

HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

UPS Driver #2 Interview Transcript

HWY20MH002

(30 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

HIGHWAY CRASH MOUNT PLEASANT *
TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA * Accident No.: HWY20MH002
JANUARY 5, 2020 * JANUARY 5, 2020

Interview of: PETER CARLE, Truck Driver

United Parcel Service

Four Penn Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Highway Accident Investigator National Transportation Safety Board

RYAN CORKERY
Representative for Mr. Carle

ITEM	I N D E X	PAGE
Interview of Peter Carle:		
By Mr. Bragg		4

1	<u>INTERVIEW</u>
2	(2:11 p.m.)
3	MR. BRAGG: Today is Tuesday, January 14, 2020. It's about
4	2:11 p.m. and we are at Four Penn Station in Philadelphia,
5	Pennsylvania.
6	MR. CORKERY: Four Penn Center.
7	MR. BRAGG: Four Penn Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
8	My name is Kenny Bragg, B-r-a-g-g. I'm an investigator with the
9	Office of Highway Safety for the National Transportation Safety
10	Board. This interview is regarding a multiple-vehicle collision
11	which took place in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, on January 5 at
12	about 3:30 a.m.
13	Will you say and spell your first and last name for me,
14	please?
15	MR. CARLE: My name is Peter Carle, P-e-t-e-r, C-a-r-l-e.
16	MR. BRAGG: And who do you work for?
17	MR. CARLE: UPS.
18	MR. BRAGG: Okay. And you, sir?
19	MR. CORKERY: Ryan Corkery. R-y-a-n, C-o-r-k-e-r-y.
20	MR. BRAGG: Okay.
21	INTERVIEW OF PETER CARLE
22	BY MR. BRAGG:
23	Q. First I want to talk a little bit about your background. And
24	so how long have you been have you worked for UPS?
25	A. About 15 years.

- 1 Q. And in what capacity have you worked?
- 2 A. Driver. Truck driver. Sleeper team, feeder driver.
- 3 Q. So what is sleeper team? What does that mean?
- 4 A. Sleeper? Two guys are on the truck. We run -- do the long
- 5 hauls.
- 6 Q. Okay. When did you first obtain your CDL?
- 7 A. Very first time, it was back when it was a number 1. 1979.
- 8 Q. Wow. What state was that?
- 9 A. That was in New York.
- 10 Q. New York. And then have you had CDLs in other states?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. No? Just New York and New Jersey?
- 13 A. New York and Oklahoma.
- 14 Q. And Oklahoma. Okay.
- 15 A. That's where I got my CDL. Because --
- 16 Q. Okay -- I'm sorry, go ahead.
- 17 A. No, I did the beginning one in '79. Did a little bit of
- 18 driving trucks and stuff, you know. But then I had two sons, and
- 19 I said it is not the life for a family, you know what I mean? So
- 20 I quit driving.
- 21 Q. What kind of CDL school did you go to?
- 22 A. I went to CRST.
- 23 Q. CRST?
- 24 A. A company. And they had their own schooling in Drumright,
- Oklahoma. And I went to work, drive for them afterwards.

- 1 Q. Okay. How long was that school?
- 2 A. 2 months?
- 3 Q. 2 months. Okay.
- 4 A. 2 months? It was back in 1990, '91.
- 5 Q. So after working for CRST, who did you work for?
- 6 A. After them, I worked for (indiscernible) at Oklahoma City.
- 7 Q. And how long did you work there? Approximately.
- 8 A. 6 years. 5, 6 years.
- 9 Q. And what'd you do there?
- 10 A. Bulk. I hauled -- drove truck hauling bulk.
- 11 Q. And who else?
- 12 A. Then after that I went to -- then I bought my own truck after
- 13 that. I was -- I had to stop and think about it, you know.
- 14 Q. What kind of truck did you buy?
- 15 A. I bought a Freightliner.
- 16 Q. Freightliner?
- 17 A. Cabover.
- 18 O. Cabover?
- 19 A. Because I was -- I leased it on what I hauled groceries, and
- 20 that was the best because it was shorter than getting to places.
- 21 So I would get more runs that way.
- 22 Q. And how long did you do that?
- 23 A. I did owner/operator 3, 4 years. 5 years. Something like
- 24 that. Then the prices of fuel was just going high. You'd fuel up
- 25 | in the morning. You go to fuel up at the end of the day. Two

