



HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Truck Driver's Wife Interview Transcript

Arlington, WI

HWY20FH006

(24 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN ARLINGTON, WISCONSIN, *

Accident No.: HWY20FH006

ON JUNE 12, 2020 *

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Interview of: VICTORIA FRAYER-BRUNO

Wife of Truck Driver

Round Lake Beach, Illinois

Sunday,
March 21, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Victoria Frayer-Bruno:

By Mr. Bragg

4

I N T E R V I E W

(5:00 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Sunday, March 21st, 2021, it's about
4 5 p.m., and we are in -- what city is this? I'm sorry.

5 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Round Lake Beach.

6 MR. BRAGG: Round Lake Beach, Illinois.

7 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Um-hum.

8 MR. BRAGG: My name is Kenny Bragg. I'm an investigator with
9 the National Transportation Safety Board Office of Highway Safety,
10 and this interview is in regards to a highway crash which occurred
11 in Arlington, Wisconsin, on June 12, 2020.

12 Would you please state and spell your first and last name
13 please?

14 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Yeah, it's Victoria Frayer-Bruno. Want me
15 to spell the whole thing?

16 MR. BRAGG: Yes, please.

17 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Okay. V-i-c-t-o-r-i-a, F-r-a-y-e-r,
18 B-r-u-n-o.

19 MR. BRAGG: Okay. And just to -- just for clarification, it
20 is with your knowledge and consent that this interview is being
21 recorded, correct?

22 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Yes.

23 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

24 INTERVIEW OF VICTORIA FRAYER-BRUNO

25 BY MR. BRAGG:

1 Q. Go ahead and tell me a little bit about your husband.

2 A. He was 53, I believe, truck driver, and he was a great
3 husband, good father to my sons. He was just a fun guy to be
4 around and really enjoyed life, loved his grandchildren and his
5 job; he loved what he did and was hoping to retire fairly soon,
6 maybe in the next 10 years, and move to Tennessee, and that was
7 our plan.

8 Q. And how long have you known your husband -- had you known
9 your husband?

10 A. About 12 years.

11 Q. Twelve years. And how long had you been married?

12 A. Three.

13 Q. Three years?

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. And you lived together since you were married?

16 A. Oh, yes. And before too.

17 Q. And so, since you've known him, what occupations has he had?

18 A. Truck driver.

19 Q. All -- what kind -- what type of trucks did he drive, do you
20 know?

21 A. Well, he -- yeah, he was driving -- well, he delivered
22 freight, so just like a semi, I guess.

23 Q. Yeah, okay.

24 A. And then, then he moved to fuel, and now this time, he's back
25 to freight -- now, he was doing -- he had a sleeper truck, and

1 that was kind of new for him. Well, he had done that a long time
2 ago, but not for a long time, so he had started back delivering
3 freight with a sleeper.

4 Q. And how long did he work for this company?

5 A. I think it was going -- I think it was around a year.

6 Q. About a year?

7 A. With this company, yeah.

8 Q. And how did he like it?

9 A. He liked it a lot.

10 Q. So what was his typical day, you know, what did that consist
11 of?

12 A. Well, he'd get up, you know, early.

13 Q. What's early?

14 A. Like 2, 3 a.m.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Head out to Elk Grove Village.

17 Q. Where's that at?

18 A. Elk Grove Village, that's his -- that's who he worked for,
19 K Express.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. That was --

22 Q. So that's also Illinois, correct?

23 A. Illinois, like it's about an hour from here. He'd drive
24 there, you know, and then get his truck and, you know, it would be
25 all loaded for him, and he would start his route. He'd go out of

1 state and overnight, and then I'd see him sometime -- so he'd be
2 gone a day, because he'd do an overnight, and then I'd see him the
3 following day. You know, it -- the times varied, but usually it
4 would be somewhere around 4, 5, 6 o'clock at night.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. He'd come home. Well, first he'd stop there, drop the truck
7 off, get his car, and then head back home.

8 Q. So, when he went out of state, did he go to the same location
9 every time? So did he have his --

10 A. No.

11 Q. So it just varied, depends on --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- whatever the load is.

14 A. He did like Michigan, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa,
15 I think, or Ohio. Yeah.

16 Q. And what was his health like?

17 A. Well, he was -- he had diabetes --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- and he had high blood pressure, but he was under doctor
20 care. He'd go to the doctor every three months or so, and they
21 would, you know, reevaluate, like check his diabetes and all that.
22 He had a doctor's appointment scheduled the Saturday after he
23 passed. He was supposed to go to -- me -- I was going to go with
24 him to the doctor the next day.

25 Q. And what was that appointment for?

1 A. I wanted him to go to the doctor, and I wanted to go with
2 him, because he was feeling just rundown, and he was just looking
3 -- just -- he just was look -- not looking right to me.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I was concerned about him, and he -- so he agreed that we
6 would go to the doctor together. I wanted to talk to the doctor
7 with him.

