



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

First Responder Interviews

Belton, SC

HWY20FH001

(66 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019

* Accident No.: HWY20MH001

* * * * *

Interview of: MATTHEW ASHLEY, Chief
Friendship Fire Department

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Matthew Ashley:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Chief Ashley, thanks for giving me a call
3 back.

4 MR. ASHLEY: Yes, sir. How you doing?

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Good. Do you have a couple minutes to talk?

6 MR. ASHLEY: Yeah, I do.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Great. Okay. Do you mind if I record this so
8 I don't have to -- I don't write fast enough, so I don't have to
9 interrupt you when we're talking?

10 MR. ASHLEY: Yes, sir, that's fine.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Great. Okay.

INTERVIEW OF MATTHEW ASHLEY

12
13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Chief, where do you -- spell your first and last name for me
15 real quick.

16 A. Matthew Ashley. M-a-t-t-h-e-w, Ashley, A-s-h-l-e-y.

17 Q. Okay. And you're the fire chief for the Friendship Fire
18 Department?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And that's a volunteer fire department?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Okay. I guess, why don't you just give me a description of
23 when you got the call and when you got out there. I'm just trying
24 to get a feel of, you know, what all went on out there, any issues
25 you -- or anything you needed more help with, or -- and just kind

1 of give me a rundown of what all you had out there.

2 A. Okay. We received a call for a wreck on Honea Path Highway.
3 And when we arrived on scene, we found one SUV and one -- the van
4 with the passengers in it. They had hit, you know, collided. I'm
5 not real sure how the collision happened or anything like that.
6 But they -- one vehicle was on one side of the road, and the van
7 was on the opposite side. And we got our resources there and
8 began to treat patients and then get them treated or to the
9 hospital, and then stayed on scene for a while to, you know, get
10 everything cleaned up.

11 Q. How many units did Friendship send out there?

12 A. We had -- how many personnel or --

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. -- is that what you're talking about?

15 Q. Yes. Personnel and I guess you had -- if you had any
16 engines, or ambulances, or rescue units.

17 A. Yeah, we had a rescue truck and an engine. And then we
18 called for Belton to bring a couple of trucks to help with traffic
19 control as well as help with manpower about assisting with the
20 patients. And then we also called for the emergency operations
21 command post to -- because it was going to be a kind of a
22 drawn-out thing. So they brought some resources out as well.

23 Q. Okay. And who was that -- with the county?

24 A. Anderson County, yes.

25 Q. Anderson County EOC? Okay. And who else responded out

1 there? What other fire departments?

2 A. Well, we -- Friendship and Belton was the only two that was
3 called out.

4 Q. Okay. And how many units and personnel did Belton send out?

5 A. I'm not sure. I don't have the report right in front of me.
6 We can --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- I -- well, you can get a copy of the report. I can get
9 you in touch with -- let me -- you got something to write with?

10 Q. Yes, sir. Yeah.

11 A. Okay. It's (864) 260-4016, and that is our Anderson County
12 headquarters. And they can get you the info you need on the --
13 that's who -- we send all the reports in directly to them, and
14 then they kind of handle when people need things like that.

15 Q. Okay. Well, I've been working with Ms. Chitwood at the -- at
16 dispatch. Maybe she can help me out with that.

17 A. Okay, yeah. If you call like right now, I think the number's
18 transferred over to the dispatch line. But if you call like from
19 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 -- or 4:00 p.m. or something like that, it
20 will be transferred to the headquarters station.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And they -- we got like a written report with the narrative
23 in there. And it should have all that info on it. Because like I
24 say, I'm at work right now, so I ain't got the paperwork right in
25 front of me to know exactly the personnel numbers and all that.

1 Q. I understand. So why don't you just tell me then, so when
2 you got there and you saw each vehicle's on each side of the road,
3 and you're requesting more help I guess, and -- just tell me, did
4 you have enough resources to get the people transported? Was
5 there a little bit of wait for that?

6 A. Well, see, we're not a transport agency. We rely on Anderson
7 County EMS to do the transportation as far as patients. The fire
8 side of it don't handle patient --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- transportation. We just handle assisting with loading
11 patients, and helping them, and triage, and stuff like that, and
12 then the EMS handles transporting them to the hospital. But they
13 had, I think there was three different units from EMS that
14 transported the different patients or whatever.

15 Q. AnMed or something like that, something in Anderson?

16 A. Say what now?

17 Q. Something-Med. Yeah, there's -- in Anderson, right, that
18 came out.

19 A. Anderson, yeah, Anderson County EMS would probably be able to
20 get you the questions on that, I guess.

21 Q. So by the time --

22 A. As far as -- I don't know like which patients went to which
23 hospital. Some of them went to Anderson Hospital and some of them
24 went to Greenville Hospital. So I don't -- we don't have no -- we
25 don't know that, because that's not what we -- we don't do that.

1 Q. So that would be on some report?

2 A. We just get them to the ambulance and -- say what now?

3 Q. That would be on some -- like a brief field incident report
4 or --

5 A. Yeah, absolutely.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They -- that's -- there's a report out there with all that
8 information on there. But I don't know what that would -- I
9 can't --

10 Q. So your department didn't have to write anything up for that
11 then?

12 A. Yeah, we wrote it up. I sent it in to headquarters.

13 Q. Oh, okay. So they have it then?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. I have to get it directly from them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Okay.

18 A. Yeah, you can just contact them, and they'll get you the
19 necessary information or whatever.

20 Q. Now, in the time process, how -- approximately what time did
21 you get out there? Were you out there fairly soon, or was there
22 other people that maybe I should talk to that would give me a
23 better idea of initially what was going on out there?

24 A. Oh, I guess I arrived on scene probably about 45 minutes
25 after we got the call out, because I was still at work. And when

1 I got off work, then I got there. But --

2 Q. So who would've been in -- who did you assume command from
3 when you got out there then?

4 A. Our captain that had the command first.

5 Q. And who is that?

6 A. His name is Rodney Madison, and that's in our report as well.

7 Q. Okay. Could I get -- do you have his number handy?

8 A. Yes. It's [REDACTED].

9 Q. Okay, let me write that -- a lot of fours in there. [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED].

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. That's for Captain Rodney Madison. Okay.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So I imagine -- so -- okay. I guess I'll probably
15 talk to Captain Madison and follow up with other questions. And
16 I'll call up the -- call the county up. And maybe I'll send Ms.
17 Chitwood an email real quick here. But okay, chief.