- 1 different prices, same fuel truck stop, you know.
- 2 Q. Okay. Then where'd you go after that?
- 3 A. And then after that, I went and drove for Walker Crane and
- 4 Rigging. Hauled oversized loads for them. And did that for
- 5 about, roughly, I want to say 3 or 4 years with them. And then in
- 6 '05, I came on with UPS.
- 7 Q. And so you've been here, you've been with UPS since '05?
- 8 A. '05.
- 9 Q. And same type role?
- 10 A. Yeah. Driving a truck.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you drive over the road long distance?
- 12 A. Yeah, with UPS now. Yeah.
- 13 Q. And where do you live at now?
- 14 A. I live in New Jersey.
- 15 Q. Live in New Jersey?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. And where do you report to your job at?
- 18 A. At Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.
- 19 Q. Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. So how far is that a drive?
- 20 A. It's about a 40 minute drive. 45. (Indiscernible).
- 21 Q. Have you had any crashes before?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. You never had a crash?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Personal vehicle either?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 O. Wow.
- 3 A. This was, this was it.
- 4 Q. That's pretty good.
- 5 A. After all these years.
- 6 Q. What types of vehicles have you driven?
- 7 A. I've drove?
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. Trucks. Cars, motorcycle, bulldozers, crane, backhoes,
- 10 bulldozers.
- 11 Q. Straight trucks?
- 12 A. Straight trucks.
- 13 Q. Straight trucks.
- 14 A. I drove -- I grew up on a farm, basically, up in Maine. So I
- 15 | was driving trucks I couldn't even see over the steering wheel,
- 16 you know? They had to have it moved from A to B. Hey, Pete, you
- 17 know, get in there. And you know, I -- up there, that's how you
- 18 | just lived your life, you know?
- 19 Q. How about traffic tickets? Had any traffic tickets?
- 20 A. I got one for not using my directional light.
- 21 Q. Where was that?
- 22 A. That was in Connecticut.
- 23 Q. How long ago? Do you remember?
- 24 A. That was when I was with Walker Crane and Rigging, so it's
- 25 got to be 20 years ago. I'm trying to think. I've never had a

- 1 speeding ticket. I talked my way out of one, but that was -- now
- 2 | you would be talking, like, 40 years ago.
- 3 Q. Okay. So what type of training have you had with UPS?
- 4 A. Training for --
- 5 Q. Driver training.
- 6 A. They have a thing that you have to go for a safety ride once
- 7 a year.
- 8 Q. Okay. And what does that entail?
- 9 A. Safety guy rides with you, and he writes down what you're
- 10 doing and -- you know.
- 11 Q. What kind of things is he looking at?
- 12 A. He's looking to see how far in advance I am. You know, he'll
- 13 ask you, like, okay, how far are you looking ahead, you know, and
- 14 | what do you see. You know, do you think that -- like, watching
- 15 the car pull out into intersection. Sometimes, you know, they
- 16 come out a little bit too far, you know. And so you just tap the
- 17 | horn lightly, say hey, I'm here, you know. And they want to see
- 18 that you do that, you know. And you know, just doing everything
- 19 | right. You know --
- 20 Q. Do you have training on company policies?
- 21 A. Yeah. Yeah.
- 22 Q. So what kind of policies do they cover?
- 23 A. Like, watch where your hands are, stuff like that. And make
- 24 sure you wear a headpiece, you know.
- 25 Q. So dealing with the cell phone, you need to use a headpiece?

- 1 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 2 Q. So what's their, what's their cell phone policy?
- 3 A. You got to have a headpiece. Everything's got to be hand-
- 4 free. And you got to use two hands on the steering wheel.
- 5 Q. Do they do any training on fatigue and rest and that kind of
- 6 stuff?
- 7 A. Yeah. Yeah, there's -- they make sure you don't -- it's in
- 8 | the IBIS. That's what it's called, on the computer. IBIS.
- 9 Couldn't give you that name. It's in there. You cannot go past 8
- 10 hours without taking a half hour break. And they're strict on
- 11 | that. An alarm will go off, and there's warnings. It'll start
- warning you 30 minutes in advance. And so you got 30 minutes to
- 13 | pull over, and you got 15 minutes to pull over --
- 14 Q. Is that, is that connected to your logbook, logging device?
- 15 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 16 Q. What kind of, what kind of logbook, logging device, do you
- 17 use?
- 18 A. IBIS. It's all on the computer.
- 19 Q. It's all on the computer. Okay.
- 20 A. It tells you everything.
- 21 Q. How long have you used that system?
- 22 A. Since I've been with UPS. Ever since I went with them,
- 23 | they've always had that computerized system.
- 24 Q. How old are you?
- 25 A. I'm 62.

- 1 Q. Good, good. How's your health?
- 2 A. Good.
- 3 Q. Yeah? Do you take any medication daily?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. What do you take?
- 6 A. Blood pressure pill. I can -- you want the name of them?
- 7 Q. Sure.
- 8 A. I wrote it down. These are some big words. That one, that
- 9 one, that one, that one. Okay. That one.
- 10 Q. So what I will do after the -- if you, if you don't mind just
- 11 | leaving this out? After the interview, I'll just write these
- down.
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 Q. All right? I see you have glasses in your pocket. You wear
- 15 | glasses at all?
- 16 A. No, these are just those cheater glasses so I can read the
- 17 small print, computer prints.
- 18 Q. Okay. So you don't wear prescription glasses?
- 19 A. No, no.
- 20 Q. Okay. No lens restriction on your license?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Okay. Where do you go to the doctor?
- 23 A. Where?
- 24 Q. Yeah. Where do you go, where do you go to the doctor? And
- 25 | for the record, I've been provided with your -- the information.