8 Q. So what kind of symptoms was he having?

9 A. Just -- not really symptoms other than he was just, just
10 feeling really rundown. No energy --

11 Q. Really tired?

12 A. Tired, no energy, his appetite wasn't like it usually is.
13 You know, he just wasn't feeling great. That's all he would say:
14 I just don't feel good; just don't really feel good.

15 Q. Did he ever make any complaint about maybe getting dizzy or
16 anything like that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. No. Did he have any idea what was wrong?

19 A. I don't think so, but that's what we wanted to go and like
20 maybe get bloodwork done or something and just see what's going
21 on.

22 Q. Okay. So how did he deal with his diabetes? Was he taking
23 medication, was he taking insulin, or --

24 A. Not insulin.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. He was just taking pills, and he was good about taking his
2 medicine, and I would send him with his daily pills. You know,
3 he'd take them with him, he'd come back, they'd be gone. He was
4 good about taking his medicine.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So he did, he did do that.

7 Q. What medicine -- what kind of medications did he take, do you
8 know?

9 A. Let's see. I don't -- I -- it's been a while, so I can't
10 tell you offhand, but --

11 Q. Do you know what it was -- instead of the name, do you know
12 what it was for? So was it -- how many medications --

13 A. Diabetes. The -- yeah, the pills for his diabetes.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And then there was pills for his blood pressure.

16 Q. Blood pressure, okay.

17 A. And he took like a baby aspirin. There was nothing -- like
18 no narcotics, nothing like that.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I don't even remember what all of them --

21 Q. So I assume he had health insurance?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And who was his health insurance through?

24 A. Blue Cross.

25 Q. Blue Cross?

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. And is that through his job or --

3 A. No, we had Obamacare.

4 Q. You had -- okay.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. How long had you had that?

7 A. Well, we've had that for a few years now.

8 Q. And where do you get his medications, you know, prescriptions
9 filled at?

10 A. Walgreens.

11 Q. Walgreens, the one right up here?

12 A. No, I would get them filled by my work in Lakemoor. I work
13 right by a Walgreens.

14 Q. Okay. So I saw that he had a motorcycle accident that was
15 pretty, pretty serious a while back.

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. That was in 2017 (indiscernible)?

18 A. Yeah, I think so.

19 Q. How was his recovery with that?

20 A. It was good. I mean, he -- I don't remember exactly how long
21 he was off work.

22 Q. Did he still complain of pain from injuries in that
23 motorcycle accident?

24 A. Well, yeah. He had -- so it was basically like nerve pain in
25 his feet.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And that was, you know, another thing for him where he was --
3 he wasn't really the same after that accident. But, I mean, he
4 could walk and everything, it was just, you know, to walk long
5 distances and stuff like that, he -- his feet really bothered him.
6 But it was like nerve pain, and I don't think -- he had been to
7 different doctors to try to see if there's anything, you know,
8 that could be done about that, and I just don't think -- I think
9 that's just how it was going to be.

10 Q. Okay. So did it affect his ability to sleep? Did it wake
11 him up at night? Or is it worse another time of the day, do you
12 know?

13 A. I don't remember him saying it affected his sleep.

14 Q. So how did he sleep? Did he sleep well?

15 A. Yeah, he slept, he slept pretty good. I mean, he'd lay down,
16 and he'd be out within seconds. He would sleep pretty good. I
17 mean, he would have to get up, as he got older, more frequently
18 like to go to the bathroom and stuff, which would kind of break
19 his sleep a little bit. But, I mean, other than that -- I mean,
20 he didn't take a sleeping pill or anything like that. He didn't
21 seem to need it.

22 Q. Did he snore?

23 A. Yeah, he snored.

24 Q. How bad?

25 A. I mean, he was a pretty loud snorer, but, I mean, I -- he'd

1 just always been like that.

2 Q. Really?

3 A. And he was a big guy. He was heavier. Since I've known him,
4 he's always snored.

5 Q. What was his height and weight that you remember?

6 A. I don't -- let's see. He was like 3 -- maybe like 320.

7 Q. Okay, 320.

8 A. Maybe like 320. Maybe like 5'9".

9 Q. Okay. (Indiscernible) have you -- did you ever hear him like
10 stop breathing or wake himself up? I know like my dad, my dad
11 sleep snores, and we used to joke that he had a problem with his
12 knees; every time his knees bent, he'd go to sleep. Did he -- is
13 that his experience? Like did he easily fall asleep during the
14 day or --

15 A. During -- sleep during the day?

16 Q. Yeah. I mean, like if he was just sitting around the house
17 doing nothing, watching TV, would he fall asleep watching TV?