18 A. Sounds good.

19 Q. Any follow-up, I may give you a call back, but I appreciate
20 your help and cooperation.

21 A. All right, thank you.

22 Q. Thank you, sir. Bye-bye.

23 A. Bye-bye.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019
Interview of Matthew Ashley

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH001

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE:

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.



Jeffrey Johnson
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DECEMBER 17, 2019

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Interview of: RODNEY MADISON, Captain
Friendship Fire Department

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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PAGE

Interview of Rodney Madison:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Mr. Madison, thanks for calling me back. I
3 got your name and contact information from Chief Ashley, saying
4 that -- because I initially was told, he was the incident
5 commander for that event back on the 17th. And he said, well, he
6 got there about 45 minutes late, that you were probably more in
7 tune to things than he was since he got there a little bit late.

8 MR. MADISON: Yeah.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: So if you don't mind, I just wanted to -- do
10 you have a couple minutes to talk to me?

11 MR. MADISON: Yeah, sure.

INTERVIEW OF RODNEY MADISON

12
13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Okay. I just want to get a description of when you initially
15 got the call, you got out there, what you saw, what you guys all
16 did, and you know, calling for support or any other issues you may
17 have had out there.

18 A. Yeah. But I was probably -- I was coming up the highway that
19 it actually happened on when the call come out. So I wasn't but
20 just a couple of minutes away. And when I got there, one of my
21 other firemen was there too. He lives just right down the road.

22 Q. Is that Cade? Which was the other fireman?

23 A. No, it wasn't Cade, no. No. Eric Kelley, he was there. He
24 lives right next to that road.

25 Q. Oh, he might be a --

1 A. He actually lives on that beach.

2 Q. -- good person to talk to then. I mean he was, he was pretty
3 quick on scene. So go ahead.

4 A. Yeah, he was there before I was. But anyway, yeah, when we
5 got there, I mean we had multiple patients. They had already got
6 them out of the bus when I got there -- had already gotten the
7 patients out. So we had I think it was, let's see, seven on the
8 bus, I believe it was; is that right?

9 Q. Yeah. Seven passengers and a driver, yes.

10 A. Seven on the bus, and then the one in the car. And the lady
11 in the car was the most critical patient we had. She was in
12 really bad shape. So the first ambulance that come, we sent her
13 on her way. We were going to fly her, but the helicopter wouldn't
14 fly that day. So --

15 Q. Yeah, I did notice it got cancelled. Was it a weather deal?

16 A. Yeah, it was a weather deal, yeah. They couldn't fly because
17 of the weather. And so -- but she was in bad shape anyway. I
18 don't --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- I believe if he flew her it wouldn't have mattered
21 either -- one way or the other. She had a lot of trauma --

22 Q. Did she even make it -- I don't think she even made it to the
23 hospital, did she?

24 A. No, I think she coded on the way to the hospital. Yeah. She
25 had lost a lot of blood on scene. She had --

1 Q. Almost lost a leg.

2 A. -- she -- one of her legs almost -- yeah, one of her legs was
3 almost amputated.

4 Q. Yeah. Yeah, I heard that.

5 A. Yeah, it was pretty bad. And then the other patients on the
6 bus, we had -- the three in the wheelchairs was the worst patients
7 on the bus. They -- but they mainly had, you know, minor bumps
8 and scrapes. But the ones that were strapped in, they were fine.
9 They said they didn't -- they wasn't hurting or no injuries
10 whatsoever, except for the one guy that died.

11 Q. Right. Well, I think there was another woman --

12 A. And he was strapped in.

13 Q. -- that was seated behind him, and they had a fractured wrist
14 or something that ended up -- it was --

15 A. Yeah, yeah. The ones in the wheelchairs was the ones that --
16 I only want to add visible injuries to us --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- with the ones that were in the wheelchairs. I don't
19 believe the wheelchairs were secured in there or whatever. It
20 must have threw them around or whatever. But they had some minor
21 head injuries and you know, scrapes, and bruises, and stuff like
22 that.

23 Q. Right. So by the time you got there, everybody was out. So
24 when you guys just started -- you and I guess Eric Kelley, got --
25 you started triaging or --

1 A. We started assessing the patients, yeah, and prioritizing
2 them as which ones needed to go next.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And I had ambulances coming from all over. I mean I had six
5 ambulances coming, so we had --

6 Q. And where did you --

7 A. -- plenty of them coming.

8 Q. Where did you request all the ambulances from? Do you
9 recall?

10 A. We had two coming from Honea Path, we had two coming from
11 Belton, and we had Medshore sending two. So we had six coming.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And as they pulled up, the ones that we thought needed to go
14 first is the one that we loaded first and sent them on their way.
15 And in the last ambulance, they carried the body of that one guy,
16 the one that was deceased.

17 Q. Right. So but all six transport --

18 A. But we had enough transport units to carry everybody,

19 Q. Okay. Did all six units transport someone then?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Do you know?

22 A. All six, yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Yeah. One patient on the bus didn't go by ambulance because
25 he didn't want to go by ambulance. He had no visible injuries.

1 But his dad was there, and his dad took him to the hospital.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I said, I'll let you go, but you got to make sure you take
4 him to the emergency room and get checked, you know, because it
5 was such a horrific crash. I mean that's what I told him; I said,
6 dude, you don't know if you got any injuries or not.

7 Q. Sure, right.

8 A. I mean you could have internal injuries and not know it.

9 Q. By any chance, do you know that person's name, by chance?

10 A. Who's that?

11 Q. Do you know that person's name by chance, which one that was?

12 A. Where at?

13 Q. Burdette -- no --

14 A. No. Well, Burdette -- are you talking about Eric Kelley? Is
15 that who you're talking about?

16 Q. No, no, the patient that was --

17 A. The fireman that was there before I was?

18 Q. No, no, the patient that refused -- that was going to go with
19 his father to the hospital. Did you get it by any chance?

