind of thought well, this  
17 is pretty fast and then I felt something and I don't remember  
18 anything else. So I didn't really have a whole lot of time to be  
19 real aware of my surroundings at that point because it was moving  
20 pretty quickly as every other car wasn't. I blacked out  
21 immediately after that.

22 BY MR. RAYBURN:

23 Q. You said you saw something by the sign that said some kind of  
24 police activity?

25 A. Yeah, so --

1 Q. Is that that overhead sign?

2 A. Yeah, on the electronic signs there's something saying that  
3 there was either a police stop, or something of that nature on  
4 Priest -- the Priest exit. So there was a pretty long line of  
5 cars leading up from the 52nd street exit. So it was pretty  
6 backed up and I was basically stopped in traffic when I got hit.

7 Q. So you were completely stopped when you got hit?

8 A. Yeah, I might have been going maybe five miles an hour to  
9 like move it forward, but it was --

10 Q. Creeping --

11 A. Stop to crawl.

12 Q. How long -- I know it's probably a difficult question -- were  
13 you stopped a long time, or just a few seconds? How long do you  
14 think you were stopped?

15 A. I was stopped maybe a couple of minutes. My memory gets real  
16 fuzzy because --

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. I definitely got concussed.

19 MS. GREEN: He's got a head wound also. He has a head wound.

20 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: They told me that I was partially  
21 ejected. I think it was long enough that I noticed when some --  
22 when I -- I noticed when that -- the semi was coming up because  
23 most of the other cars were pretty slowly trickling in and that  
24 one was moving quick from what I remember. I didn't really have  
25 time to put two and two together before they were plowing into us.

1 BY MR. RAYBURN:

2 Q. Was there a car stopped behind you?

3 A. I couldn't tell you, I don't remember.

4 Q. It's like five lanes wide out there, I'm assuming you were in  
5 the right hand lane?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You were -- that's where you take the exits to come home  
8 right --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Priest?

11 A. Yeah.

12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. I should go back I mean, get your date of birth if you don't  
14 mind?

15 A. [REDACTED].

16 Q. And your approximate height and weight?

17 A. [REDACTED].

18 Q. Would you be interested -- we could put you in contact with  
19 our Transportation Disaster Assistance people and they can send  
20 you emails? You want to give an email address and they can kind  
21 of give you updates on how the investigation is -- what's going  
22 on?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay, why don't you give that to me?

25 A. It is [REDACTED] -- I know it's kind of a

1 long one -- at [REDACTED] --

2 Q. Is [REDACTED] --

3 A. Forgot that, yeah, [REDACTED]

4 Q. Okay, [REDACTED] ?

5 A. Yep.

6 MS. GREEN: There's no -- you don't use a hyphen between your  
7 two --

8 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: No, not on that one.

9 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. [REDACTED] okay. What types of injuries I know -- I see  
11 you have a head injury.

12 A. Fractured ribs --

13 Q. How many?

14 A. They didn't really say.

15 MS. GREEN: They told us two.

16 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

17 Q. Which side?

18 A. Left side. I know I can feel the left side. Lacerations on  
19 my back and my shoulder and my head, nine staples in my head and a  
20 concussion.

21 MR. RAYBURN: When you got knocked into the car in front of  
22 you did your airbag come up?

23 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: I don't remember. I was -- I went out  
24 really quick.

25 MR. RAYBURN: How about -- were you wearing a seatbelt?



1 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: Yeah. I think that's -- I wouldn't be  
2 here today if I wasn't.

3 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

4 Q. But you said somebody told you, you were partially ejected?

5 A. That's what they said and that's what I contributed to the  
6 scars in the back of my head, but I wore a seatbelt so it wasn't  
7 like I wouldn't have been. I don't know if it was just coming out  
8 --

9 Q. (Indiscernible)

10 A. Yeah, something like that.

11 Q. Yeah, I don't know -- your car was pretty crushed, yeah.

12 A. Yeah.

13 MS. GREEN: Yeah, he's been asking about that today.

14 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: Yeah, to this point I haven't seen it.