18 A. Not, not -- I mean, occasionally.

19 Q. Occasionally?

20 A. He wasn't like one of those that would just fall asleep all
21 the time.

22 Q. So I want -- I did want to clarify his work schedule. So you
23 said he would, he would leave home about 2 o'clock, got to his
24 truck about 3 o'clock --

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. -- and he would go somewhere, wherever his destination was,
2 and then he would stay overnight --

3 A. Um-hum.

4 Q. -- and then he would come back home.

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. Did he drive alone?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. When he stayed alone, did he -- would he always call
9 you?

10 A. Um-hum.

11 Q. When he got there? So about what time would he usually stop
12 driving?

13 A. God, I don't know. Maybe like by 5 -- 4, 5, 6 at night,
14 something like that.

15 Q. So, in the evening time, he'd usually stop driving?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And he'd beddown until when?

18 A. Like till 2 or 3 the following day. I mean, he had to follow
19 -- they had -- you know, they have rules about their hours and how
20 long they have to be off the road and all that stuff, so he had to
21 follow that.

22 Q. So once he stayed out overnight in the truck, is there -- did
23 he normally come right back home? Were there some nights he
24 stayed out multiple nights?

25 A. Normally, he'd come back home, yeah. You know, like

1 sometimes, he would stay overnight, and then when he got up, he'd
2 have to do like a stop and then start his route back home and come
3 back with whatever he picked up, bring it back to the -- to
4 K Express in Elk Grove. But, but, I mean --

5 Q. How did he sleep in the truck? Did he ever complain about
6 it, said it was okay or it was comfortable?

7 A. I always asked him, and he would -- said he would sleep
8 really good in there.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So --

11 Q. Did he always have the same truck?

12 A. Yeah, I think he had the same one the whole time, I believe.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. They might've upgraded him to another -- to a newer truck
15 recently, but I'm, I'm not really -- I don't really remember,
16 because I remember him saying they were getting some new trucks.
17 They might -- or maybe that was going to happen, and it didn't
18 happen yet, but --

19 Q. So how many days in a week would he work consecutively? How
20 many days in a row? Work four days then have a day off? What was
21 his schedule like?

22 A. Well, he would work like five days a week.

23 Q. Five days a week? Always Monday through Friday, or over the
24 weekend sometimes?

25 A. No, usually Monday through Friday, and then he'd be home from

1 Friday until -- when he got back home Friday, he'd be home all the
2 way and then through Saturday and then Sunday, and then he'd head
3 out usually like 2, 3 in the morning on Sunday.

4 Q. Okay. When he got home when the -- in the afternoon, you
5 said about 5 o'clock, right?

6 A. Yes, somewhere --

7 Q. Give or take, yeah.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. So what did he do in the afternoons?

10 A. Well, he'd come home and usually shower. He'd have dinner,
11 watch a little TV, and go to bed.

12 Q. What time would he usually go to bed?

13 A. Like he'd go to bed early. Like 7, 8 o'clock. I mean, as
14 soon as -- pretty much as soon as he ate, he'd watch about a half
15 hour of TV and go to bed. I mean, he was tired.

16 Q. And what time did you go to bed? I mean --

17 A. Me?

18 Q. -- same time, a little later?

19 A. I go to bed like 10.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. 10, 10:30, something like that.

22 Q. And not to be intrusive, but you guys slept in the same room?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. So I'm not sure if you're aware, but to drive a truck,
25 he had to have a medical certification.

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. You heard about that?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Did you guys ever talk about his process with that?

5 A. He, he got his medical certification, I know that.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I know he was having a little bit harder time these past --
8 this past year, because I think -- now, I don't know if that's the
9 same as a DOT card.

10 Q. Yes, it is.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. I know he had an issue where they wouldn't give him like the
14 year card or something, or the two-year card. I think they only
15 would give him a six-month.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Because I believe it was his blood pressure.

18 Q. Blood pressure.

19 A. So -- and I think he had to -- I don't remember what he had
20 to do, if he had to go to the doctor or, or go back and have the
21 test again or something, and then he passed.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Something like that. But I know he was having an issue
24 there.

25 Q. Did you happen to know, your husband take a sleep study?

1 Either at home or in a sleep clinic or anything?

2 A. I don't think so.

3 Q. You never heard of it --

4 A. Not since we've been together.

5 Q. Not since you --

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. Okay. And, at one point, he owned his own trucks; is that
8 correct?

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. Why'd he get out of that business?

11 A. He had his own truck for almost 10 years I think.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. Just because, you know, it wasn't profitable enough --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- as time went on. There's a lot of expenses, you know, all
16 the taxes, the fuel, everything, and I think he was just tired of
17 it and just wanted to just sell the truck, be free of it, and
18 then, you know, go and work for someone else and finish out his
19 years until he retired.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. The maintenance, all that stuff.