20 A. I don't remember what his name was, no. I could look on the
21 report and see. But I don't remember what his name was.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. There were two of them that said they were fine, but we made
24 them go anyway.

25 Q. Okay. Yeah, I know a couple --

1 A. They were the two that were strapped in.

2 Q. Right. I think everybody was strapped in --

3 A. Yeah, I don't --

4 Q. -- except for those two (indiscernible).

5 A. -- know about the wheelchairs, because see, they had the
6 patients in the wheelchairs sitting outside of the bus in the
7 wheelchairs when I got there.

8 Q. Right. Yeah, that's what I heard.

9 A. So bystanders had done and got everybody out of the bus by
10 the time we got there.

11 Q. Okay. Any issues with having to wait around for the
12 ambulances, or pretty timely getting out there?

13 A. No, they was pretty quick about -- especially Belton and
14 Honea Path. I mean we were right there at Belton and Honea Path,
15 so we -- so they were there pretty quick, yeah.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Medshore took a little while, but they're coming from
18 Anderson, so that's a 20 mile ride from there.

19 Q. Yes, yes. Yeah, I drove that ride a couple times when I was
20 there those couple days right before Christmas.

21 A. Yeah, it's like a 20 mile ride. And that's basically it,
22 yeah.

23 Q. Okay. Did you -- was the -- when you got there, was the
24 driver of the SUV, the female, was she already in the ambulance
25 then or --

1 A. No, she was laying under the -- her head was up under the
2 front of the vehicle.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. She was laying in front of the vehicle, but her head was up
5 under the vehicle, and her body was sticking out of the front of
6 the vehicle.

7 Q. But she wasn't stuck under there but her head was just under
8 there, correct? Is that what I heard?

9 A. No, she wasn't stuck, she was just under -- that's where she
10 ended up at.

11 Q. Right, right. Okay, got it.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And she was still conscious and talking at that time.

15 Q. Okay. And would you mind, either you can give me Mr.
16 Kelley's contact number or you give him my information and have
17 him give me a call?

18 A. Yeah, yeah. I'll tell you what, I'll send it to you. I'll
19 send you his number.

20 Q. Okay. Yeah, this is my cell number.

21 A. All right.

22 Q. And what did you say, he beat you by what, 5, 10 minutes at
23 most?

24 A. Yeah -- no, not that much, no. It didn't take me but a
25 couple minutes to get there. And he lived right there at where

1 the wreck happened, so he was on scene pretty quick. Now, I don't
2 know -- I think bystanders is the one that got him out of the bus,
3 the guy that was behind the car.

4 Q. Yeah, I'm trying to track down -- I guess there was a couple
5 of guys from the Belton Metal Company that were there I'm trying
6 to track down.

7 A. Yeah. Yeah, that was them, yeah.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yeah, I think they helped get everybody out and back in the
10 wheelchairs and everything, yeah.

11 Q. Okay. Well, maybe I'll wait and talk with them, and then if
12 I need more information, I'll -- after you send me that
13 information for Mr. Kelley, I'll tell him I may not give him a
14 call if I get enough information from these other guys.

15 A. Okay. All right, sounds good.

16 Q. Okay, sir. I appreciate your help, captain.

17 A. All right, buddy. Have a good one.

18 Q. Thank you, sir. You too.

19 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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IN THE MATTER OF: HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
 ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
 DECEMBER 17, 2019
 Interview of Rodney Madison

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH001

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE:

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Jeffrey Johnson
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Investigation of:

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HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019

* Accident No.: HWY20MH001

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Interview of: CADE FRITH
Firefighter/EMT

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Cade Frith:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. FRITH: -- and he's beside me.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF CADE FRITH

4
5 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Okay. So Mr. Frith, your first name is Cade, C-a-d-e?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Last name Frith, F-r-i-t-h?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. And you are -- who do you work -- what department do
11 you work with?

12 A. I work with South Greenville Fire Department and I work with
13 Honea Path Fire Department.

14 Q. Honea Path, and what was the first one?

15 A. South Greenville.

16 Q. South Greenville. Oh, okay.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And so I guess, who -- I guess start with -- first of all, if
19 you don't mind, I'm going to tape this, so I can -- because I
20 can't write fast enough and I let you talk --

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Great. And then who was the, I guess the incident
23 commander or what department was kind of in charge out there at
24 the crash scene?

25 A. It was actually Friendship Fire Department's call. They was

1 the responding fire department, first due.

2 Q. Okay. And who is -- do you have a contact or name of
3 somebody I should try to contact there for who was the incident
4 commander?

5 A. I don't know who the incident commander for them would've
6 been, not 100 percent sure.

7 Q. Or was there somebody else you know that was in charge from a
8 different department?

9 A. Greg Elgin, he was there. He just done like myself; he just
10 kind of rode up on it kind of like me. We just kind of got out to
11 help assist because it was such a large scene and --

12 Q. Right.

13 A. -- a lot of patients. So we wasn't really, quote/unquote,
14 "dispatched," but we all kind of work well together. So, you
15 know, we passing by, you know, we just decided to get out and get
16 help because nobody was on scene I think when we first arrived.

17 Q. Okay. Greg Elgin, who does he work with?

18 A. He works for the South Carolina Highway Patrol and a --

19 Q. Oh.

20 A. -- volunteer -- volunteers with Rock Springs Fire Department.
21 He's actually -- I think he's actually the chief over there.

22 Q. Rock Springs?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And most of these fire departments, they're volunteer?

25 A. In Anderson County, yes, sir. You have a few municipalities

1 like Honea Path, Belton, Williamston -- and Anderson City it's all
2 paid -- inside of Anderson County, but most of your outlying
3 county stations are all volunteer.

4 Q. Right, right. So what -- do you know what all departments
5 responded; do you have an idea, other than Friendship?

6 A. Friendship, Belton City Fire Department came. But as far as
7 fire departments --

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. -- that was the only two that were dispatched on the fire
10 side.

11 Q. Okay. Okay. And so why don't you give me a description
12 of -- if you could, of you came -- you said you came up to the
13 scene --

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. -- and what you saw and what you all did?