15 MR. RAYBURN: I'd show you I don't have the -- we did take  
16 some preliminary pictures, but I haven't been to look at the --  
17 just look at the vehicles and take some pictures, but until later  
18 on this week we should be able to do a little bit more inspection  
19 and get a closer look, but I didn't bring my camera, so I  
20 apologize. Maybe down the road I could send -- if you don't --  
21 you have my card with email and maybe down the road -- I have your  
22 email -- I can shoot you a couple photos.

23 MR. NICHOLAS GREEN: Okay.

24 MS. GREEN: Can I interrupt? He is on medication, I don't  
25 know if you need to know that, but he --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, I appreciate that. Dave, do you have  
2 any other questions?

3 MR. RAYBURN: No, it normally takes us -- there's like ten of  
4 us out here working. Ron and I are from Texas, the rest of the  
5 crew is from Washington D.C. and we've been out there. We closed  
6 the highway down this morning, went out there and flew a drone and  
7 took measurements with the drone and photographs.

8 It takes us like, 16 months to finish a report because we're  
9 real, real thorough. We've gone to the trucking company and got  
10 all their records, we interviewed the truck driver. You know, so  
11 it will be a real thorough report, but the -- anytime you have  
12 questions you can email Ron or --

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Transportation -- TDA we call them, Transportation Disaster  
15 Assistance. They will -- once they give your email -- oh, and why  
16 don't you give me your phone number just in case, if you don't  
17 mind?

18 A. [REDACTED].

19 Q. They will email you and you can email either me or them and  
20 they'll give you some updates on what's going on.

21 A. Okay, is there any sort of preliminary reason on why this  
22 happened?

23 Q. That will be -- and they'll send you that once you get --  
24 once they give them email. It should be coming out with the next  
25 three weeks or so. We'll have preliminary -- a brief preliminary

1 report and just what occurred in the crash. By then maybe we'll  
2 have some more information on the truck driver and any issues with  
3 him or his vehicle.

4 MR. GREEN: A couple questions, one is, is there a separate  
5 police report that will be issued prior to --

6 MR. KAMINSKI: They're working on it now, it's just very  
7 involved.

8 MR. RAYBURN: You know, they do like a couple reports  
9 sometimes like the basic police report -- just listing everybody's  
10 names and addresses and things like that and they'll have a  
11 summary narrative, you know, may be a couple of paragraphs. Then  
12 they do their reconstruction report, it will take several months,  
13 but it will be done before ours will.

14 MR. GREEN: Okay. Second question is, so which of the -- we  
15 actually got home about an hour ago so we haven't contacted his  
16 insurance company, but we'll probably try and do that later today.  
17 Do we give them your information?

18 MR. RAYBURN: You can, that's okay. Yeah, you can tell them  
19 the State Police investigated the accident and then --

20 MR. KAMINSKI: DPS, yeah.

21 MR. RAYBURN: Yeah, the Arizona DPS and then the NTSB,  
22 National Transportation Safety Board is also doing an  
23 investigation.

24 MR. GREEN: Will he have access to -- I don't know if there  
25 are things in your car that you might want to see if you can

1 salvage. Will he have access to -- who controls the access to --

2 MR. KAMINSKI: DPS will do that.

3 MR. RAYBURN: Yeah, they're still trying to figure out  
4 whether or not they're going to talk to the prosecutors and stuff.  
5 We're not still recording are we?

6 MR. KAMINSKI: This concludes our conversation with  
7 Mr. Green.

8 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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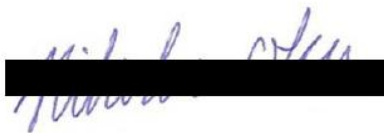
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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:            FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER  
   ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
   ON JUNE 9, 2021  
   Interview of Nicholas Green

ACCIDENT NO.:                HWY21MH008

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.