22 Q. So the crash happened on Friday, June 12th.

23 A. Um-hum.

24 Q. So let's -- if you can, can you walk me through that week?

25 So what time did he leave Friday morning, do you know?

1 A. Yeah, I think he left about 2 -- I want to say about 2 a.m.
2 Maybe 1:30, 2 a.m.

3 Q. And what about the day -- what time did he go to bed the
4 night before?

5 A. Early, because I think that night, the night before, he got
6 home around 6, I want to say. But he was tired, and he --
7 actually -- or maybe -- I know I figured this out before, and I, I
8 want to say that the night before the accident, he actually got a
9 good amount of sleep, more than usual, so maybe he got home
10 earlier.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I'm not real clear on the time, but I remember that the night
13 before, he did get about 7 hours of sleep. And he was not even
14 driving that long before that accident happened.

15 Q. I know, because he started --

16 A. Like 3-ish, I think.

17 Q. Yeah, yeah. So he got -- he got to bed about 7 o'clock on
18 Thursday?

19 A. And that, and that might not be right, because --

20 Q. Okay, but give or take?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And so did he work Thursday morning?

23 A. Yeah -- wait a minute. So he was coming back, the accident
24 was on Friday -- yeah, he -- well, he was heading back from
25 wherever he was. I don't remember.

1 Q. So Thursday, Thursday morning, he -- Thursday morning, he had
2 stayed away somewhere.

3 A. Um-hum.

4 Q. And then --

5 A. And then he was heading back. I don't remember if he made
6 any stops that day, pickups or deliveries, I don't know.

7 Q. But he got home Thursday afternoon, and you said he went to
8 bed early that night.

9 A. Yeah, he ate dinner, and he went to bed, and he -- I remember
10 he was trying to get an earlier start, I think, because he had the
11 doctor's appointment on Saturday morning, and he wanted to make
12 sure that, you know, he was back and stuff for that.

13 Q. Okay. So then, when was the last time he was at home that
14 night? Was he at home --

15 A. Thursday night.

16 Q. And then -- but before that, prior to that Thursday. Because
17 you said Wednesday night, he stayed overnight somewhere.

18 A. So Tuesday.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. I think. Yeah, I --

21 Q. Okay. Do you remember what time he would've went to bed
22 Tuesday?

23 A. I don't. I mean, I really don't. But, but on average, I
24 will tell you that Phil normally would be in bed the latest like
25 7:30. I mean, 8 o'clock, he was pushing it.

1 Q. Actually, even though you don't remember specifically, you
2 don't remember anything unusual about, you know, the time he went
3 to bed on Tuesday?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Not at all.

7 Q. And had he, had he been on the road on Monday night and then
8 got up Tuesday and came home Tuesday evening?

9 A. Yeah, I believe so.

10 Q. Because he would've been off Sunday, right? Because he's off
11 on Sundays.

12 A. He's off Sunday -- yeah, he was off Sunday, left early out in
13 the morning for Monday.

14 Q. Same time, about 2 o'clock?

15 A. Yeah. So then would've been home Tuesday.

16 Q. And about his cell phone. Did he have one -- only one cell
17 phone, more than one?

18 A. Just one.

19 Q. No company cell phone?

20 A. Huh-uh.

21 Q. What kind of cell phone was it?

22 A. Samsung Galaxy.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I never got it back. I don't --

25 Q. So you, you haven't seen it since that --

1 A. (Non-verbal response.)

2 Q. Okay. And is he a -- a heavy cell phone user?

3 A. I mean, yeah, I would say so.

4 Q. So what does he use his phone for? Other than -- does he,
5 does he like --

6 A. He talks. He had a, a head -- earpiece.

7 Q. Okay. Does he watch -- does he use Facebook or anything like
8 that? Does he play games?

9 A. Oh, no. He's not a game guy. No. I mean, he had a tablet
10 so that at night, when he was in the truck for the night, he could
11 watch like Netflix or something.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But, I mean, mainly his phone was like, if he talked to
14 people during the day, you know, he would -- he always wore his
15 earpiece.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. You know, he wasn't a gamer or anything like that. He did --
18 he was on Facebook, yeah, but, I mean, I don't think he was like
19 obsessive with Facebook or anything.

20 Q. My wife would say I'm obsessive, but --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. I can't think of anything, anything else I need to ask. If I
23 have some other questions, can I contact you by email?

24 A. Um-hum.

25 Q. Okay.

1 MR. BRAGG: Well, I'm going to go ahead and conclude the
2 interview. Thank you very much for talking with us.

3 MS. FRAYER-BRUNO: Okay.

4 (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: FATAL MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
IN ARLINGTON, WISCONSIN,
ON JUNE 12, 2020
Interview of Victoria Frayer-Bruno

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH006

PLACE: Round Lake Beach, Illinois

DATE: March 21, 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.



Autumn Weslow
Transcriber