16 A. When I first drove up on the call, they was -- I was coming
17 from Belton going towards Honea Path, and the bus was on the left
18 side of the road off the roadway and kind of looked like it was
19 kind of -- it was leaning to the left side. The car was probably,
20 I'd probably say 50, 60 yards down on the right-hand side of the
21 road off the roadway just before the railroad tracks there. And
22 there was debris everywhere. Yeah, it was pure chaos, I mean,
23 when I first got there.

24 Q. Okay. And then I guess when you got there, what did you all
25 do?

1 A. When I first got there, I met with the bus driver. She was
2 standing in the middle of the roadway. And we're trying to
3 account for how many number of patients we had. And I stopped at
4 her because she was kind of hyperventilating a little bit. And I
5 said, talk to me, tell me what's going on, what happened.

6 And she said -- all she could tell me at that point in time
7 is she never saw the car, that she never saw the car. And I said,
8 okay. I said, calm down, real deep in through your nose out
9 through your mouth. And I started checking off -- I was like, you
10 need to try to figure out how many people you had on this bus, and
11 I need to know. I said because we're going to have a lot of
12 things going on here, and it's going to take a little while, it's
13 not going to happen quick, but I need to know how many patients I
14 got.

15 And then I heard somebody hollering out from the car. And
16 they said this woman's up under the car. So I went down there to
17 try to look at her. She was still alive at that point in time.
18 She was still sort of kind of talking. She wasn't really making a
19 whole lot of sense. I think she was just kind of concerned
20 that -- you know, she wanted somebody to help her.

21 And after that happened, I kind of got in a mode. There was
22 a few more guys that showed up. And we started kind of assessing
23 what we had. We tried to see if we had -- we was going to have to
24 lift the car up off of that woman or not. Luckily, we did not; we
25 was able to move her. She wasn't hung up under the car. I just

1 think she got ejected basically, and where the car and her rested
2 it was just kind of how she was.

3 Q. Right. Because that whole side of the car was torn away --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- or the SUV; right.

6 A. Yes. It was all torn away. So we got her loaded up first
7 when the first arriving ambulance come in, and --

8 Q. Now who was the first ambulance that arrived?

9 A. The first arriving ambulance was Honea Path EMS.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So we got her loaded up and started getting her care that she
12 needed. Then we started kind of, I guess you'd say more or less
13 trying to triage the rest of them and see what was most critical
14 or life-threatening. And, you know, I realized that should've
15 been -- you know, after the fact, I realized that should've been
16 numero uno, number one, we should've started doing that from the
17 point. But things were so crazy when we first got there, it was
18 just, you know -- it was kind of rough.

19 Q. Right. I understand. And -- okay, so then Honea Path. Who
20 does all the dispatching for that area there? Because I usually
21 get their dispatch logs. Is there a county --

22 A. Yes. So there's like county dispatch that's run through the
23 Sheriff's Office. So it would be Anderson County Dispatch or
24 Anderson County Communications. I think they're out there beside
25 the -- right there at the airport out there, right off of Highway

1 24 in Anderson.

2 Q. Okay. I'll get a hold of them. And so is there anyone else
3 you feel that would be beneficial I talk to that would give
4 detailed information like yourself? I mean, I think your father-
5 in-law gave me Landon Epps and Eric Kelly. But is there anyone
6 else that you feel that would be a good person for me to talk to?

7 A. Greg Elgin, the guy that I gave you, he would probably be one
8 of -- like I say, I believe he was -- he was right there behind
9 me. So he was -- me and him were there right about the same time.
10 Eric was there about the same time that I was.

11 I can't -- like I say, we had so many personnel. There was
12 so much going on. That's the only two names that are sticking out
13 in my head right now that I know that were there around the same
14 time that I arrived.

15 Q. Okay. Do you happen to have a number for Greg Elgin?

16 A. I do not; I do not have a number for him. Golly, I don't
17 know anybody that would, honestly.

18 Q. Maybe call Rock Springs Fire Department, they may --

19 A. Well, yeah, if -- maybe if you could catch somebody over
20 there, or if you know anybody with the Highway Patrol that maybe
21 get it to you.

22 Q. Yeah, we're dealing with one of the first sergeants. So
23 yeah, I'll reach out to him then.

24 A. Yeah, because I think -- if I'm not mistaken, I think Greg's
25 pretty high up in the ranks with the Highway Patrol, too, so --

1 Q. Oh, okay.

2 A. I know he's still on the road, but I mean I think he's up
3 there as far as ranks too, so -- but yeah, he could probably
4 account for some of those detailed incidents you're looking for as
5 well.

6 Q. Okay. And then were there any issues out there you feel was
7 there -- you had enough EMS and the transports to get the people
8 out in a timely manner?

9 A. Well, I think it's a yes and a no. I think we had done a
10 great job of getting people out of there when we had the units
11 that got on scene. But nobody really knew when that thing was
12 initially dispatched of how many people were injured and how many
13 people needed to be carried out of there.

14 So when you deal with something like that, you have to
15 realize that hey, some of your neighboring departments or rescue
16 squads or EMS, or whatever you want to call them, may be out on
17 different calls at the time, which is what we run into I think
18 with Belton EMS at the time. I think both of their trucks were
19 out on call. So that kind of put us behind the 8-ball in the
20 initial. But Medshore provided an ambulance within probably the
21 first, probably within the first 10 minutes of me being on scene
22 as well. So --

23 Q. And it's Medshore?

24 A. Yes, sir, out of Anderson County.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So we never was, I guess you'd say, in a lack. You know,
2 because we sent one, we had one on scene, we'd send another one,
3 there was another one on scene before that one -- you know, all of
4 them was getting out there, but as they were getting out there,
5 there was still one on scene before one left.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So nobody was left without medical care.

8 Q. Right. And you guys were there doing the triage?

9 A. Yeah, we were trying to do the triage and doing basic first
10 responder skills. And lucky enough that they -- I think Belton
11 Fire Department, I think, have a few EMTs on their roster as well.
12 So they were able to jump in there and kind of help out in the
13 back of the ambulance, too, when it was needed. So that was a
14 great thing.

15 Q. Sure. Okay. Well, if you -- I appreciate your help. If you
16 talk to Mr. Epps or Kelly, if you can give them a heads-up that
17 I'll probably give them a call and just kind of get the same
18 information as I'm asking you.