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NIKOLAS OKA  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER \*

ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA \*

Accident No.: HWY21MH008

ON JUNE 9, 2021 \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: YASMIN RODRIGUEZ, Driver

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of Yasmin Rodriguez:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hello?

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, Yasmin Rodriguez?

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, this is she.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Hi, this is Ronald Kaminski with the National  
5 Transportation Safety Board.

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hello.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: I appreciate you trying to get -- getting back  
8 to me.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: No worries.

10

11 INTERVIEW OF YASMIN RODRIGUEZ

12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. So basically, I'd just like to ask you I guess if you  
14 remember what cars -- what do you remember about the crash -- what  
15 cars were in front of you or behind you and what all you remember?

16 A. I remember --

17 Q. Well, first of all let me spell your name. It's Y-A-S-M-I-N?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And it's Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-Q-U-E-Z?

20 A. G-U-E-Z.

21 Q. G-U-E -- yes, okay. I didn't have that spelled -- and your  
22 daughter's name is [REDACTED]

23 A. Mhm.

24 Q. [REDACTED] Okay. What is your date of birth?

1 A. [REDACTED].

2 Q. Okay and your daughter's?

3 A. [REDACTED].

4 Q. Yeah, that's right. Yesterday was her birthday wasn't it?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Did you all have a good time?

7 A. Yeah, I mean, considering, yeah.

8 Q. Sure. Is she doing okay from the crash?

9 A. Yeah, she's a lot better shape than me, thank god.

10 Q. Okay, yes. So I guess why don't you tell me -- you were in  
11 the Mercedes, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Why don't you start from there, what lane you were in and  
14 what you recall from about the crash?

15 A. I'm in the far right lane so -- and then we hit some traffic.  
16 So we're just sitting in the stop and go traffic. I'm guessing  
17 it's from like the Suns game, the Suns won a big game that night.  
18 So there's a lot of traffic right there in that spot and we're  
19 just sitting in stop and go, my daughter's on her iPad.

20 We're just -- I just figured we were going to be sitting in  
21 traffic for a while because there was a lot of traffic. All of a  
22 sudden I heard a huge noise and then I felt impact. There was a  
23 car behind me and a car in front of me I believe because I mean,  
24 from when we got out of the -- when I got out of the car there was  
25 -- I saw a car in front of me and I saw a car behind me. Then one

1 of them was like rolled over I believe.

2 Q. The one in front or the one behind you?

3 A. I think the one behind me. The one in front of me might have  
4 been rolled over too, but I know the one behind me was definitely  
5 rolled into the barricade.

6 Q. Okay, take your time.

7 A. I could see the fire ahead of me, the truck on fire ahead of  
8 me. I was just like people -- some people were on the ground,  
9 some people were sitting, some people were dead. It's just, yeah.

10 Q. I'm just trying to write this down that -- take some quick  
11 notes here. Okay and so you were at stop and go at the time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were seated of course in the driver's seat. Were you  
14 wearing your seatbelt?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Where was your daughter [REDACTED] seated at?

17 A. Back passenger and she also had her seatbelt.

18 Q. Is that -- was she behind you, or on the right side?

19 A. Passenger side.

20 Q. She was in her seatbelt -- was she in a car seat, like a  
21 booster seat, or just a regular seatbelt?

22 A. Just regular seatbelt.

23 Q. So did you get out and do anything, or just hung out there?  
24 I mean, I guess you guys --

25 A. My sunroofs broke, my airbags deployed, so I couldn't see

1 anything after the impact. So I waited like a minute just so that  
2 -- I wasn't sure if we were going to get hit again. Then when I  
3 kind of had heard people I popped my head out of the sunroof,  
4 looked around and saw that everything was kind of at a stop  
5 finally.

6 From there I got out of the car and I grabbed [REDACTED] out of  
7 the car and then we just went on the other side of the barricade  
8 because I was scared that the cars were going to blow up.

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. So then we just waited there for the fire -- the police and  
11 ambulance to arrive. I tried to keep her distracted and focused  
12 on me really because there was a lot of stuff I didn't want her to  
13 see.

14 Q. Sure. What kind of injuries did you sustain?

15 A. Just bruising; my neck, my shoulders and my back were in a  
16 lot of pain and like, stiffness. I'm just really, really sore. I  
17 have some bruising from the seatbelt on my hips. I have a -- my  
18 leg kind of got cut -- like a really, really big cut in that  
19 process from the glass or something --

20 Q. Which leg was that?

21 A. My right leg, on my shin there was like a huge cut, like  
22 gash.

23 Q. Did you need stiches for that?

24 A. No, I didn't.

25 Q. Okay, anything else, other than the mental trauma?

1 A. Yeah, no kidding. I think that was it. I'm still in some  
2 pain from it, but I went to the hospital. They gave me some meds  
3 for the inflammation and stuff so that's been helpful.

4 Q. How about [REDACTED]? What types of injuries has she  
5 sustained?

6 A. None, she did have a little abrasion from the seatbelt.  
7 After the crash she started panicking and was -- get this off me,  
8 get this off me, it's too tight. So she had a little rubbing from  
9 the seatbelt.

10 Q. Where would that -- her hips, her shoulder?

11 A. On her neck.

12 Q. Neck? Okay.

13 A. Like neck, towards shoulder and then she had some minor  
14 bruising from the seatbelt on her hips, it was very minor.

15 Q. So let me just go over -- so you guys were in the far right  
16 lane kind of stopped in traffic where you kind of stop and go, do  
17 you recall if you were stopped when you were struck from behind,  
18 or would you -- were you maybe just creeping up -- creeping  
19 forward?

20 A. Right when it happened I want to say we were stopped when it  
21 happened. I know that we had been creeping before that, but it  
22 was super slow so I want to say we were at a stop.

23 Q. Did you see what kind of vehicles, or what color the vehicles  
24 were in front of you or behind you?

25 A. No, not that I can remember, no.

1 Q. Sure, that's fine. I mean, you got enough things you're kind  
2 of worried about so I don't -- I understand that. Do you have any  
3 questions for me?

4 A. So you're just conducting the investigation?

5 Q. Yeah and if you'd like if you want to give me your email I  
6 can put -- we have what they call a Transportation Disaster  
7 Assistance and they can send you emails giving updates as to  
8 what's going on regarding the investigation if you're interested.

9 A. Yes, I would definitely be interested. The only thing I --  
10 besides getting well and getting better -- I haven't been able to  
11 locate where my car was towed. I don't know if you're able to  
12 even assist with that or not.

13 Q. Yeah, well I know where it's at. It's at their -- the  
14 Phoenix -- or the DPS impound lot, which is like above -- off of  
15 16th street near University.

16 A. Okay, let me just write that down just to give to my  
17 insurance. They've been asking like -- I'm like, I'm not really  
18 the person who's supposed to find the car.

19 Q. It's the -- the vehicle -- the address is 2610 South 16th  
20 street.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. But I'm not sure if they've been released yet, but I'm sure  
23 your insurance company will know where that's located at.

24 A. Okay, that's very helpful thank you.

25 Q. Yeah, we've seen the vehicles, but we're still not allowed to

1 even get in them yet. They're still --

2 A. Yeah, my insurance said they don't need the vehicle, they  
3 don't need possession of the vehicle, they just need to see it,  
4 just to see that it's totaled out. So they can go ahead and go  
5 forward with their end.

6 Q. Why don't you give me your email and if I'm allowed to I will  
7 -- I got a couple pictures of it. I can send them to you if I'm  
8 allowed to I'll have to check with my boss.

9 A. Okay, see that would be great.

10 Q. What's your email?

11 A. [REDACTED]

12 Q. [REDACTED] --

13 A. Icloud.com

14 Q. At Icloud.com, okay. So you have my phone number -- you have  
15 any other questions? I want to give your email address to our  
16 Transportation Disaster Assistance folks and they will probably  
17 just send you a quick email just telling you what they're going to  
18 do, keeping you -- asking you if you need anything, if they can do  
19 anything for you, as well as they'll keep you updated as to what's  
20 going on with our investigation.