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And I appreciate the information you gave me, as well as who
21 to contact to get the CADs and all that kind of stuff. So --

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And I thank you for what you did out there. I know -- it
24 sounded like -- we talked to the driver of the bus yesterday, and
25 it sounded just a horrible scene out there. So --

1 A. It's --

2 Q. -- I hope you guys are doing well and getting the -- if you
3 need any kind of emotional support or anything like that, I'm sure
4 there's -- you know, I can put you in contact with somebody if you
5 need to talk to someone.

6 A. Yes, sir. I appreciate it. Is she doing okay? Because I
7 know she was pretty shook up while we were out there. And I'm --

8 Q. Yeah, she's -- I mean, she was doing well enough to talk to
9 us yesterday.

10 A. Okay. Good.

11 Q. Yeah. It's going to be a long -- it's going to be a process
12 for her to get through this, no doubt.

13 A. Oh, I'm sure it is, no doubt. I just -- you know, I know
14 anything like that that happens, I mean, you know, I've always
15 heard -- I've been lucky enough never to experience like that
16 nothing personally --

17 Q. Right.

18 A. -- being involved in that. But I mean everybody I've ever
19 talked to that's drove a tractor-trailer truck that's had that
20 happen says it's something that you just never live down. And I'm
21 just trying to make sure that she was A-okay, because she was
22 dealing with a lot, and --

23 Q. Oh, yeah.

24 A. -- her emotions were high, which, I mean, which would be
25 expected, but --

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. But yeah, I just -- it kind of perplexed me about that bus
3 though. You know, it looked like there was no I-beam support in
4 that bus whatsoever.

5 Q. There you go. That's --

6 A. It looked (indiscernible) --

7 Q. -- is a reason -- one of the reasons we're looking at this,
8 is it wasn't so much because there was only two fatalities and we
9 kind of stick to doing fatalities with -- hold on one second; I
10 got a call here.

11 A. Okay.

12 (Phone interruption.)

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. So what was I saying?

15 A. Yeah, I mean, that bus, it just -- I don't --

16 Q. Oh, that's -- so that's what I was saying is, yeah, the
17 structure of the bus and these buses that -- these medium-sized
18 buses are not required to have lap and shoulder belts. And in
19 this case, I really think the lap and shoulder belt would've
20 helped some of these people.

21 A. Oh, yeah, absolutely.

22 Q. And like you said, there's no structure to that bus body.

23 A. Yeah. I mean, we got to looking at that thing after
24 everything had kind of calmed down, and it's just plywood and
25 fiberglass. And I'm like --

1 Q. Exactly.

2 A. -- you know, what the crap? And I mean, you know, you're
3 sending loved ones off in this thing. I mean, and they can't --
4 if they can't take -- I mean, it was a pretty hard lick anyway,
5 but I mean you --

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. -- if you look at that impact, and I mean the side of that
8 bus that was ripped out like that, and then you're like, well,
9 that kind of -- and if I would've never done an extrication class
10 on a regular school bus, I probably would never know the
11 structural integrity of those things, but I mean --

12 Q. Yeah. Now school buses are a whole other story.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. Right. Yeah, absolutely.

16 Q. As you know, yes.

17 A. Yeah. Because I mean, I've done some classes on them things,
18 and it's -- you take everything you know about cutting a car up
19 and you throw that out the window when it comes to a bus because
20 it is totally different.

21 Q. A school bus, yes. Right.

22 A. Yeah, a school bus. But I'm --

23 Q. Where these things you can probably use ten strips to get
24 through it.

25 A. I was about to say, yeah, we used a regular dad-gum household

1 can opener to get these things. I mean, you know, it's just --
2 but yeah, that was one thing that really concerned me after
3 everything kind of calmed down and we looked at that thing. I was
4 just like, man, there is -- no wonder. I mean, I hate the guy
5 lost his life, but I mean, you know, I was just like no wonder
6 now, you know?

7 Q. Right. Oh, that's why we're looking in these, because we
8 realize there's a problem, and we're trying to get the NHTSA to
9 makes some more regulations, as they've done for the motor
10 coaches, the full-size motor coaches.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. They have, as of 2016, November 2016, all their new motor
13 coaches have to have lap and shoulder belts. And we're also
14 working on trying to get their roof structure a little bit
15 strengthened.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. But anyway, I can go on for hours here. But --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- I appreciate your help in taking time to talk with me,
20 Mr. Frith. And I just want to thank you for doing what you could
21 out there on scene.

22 A. Yes, sir. I sure appreciate it.

23 Q. Okay, sir. Take care.

24 A. Yes, sir. Have a good --

25 Q. Have a Merry Christmas.

1 A. You do the same, sir.

2 Q. Thank you sir.

3 A. Bye-bye.

4 Q. Bye-bye.

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: HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019
Interview of Cade Frith

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH001

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE:

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.



Jeffrey Johnson
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019

* Accident No.: HWY20MH001

* * * * *

Interview of: CADE FRITH
Firefighter/EMT

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Cade Frith:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, Cade?

3 MR. FRITH: Yes, sir.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Hey. This is Ron Kaminski with the NTSB. How
5 are you doing today?

6 MR. FRITH: Doing fine, brother. You?

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. You got a minute to talk?

8 MR. FRITH: Yeah, man.

INTERVIEW OF CADE FRITH

9
10 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

11 Q. Hey, I got a couple follow-up questions you can help me with.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Is we're looking at the -- you know, we've done our
14 examinations of the bus and all that. But wondering when you got
15 there, did you happen to see inside where the wheelchair people,
16 were they still in the wheelchairs when you got there?

17 A. They were -- when I got there, they were being -- most of
18 them, majority of them was already outside the bus. Because when
19 I walked up to the driver, I asked her, I said, how many more
20 people's on the inside? She said, everybody's off, she said. And
21 there was a guy that, like I said, had stopped from a local metal
22 company there in Belton. I think he was behind it when it
23 happened. And he said there's somebody hanging out the side over
24 there. He said, I think he's dead. So --

25 Q. So that was -- because I'm trying to find out, you know, the

1 damages to the one wheelchair. And --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- I noticed that the one seat was kind of tilted up in the
4 back like they were trying to get somebody from underneath it.
5 And I was just wondering, is there -- so other than -- so you're
6 thinking the guy who stopped and helped take everybody out would
7 be the one to talk to?