21 A. Okay. If I have any other questions I will call --

22 Q. Oh, I have one other question. I hate to ask a lady this,  
23 but I need to get your approximate height and weight.

24 A. I'm [REDACTED].

25 Q. Okay, how about [REDACTED]?

1 A. [REDACTED] is -- I think she's like [REDACTED] --

2 Q. A guesstimate is fine.

3 A. She might be like [REDACTED] pounds.

4 Q. Okay, great. Well, I thank you again for taking the time to  
5 give me a call back and I hope that you and your daughter heal up  
6 and get through this quickly.

7 A. Yeah, thank you I appreciate that.

8 Q. Okay, bye now.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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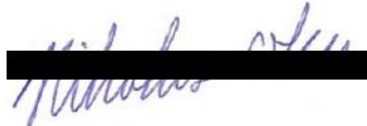
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:            FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER  
                                      ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
                                      ON JUNE 9, 2021  
                                      Interview of Yasmin Rodriguez

ACCIDENT NO.:                HWY21MH008

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.



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NIKOLAS OKA  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

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FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER \*

ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA \*

Accident No.: HWY21MH008

ON JUNE 9, 2021 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: JAMEL HARRIS, Passenger

Phoenix, Arizona

Saturday,  
June 12, 2021

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Jamel Harris:

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is June 12th. I'm at St. Joseph  
3 hospital in Phoenix. My name is Ronald Kaminski, investigator  
4 with the National Transportation Safety Board. I'll be talking to  
5 Jamel Harris, J-E -- J-A-M-E-L Harris, H-A-R-R-I-S. He was a  
6 passenger involved in the crash.

INTERVIEW OF JAMEL HARRIS

7  
8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. So Mr. Harris, I guess if you could start with your date of  
10 birth?

11 A. Yes, date of birth is [REDACTED].

12 Q. [REDACTED], okay. What's your approximate height and weight?

13 A. I'm [REDACTED], I'm tripping -- [REDACTED] and  
14 approximate weight is [REDACTED].

15 Q. Why don't you, if you could, give me a brief description of  
16 where you were seated in the car and what you remember about the  
17 crash?

18 A. I was seated in the rear passenger and I don't remember much  
19 about the -- all I remember was the initial impact and I blacked  
20 out. When I came to the driver of my vehicle, he was crawling out  
21 the passenger window. The passenger was flung out of the car and  
22 the rear driver passenger was tapping on me to wake me up as he  
23 was crawling through the window -- the passenger window too.

24 I then crawled out the passenger window to get away from the  
25 car because the truck was on fire and I aligned with the other two

1 people that were in the vehicle. Smelt fuel so we wanted to get  
2 away from the vehicle. After I got out of the vehicle I took a  
3 few steps to get away from the vehicle and I sat by the right --  
4 the right median I guess you would call it?

5 Q. The median barrier?

6 A. Not the median barrier, but it's like the median barrier and  
7 then it's another one on the right side that's not a median, like  
8 the shoulder, the right shoulder.

9 Q. Shoulder, okay.

10 A. I sat on the -- I laid -- I sat on the shoulder, then I laid  
11 down because I thought of if I had -- just in case I had any back  
12 and neck injuries, which is ironic.

13 Yeah, that's all I remember and then there was -- I don't  
14 know who it was, but I guy came over and was helping us. He  
15 wasn't like EMT, or police, or none of that, he just came over to  
16 help us, was giving us instructions.

17 While I was laying down I called my sister, I called my  
18 mother, let them know what just happened. They was asking for  
19 directions on where we were. He told them and everything and next  
20 thing I know the EMT's had put me on a stretcher and put me in the  
21 back of an ambulance and took me to the hospital

22 Q. Now, when you were in the back seat were you on the passenger  
23 side or the driver's side?

24 A. Passenger.

25 Q. Then you said the driver crawled out the driver window?

1 A. He crawled out of the passenger window.

2 Q. Okay and the passenger, you said, that was in the right front  
3 was thrown out of the vehicle?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you know how they were thrown out, was it through the  
6 windshield or --

7 A. I do not know. I'm assuming through the window, passenger  
8 window.

9 Q. What types of injuries did they tell you -- you have?

10 A. They said I had a neck injury -- do you want like the note of  
11 procedure?

12 Q. No, do you have any broken bones, strains?

13 A. Yeah, okay. So my neck was broken. One of the pieces, or a  
14 fragment of my neck bone was pushing on an artery in my neck.  
15 Luckily, there was two arteries otherwise I would have probably  
16 lost consciousness and died like that, but one of the bones -- one  
17 of the bone fragments was pushing on my artery.

18 Then he said the way that the bones are supposed to line up  
19 are like shingles, one on top of the other, layered just like  
20 that. What had happened was the bone had came up, it was sitting  
21 directly on top of the other one. I have that and I have some  
22 major bruising on my buttocks and my tailbone, other than that I'm  
23 okay, well my shoulder is (indiscernible).

24 Q. Your left shoulder?

25 A. My right shoulder.

1 Q. What's wrong with that?

2 A. It lacks movement because they said that the bones -- the two  
3 neck bones was pinching the nerve in my shoulder. So it wasn't  
4 able to -- I wasn't able to move it because of it.

5 Q. So when you were stopped, were you stopped, or were you --  
6 and you were in the far right lane? What lane were you in, next  
7 to the shoulder?

8 A. We were on the shoulder from what I remember. Well, here I'm  
9 just going to tell you like this because what had happened was we  
10 seen that the traffic was backed up already. So Edward, the  
11 person who was driving, he had got onto the shoulder and he was  
12 reversing backwards so he could get off on the exit.

13 The exit was like immediately to our right. Like if we were  
14 to reverse a hundred feet and crossed over we would have been on  
15 the exit, but traffic started moving on the highway. So we got  
16 back on the highway -- well, we got back -- we drove forward, we  
17 was still on the shoulder. Then I think he merged in into the  
18 first lane and that's all I remember. There was an impact after  
19 that and I went black.

20 Q. So you were -- you started to pull off in the shoulder to get  
21 on that -- to get off on the exit, but then you saw the traffic  
22 start to clear and then you pulled back into the --

23 A. Yeah, we drove back forward into the first lane and I lost --  
24 well, I guess yeah, I lost consciousness.

25 Q. So you weren't stopped -- as far as you remember, when you



1 got hit from behind?

2 A. Not really.

3 Q. You were maybe doing five, then miles an hour, what do you  
4 think?

5 A. We were maybe going 10 or 15. We weren't exactly behind the  
6 traffic, but we weren't exactly close to it either.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. We were maybe five to ten, yeah, because we were still trying  
9 to get into the lanes and everything and traffic was still coming.

10 Q. You -- what's a good contact number for you? Would you care  
11 to get updates on this? I can get -- if you have an email I can  
12 get you updates regarding the investigation and all that. I can  
13 send that to you, or have somebody in our Transportation Disaster  
14 Assistance send you updates regarding what's going on with the  
15 investigation.

16 A. Yeah, if you want to just send me text messages, that's fine.

17 Q. Okay, what's your phone number?

18 A. [REDACTED].

19 Q. I'll leave you a couple extra business cards. If you talk  
20 with the other passengers or the driver in your car, if you could  
21 give them my information and have them give me a call.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Okay, sir. Do you have any questions for me?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. What's that?

1 A. So in the wreck, there was two items that I can't seem to  
2 find. One is my wallet, it's a brown wallet, looks kind of beat  
3 up, about three inches wide -- two and a half inches and it's a  
4 side clip wallet. I got my original birth certificate in the  
5 money pocket and I got my original security -- social security  
6 card in the pocket where the license is supposed to go.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. That's why I really need to find it because those are two  
9 important documents.