8 A. Yeah, but I don't know who he is. I have no idea who he is.
9 Like I say, him and another guy was there from a local metal
10 company in Belton that takes care of scrap metal and stuff. I
11 mean, they were the only two other people I seen around that truck
12 when I got there. They were bystanders, so --

13 Q. You don't happen to know the name of that scrap metal
14 company, do you?

15 A. It's Belton Metal Company.

16 Q. Okay. I'll give --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- them a call. Because they were -- you said one of --
19 those two guys who had stopped to help out?

20 A. Yeah, they had stopped in from -- I think I even heard one of
21 them say that they were behind it when the accident happened,
22 so --

23 Q. Okay. Were behind the bus?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Okay, and was -- so yeah, so basically that's what I

1 was wondering. So when you got there -- and you were one of the
2 first ones there, you said, correct?

3 A. Yes, sir. I was --

4 Q. Other than those two guys?

5 A. Other than those two guys, yeah.

6 Q. Right. And then I think there was probably another witness
7 that was behind the woman that the police talked to as well.

8 But --

9 A. Yeah. As far as responders, I was the first responder there.

10 Q. Right, right. And then -- and as you said, everyone was out
11 except for the fatality?

12 A. Yeah, except for the fatality; he was still kind of being
13 held in. I think if there was a belt in there, somebody said he
14 got cut loose. So --

15 Q. Right. Okay.

16 A. Somebody kind of cut him down. So I was thinking that maybe
17 he was hung up by a safety belt of some sort.

18 Q. Okay. Now, according to -- I'm just going over my notes.
19 Honea Path and EMS was the first ambulance on scene?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And then the Belton Fire Department responded?

22 A. Belton Fire Department responded, Friendship Fire Department
23 responded, and then -- along with Belton EMS and Medshore.

24 Q. Hold on. Medshore, and who is the other one?

25 A. Belton EMS.

1 Q. Oh, Belton Fire Department and EMS. Okay.

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Awesome. Okay, sir. I'm sorry to bother you on your
4 Sunday.

5 A. No, you're quite all right, brother. I told you to call me
6 if you need me.

7 Q. Okay. I appreciate it, sir. Have a blessed day.

8 A. Yes, sir. You all too.

9 Q. Bye-bye.

10 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2019

* Accident No.: HWY20MH001

* * * * *

Interview of: TERRY BROWN
Ambulance EMT

Via Telephone

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Terry Brown:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Hi, Terry. My name is Ronald Kaminski with
3 the National Transportation Safety Board. Thanks for calling me
4 back.

5 MS. BROWN: You are quite welcome. Sorry it took me so long
6 to call you back.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: No problem. And I'm sorry I left you kind of
8 a cryptic message yesterday. It was the end of the day, and I was
9 just kind of distracted. I was rambling on, so I apologize for
10 that.

11 MS. BROWN: I understand.

INTERVIEW OF TERRY BROWN

12
13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Okay. So the reason I was calling is, of course with the
15 driver, we're -- I guess I was just -- I found out -- I talked to
16 Cade, is it Frith?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. The firefighter, he's been very helpful in giving me
19 information. People talk, I mean it's a small town, so everybody
20 knows everybody. So I just have to ask him a question, he knows
21 who to talk to.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. So he had mentioned that you had worked with the SUV driver,
24 and I guess I was just looking to get an idea from when you got
25 there, what kind of call it was, or when you got the call and when

1 you got out there, what you did, and what you did specifically
2 with her, and what kind of drugs that maybe you gave her for the
3 pain or whatever.

4 Because we're having a drug test on her. We just want to
5 make sure we can clear everything up of what she -- what was in
6 her system prior to and after the crash.

7 A. Okay. Well, we were -- me and my partner, we were posted at
8 Highway 252 and 413, which is kind of like in Belton area, because
9 they were all -- that was a busy day, busy EMS day for everybody.
10 So we got the call, which probably took us maybe about 10 minutes
11 to get there from where we were posted at.

12 When we arrived on scene, it was kind of a sunny day, you
13 know, kind of cloudy and stuff like that. The roads wasn't wet or
14 anything. But when we arrived on scene, we kind of arrived below
15 it heading back towards Honea Path on Beeks Road, it's called.
16 B-e-e-k-s.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. And we come in that way. And when we got there, the
19 firefighters were motioning for us to come over to where the SUV
20 is at. And I had talked to the Belton fire chief when I got out
21 of the vehicle, and he said that there was a fatality in the van,
22 that I doubt that this lady was alive.

23 She was kind of -- she wasn't pinned in or anything like
24 that. She was kind of in front of the car, under the car, maybe
25 from her breast up. And she was moving; she was alive. There was

1 firefighters there.

2 I remember there was a lady, she was probably about 5'4",
3 somewhere along in there. She had on a green sweater, and she
4 kind of had sandy blond hair. She's probably maybe in her mid
5 50s, late 50s. And she had told me that -- she said her name was
6 Sherry. I said, okay.

7 So we pulled the lady out from under the car, put her on a
8 backboard. And the gentleman, the firefighter that was helping
9 me -- I mean I was telling everybody, just calm down, take it
10 slow, don't be in a hurry, and stuff like that because of the
11 lady's injury.

12 Well, her leg, left leg, was very mangled from her hip
13 probably all the way down to her ankle. And we're talking about
14 it looked like it was in a meat grinder. I mean it was awful.
15 And her arm, left arm was split wide open maybe from her shoulder
16 probably midway almost to her wrist. I mean a lot of injuries.
17 Her face was fine. I mean she had a little bit of fluids coming
18 out of her mouth. It looked like, best way I can describe it,
19 kind of like a Coke color.

20 Q. Yes. Um-hmm.

21 A. Well, she had her eyes open and she was talking. She told me
22 that she couldn't breathe. I mean it was in a low voice; it
23 wasn't like me and you are talking. So I told her, I said, I'm
24 trying to get you in my car -- I mean not in my car, but in my
25 ambulance -- and everything. And I said, and we'll take care of

1 you, we'll get everything situated.