10 Q. Well, when we talk to the DPS we will -- I will ask them --  
11 we meet with them almost every day so I can ask them about your  
12 wallet. I'm sure if they have it, they will track you down and  
13 get that for you.

14 A. Then, I also had a firearm with a magazine in the car too, in  
15 the rear passenger seat. It was a -- I got something in my eye --  
16 it was a Canik, C-A-N-I-K TP9SFX and there was another 20 round  
17 nine millimeter magazine that was full in there too. It also had  
18 a TLR -- I think that's what it's called -- a TLR one laser  
19 flashlight on it, right under the handguard -- hand rail.

20 Q. So it was a Canik, C-I-N-I-K --

21 A. No, C-A-N-I-K.

22 Q. C-A-N-I-K, TP9FXS --

23 A. SFX, S-F-X.

24 Q. S-F-X.

25 A. TP9.

1 Q. Right, and you had 20 rounds, nine millimeter magazine.

2 A. Along with one in -- it was already in the gun.

3 Q. Okay and a TLR laser --

4 A. Flashlight.

5 Q. Flashlight, attached.

6 A. I should have took a picture of it. I don't know -- I do  
7 know I have a picture of the serial numbers -- that's not in this  
8 phone. Dammit, I'll have to find it.

9 Q. Well, I'll be -- we will be inspecting the vehicles and so if  
10 you find it, I will hand that over to the DPS officer and they'll  
11 get that back to you. I'll tell them that that was yours, as well  
12 as your wallet, that still may be in the car as well.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. So you think you were going five, maybe ten miles an hour,  
15 you went off to the shoulder, tried to get -- because traffic was  
16 backed up you're going to get off on the exit, but then you decide  
17 the traffic started moving. So you tried to pull back in and  
18 that's when you got hit.

19 You got knocked out and next thing you know when you wake up  
20 the passenger next to you tapped you to wake you up. The driver  
21 went out the passenger window, the passenger was ejected -- you're  
22 thinking out the window. Then the other passenger went out the  
23 window -- and you guys went out the right side back window?

24 A. Right side passenger --

25 Q. Right side --

1 A. The one that the --

2 Q. Right, the door window.

3 A. Yeah, the right passenger, right front passenger.

4 Q. Oh right, you guys -- you crawled out the right front  
5 passenger?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay and then so you said you walked over, you smelled fumes  
8 so you guys got out, tried to walk away. You went over and sat on  
9 the shoulder, you laid down, you called your mom and your sister  
10 and told them where you were.

11 A. A guy came over to help you, you felt like you had some neck  
12 and back injuries, which I guess you turned out you did. You have  
13 a neck fracture with a fragment that's sitting on an artery. Then  
14 you have some major buttocks tailbone bruises and a right shoulder  
15 injury.

16 A. Mhm.

17 Q. Any other bumps, bruises, scrapes?

18 A. They said there was a few scrapes on my back, but it isn't  
19 nothing major.

20 Q. Okay, sir I thank you very much for your time and  
21 cooperation. Again, I'll leave you a couple of my business cards  
22 and if you talk to anyone else feel free to hand them -- give them  
23 that information. It's all voluntary -- if they'd like to give me  
24 a call and give me a statement I'd appreciate it.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Okay, sir. God bless, I hope you get feeling better soon.

2 A. Thank you.

3 Q. That concludes our interview here with Mr. Harris. The time  
4 is approximately ten minutes to 12:00.

5 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

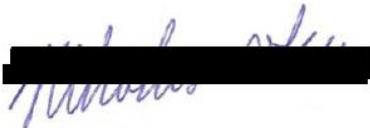
IN THE MATTER OF:            FATALITIES DUE TO MILK TANKER  
   ACCIDENT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
   ON JUNE 9, 2021  
   Interview of Jamel Harris

ACCIDENT NO.:                HWY21MH008

PLACE:                         Via Telephone

DATE:                         June 12, 2021

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.



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NIKOLAS OKA  
Transcriber