2 We put her on some oxygen and on a breather, and I was trying
3 to get an IV on her. We were putting her on the monitor and stuff
4 like that.

5 And y'all hush -- excuse me, my dogs --

6 Q. That's okay. I work out of the house too, so if my dog
7 starts barking, you'll know.

8 A. So anyway, when we got her in the back of the truck and
9 stuff, she was alive and she was -- said she couldn't breathe
10 again. I was telling the firefighters, because there was no other
11 ambulance on board -- you know, not on board, but around.

12 They were coming I think from Williamston, and I think it was
13 Medshore 94. I told them, I said, I need another paramedic out
14 here, because due to her injuries and stuff, I was going to need
15 another medic. Because --

16 Q. Well, you were concentrating on her, and there was probably
17 other people that needed to be looked at, correct?

18 A. Well, yeah, I mean they said that there was a fatality in the
19 van and stuff like that. And other people, the first
20 responders -- I mean the guys, the people that were in the van
21 were out walking. It was kind of like the walking wounded and
22 stuff.

23 But my main concern, since I already made patient contact
24 with her, I mean she was my main concern at that time. And my
25 partner, I told him, I said, get my intubation equipment out and

1 everything, which he was doing that. And I was trying to get an
2 IV access on her right arm, the one that wasn't injured.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. It was unavailable by that time. My -- one of the
5 paramedics, his name was James Howard, paramedic with Medshore.
6 He got on board. And he said, what do you need? And I said,
7 well, I'm trying to get IV access. I said, we need to intubate
8 her. I said, she's -- and I did like the hand motion, circling
9 down the drain, so to speak.

10 So he got the intubation equipment, intubated her. Could not
11 get IV access, so I had to drill her, we call it an IO --

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. -- which I did. I did that. Excuse me. I drilled her in
14 the leg that wasn't injured. And of course, we got IV access that
15 way. We pushed -- she went into traumatic arrest as we were going
16 to the hospital. And we pushed epi 1 to 10,000, because she was
17 systole on the monitor. We didn't get a pulse --

18 Q. What is it, you put epi 1 to 10,000?

19 A. Yes. Because she went into what we call a systole. In other
20 words, she was in traumatic arrest.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yeah. We did not --

23 Q. Systole.

24 A. -- get a rhythm -- yeah. We did not get a rhythm or anything
25 like that. So we were pushing epi. We did the CPR. We had her

1 intubated, good intubation, everything. I mean we confirmed it.

2 And when we got to the ER, the doctor was Dr. Millwood. And
3 there was nothing -- I mean there was no life. And he said, even
4 if she was at the doors of the OR, it probably wouldn't have
5 helped her. I mean it was just that traumatic of injuries on the
6 inside.

7 Q. Oh, yeah.

8 A. So that was -- but I did not give her any kind of pain
9 medication, nothing of that nature. I just gave her the epi 1 to
10 10,000.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. 1 milligram. And that's what we give when the patient goes
13 into a systole or PEA, which is post electrical activity.

14 Q. Yes. Yeah.

15 A. So -- and we never did get a rhythm back on her.

16 Q. Okay. So let me just go over this real quick with everything
17 you've told me here. You're posted at 252 and 413. Is that --

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. About 10 minutes away. You got there. You arrived.
20 You came in off of Beeks Road. The firefighters were motioning
21 you to come over. There was a fatality in the bus, but they went
22 to the SUV driver, who was partially under the front of the car.
23 She's still breathing.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You guys pulled her out from underneath. Her left leg was

1 severely severed. Her right -- her left arm was split open. Her
2 eyes were open, and she complained she couldn't breathe. You got
3 her in the back of the ambulance, put her on oxygen. There's
4 still no other ambulances on scene yet. You called to ask for
5 another medic. You needed to intubate her, which you did. You
6 drilled an IO into her leg. She went -- and you were driving to
7 the hospital -- and you went to what hospital? Were you going
8 to --

9 A. AnMed. It was Anderson ER, an AnMed on 800 North Fant
10 Street. It was closest facility at that time.

11 Q. And it's Anderson Medical Center?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. We've got a -- yeah, okay. And then she went into
14 arrest, a systole --

15 A. A systole.

16 Q. A systole, okay.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You gave her an epi 1 to 10,000, started with CPR. You got
19 to the ER, and the doctor said she was gone. So --

20 A. Yeah, we did the CPR before we gave any kind of drugs and
21 stuff like that. And we gave four or five rounds of epi 1 to
22 10,000, I think.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And I mean that's per our protocol and the -- it's kind of
25 hard, because I mean you know, holding somebody's hand and

1 everything like that and then making eye contact, and then --

2 Q. Sure.

3 A. -- her -- so it's kind of hard to talk about.

4 Q. Oh, I understand. People think I have a hard job. No. It's
5 you guys that are dealing with the real thing at the time, they
6 have the hard job, you and firemen, and the -- I mean me going out
7 the next day and talking, and it's a totally different situation.
8 I understand that. It's --

9 A. So what did they say ever happened or --

10 Q. No, we're still --

11 A. -- I asked.

12 Q. Yeah, we're still trying to put it together. It was the --
13 the woman in the SUV was driving. And we have a witness that she
14 was kind of being a little erratic, so we're not sure what was
15 going on there. We'll be getting all of her drug tests, autopsy,
16 and their tox tests, all that kind of stuff, so --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Yeah, because the bus driver, the poor girl, was just driving
19 she said, then all of the sudden, this car just came right in her.
20 She had no time to react or anything.

21 A. No, and the thing is the vehicle -- I don't know how she got
22 in front of the vehicle and stuff like that, I don't. But I did
23 hear somebody state that when they hit, that she had went up in
24 the air probably about 20 feet, and when she came down, the car
25 somehow had drug her down the road. So I don't know. I do know

1 on the driver's side and everything, it looked like from the
2 windshield post, looked like it was just peeled back --

3 Q. Yeah, exactly, yes.

4 A. -- that the seatbelt was broke and stuff --

5 Q. The airbags the side airbags, everything was completely --
6 it's very unusual to see that kind of damage like that where the,
7 all that whole side structure is totally pulled away like that.

8 A. Yeah, I mean and it's -- like I said, they said she was going
9 to pick her kids up and stuff. And that's -- the direction of the
10 vehicle looked like it was going back to Belton. I mean it was
11 just, it was a bad accident.

12 Q. Yeah, sure.

13 A. I mean I've seen a lot, don't get me wrong. But like I said,
14 when you make eye contact -- and the lady, she was alive I mean,
15 but due to her injuries and stuff like that -- and that's why I
16 was calling for another medic, because I knew that due to her
17 injuries -- I mean she had internal injuries. And just her leg, I
18 mean it was from like her hip down. I mean it was just tore all
19 to pieces.

20 Q. Yeah, yeah.

21 A. And I -- it was just -- she bled out basically, I feel like.
22 I mean I can't say, but how she got in front of the vehicle, I
23 don't know. But that's probably where the vehicle drug her down,
24 because she had a lot of road rash on that leg.

25 Q. Oh, okay. Well, yeah, once that whole side got torn out or

1 torn away, and even if -- the belt would've come right off of her,
2 because that was -- if she was wearing it, that would've been torn
3 away. So anything happens when it's -- you're flying around like
4 that, that she may have been thrown that far and then -- or the
5 car dragged --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Yeah, I don't know if we'll ever figure that out, but --

8 A. Yeah. I mean this is just from people I guess seeing it or
9 was on scene. I mean you hear from different people what
10 happened, da-da-da --

11 Q. A lot of speculation too, you know.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. But -- okay. Well, I really thank you for your help. Is
14 there anybody else out on scene you think I should -- that would
15 be worth -- you think would be helpful for me to talk to out
16 there, that was -- seemed to be doing a lot?

17 A. Well, I mean my partner and everything, he was right there
18 with me and stuff. He's an EMT basic. And --

19 Q. How about any --

20 A. -- he might --

21 Q. Did you get to treat -- or did he get to see any of the other
22 patients, any other passengers?

23 A. Not that I -- not to my knowledge. I'm not 100 percent sure.
24 I mean it was like everybody -- when we came in off of Beeks Road,
25 we was right there at the SUV. And that's when everybody was

1 motioning for us to come around, to come over here, da-da-da.

2 And of course, when I got out of the vehicle, I was going to
3 go and assist, see what's going on with the other folks and stuff
4 like that. And that's when the Belton fire chief told me that,
5 hey, we got a fatality there and stuff, I mean walking wounded,
6 and this lady here, she's alive. And so --

7 Q. So did it look like that was -- I was under the impression
8 that Friendship was kind of in charge. It sounds like more the
9 Belton fire chief might have been a little bit more in charge than
10 the Friendship.

11 A. Well, that's who I made first contact with. They came up to
12 me and stuff and was pulling me away. I mean it was kind of like,
13 okay. But he said he was from Belton, a Belton fire chief.

14 Q. Okay. Yeah, I'll give -- I might give them a call. But
15 what's your call number? So when I'm looking in the logs, what's
16 your rig number that I would recognize that it's you when I'm
17 looking at the dispatch.

18 A. Oh, I'm 308.

19 Q. 308?

20 A. Um-hmm.

21 Q. Okay. And what other ones -- do you know of any other call
22 numbers that came in, or any other rig --

23 A. Not that I know of.

24 Q. Okay. But you're 308 --

25 A. I mean -- yes, that is my Med-IT number. Yes, 308.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And we were on Ambulance LS Truck 32.

3 Q. LS 32?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Okay. I'm just trying to get an idea of what kind of
6 numbers I'm looking at when I'm looking at the catalogs and all
7 that, that they're sending me. Sometimes it's like a puzzle
8 trying to figure all that stuff out.

9 A. Oh, I know. Bless your heart. I mean I understand. Thank
10 you for doing -- because like I said, I mean I don't know what
11 happened. I mean you hear so many things. They said, she
12 could've had -- she probably had a seizure, or this, or that. So
13 I mean you never know.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. And of course, to me, I mean I don't really care about that.
16 I just care about taking care of my patient and see what I could
17 do for them. And I mean --

18 Q. Sure. Well, it sounds like you did everything possibly you
19 could've done. And so you ought to be proud of yourself for at
20 least doing what you could.

21 A. Yeah. I mean and -- yes, sir. I mean like I tell people, we
22 work through God's hand, and it's her time to go, but it's kind
23 of -- I do know that the husband's best friend had called me after
24 the call was over with and was talking to me and stuff. Because
25 when we brought her in, they didn't know what her name was. I

1 told them at the ER that her name was Sherry; that's all I had.
2 So they put her in as Jane Doe.

3 So then after the call was over with, after we left the ER,
4 that's when the husband's best friend had called me and was
5 talking to me. And I said, well, she's at the hospital. Because
6 he said, did you treat the lady that was in the SUV? And I said,
7 yes.

8 And then that's when he said, well, I'm his best friend --
9 the husband's best friend. And I said, well -- he asked, he said,
10 well what kind of -- because he's a paramedic too -- he said,
11 well, what kind of injuries? And I told him, I said, well, I
12 said, she didn't make it.

13 Q. Yeah, she had some pretty traumatic injuries, there's no
14 doubt.

15 A. Yes, she did. She did. She really did. I think -- like I
16 said, I mean that leg was tore all to pieces. And the bone
17 fragments, I mean yeah. So --

18 Q. Yeah, I understand. Okay.

19 A. But anyway, if there's anything else I can help you with,
20 please, by all means, give me a call. If I don't answer, leave me
21 a message. And I do apologize about not getting back with you
22 last night.

23 Q. No problem.

24 A. And thank you.

25 Q. Well, I thank you very much for your taking the time and

1 having to go through this again. So if I have anything else, I'll
2 give you a ring back. But I just want to thank you very much for
3 what you did out there.

4 A. Thank you.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. You have a good day now. Thank you.

7 Q. You too. Take care.

8 A. All right. Bye-bye.

9 Q. Bye.

10 (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: HIGHWAY CRASH NEAR BELTON,
 ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
 DECEMBER 17, 2019
 Interview of Terry Brown

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH001

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE:

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.



Jeffrey Johnson
Transcriber