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But how close is it to your home?
 1
 2
    Α.
          My regular, my regular doctor?
    Q.
          Yes.
 4
          She's probably maybe 10 miles, if that?
 5
          10 miles? How often do you go?
    Ο.
 6
    Α.
          Once a year.
 7
    0.
          Once a year?
 8
          I have a physical with her, and then --
    Α.
 9
    Q.
          Is that a job requirement, or just --
10
          No, that's --
    Α.
11
    Q.
          Your wife?
12
          Yeah, my wife's requirement.
    Α.
13
          So you live at home with your wife?
    Ο.
14
    Α.
          Yeah, yeah.
15
          You have any kids still in the house?
    Ο.
16
          Not in the house, no.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
    Q.
          I want to talk a little bit about your work schedule.
                                                                    Start
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- 1 | with January 1. Did you work on January 1? And that's New Year's
- 2 Day. Did you work --
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. No? Were you off before, prior to that? You take any time
- 5 off for the holidays?
- 6 A. The holidays I was off. That day that that accident
- 7 | happened, that was my first day back from the other weekend.
- 8 Q. Okay. So you've been off prior to that.
- 9 A. Yeah. I went out Saturday and Sunday. I got home Monday
- 10 morning, Sunday night/Monday morning. And then I was off until
- 11 | the Saturday night/Sunday morning when we had the accident.
- 12 Q. Then what'd you do on your vacation?
- 13 A. Just stay at home.
- 14 Q. Just stay at home.
- 15 A. You know, just tinkered around the house. Honey-do list.
- 16 When you're on the road a lot, a lot of that builds up.
- 17 Q. I understand. Trust me. So let me ask you this, and I
- 18 didn't ask this earlier. When you sleep, how do you sleep?
- 19 A. That's a great -- at home, you mean? In the truck?
- 20 Q. Yeah, both.
- 21 A. I sleep good. I never had any problems sleeping.
- 22 Q. Do you snore?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. No? You ever been -- no one's ever told you, you snore?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Have you ever, have you ever had a sleep study done?
- 2 A. No. At the DOT, they measure your neck and stuff and --
- 3 Q. Yeah. Okay. So you've never been referred to a sleep study
- 4 based on that?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay, great, great. Do you take anything to help you fall
- 7 asleep?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So you said January 5 was your first day back to work.
- 10 A. Yeah, that day that accident --
- 11 Q. So I'm going to ask you a little bit about the days leading
- 12 up to that. January 1, what -- was that anything unusual about
- 13 that day? And I'm speaking in terms of when you, when you go to
- 14 bed and when you wake up. Was it a normal day?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. So what time do you normally go to bed?
- 17 A. Normally 11:00, 12 o'clock. When I'm at home. If I ain't
- 18 got to go to work the next day.
- 19 Q. Okay. What time -- do you remember what time you went to bed
- 20 on January 1?
- 21 A. Yeah, I think I actually fell asleep at 10:30, because I
- 22 remember I was supposed to watch the ball and I didn't watch the
- 23 ball go down. I think my wife did, but I didn't make it.
- 24 Q. What time did you get up? Do you know?
- 25 A. 8 o'clock.

- 1 Q. 8 o'clock?
- 2 A. Yeah. And that's usually what time -- I'm usually out of bed
- 3 by 8:00, you know.
- 4 Q. So the next day was Thursday, January 2. Do you know what
- 5 time you went to bed that day?
- 6 A. I'm going to say, like, 11:00. That's usually what time I --
- 7 | you know, and Friday, probably about the same time.
- 8 Q. What time did you get up Friday morning?
- 9 A. Friday morning? I think it was, like, 8:00.
- 10 Q. What time, what time did you get up Saturday morning?
- 11 A. Saturday morning, I got up -- I usually get up earlier
- 12 | Saturday morning. About 7:00. By 7:00. Because I go, I go back
- 13 to sleep later in the afternoon, because I drive out first that
- 14 night.
- 15 |Q. Okay. So you got up at -- you got up Saturday morning at 7
- 16 o'clock. What time did you, what time did you take your nap?
- 17 A. I go lay down about 3:00 --
- 18 O. About 3 o'clock?
- 19 A. -- in the afternoon.
- 20 Q. Then what time did you get back up?
- 21 A. Then I set my alarm for 7:00 in the evening, afternoon.
- 22 Q. All right, so Saturday at 7:00 p.m., did you then go to work
- 23 at that point?
- 24 A. Yeah, I get up and get ready for work.
- 25 Q. Get up for work. So what time does your shift start?

- 1 A. I leave out at 20 to -- at 10 o'clock. At 10:00 in the -- at
- 2 night, Saturday night, I left there. But I get there, like, 9:15.
- 3 I arrive there so I can check the truck out and get ready to go.
- 4 Q. And you drove first?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And do you normally -- and this is about just normal. I'm
- 7 | not just talking about just this night. Normally, who drives at
- 8 night and who drives during the day?
- 9 A. Saturday night, I always drive out first. This way here,
- 10 Jerry, my partner, he can come in and he don't have to take a nap
- 11 | before, you know. Because he's still got a son at home, kid at
- 12 home, so you know, I ain't got nobody at home. Just my wife. So
- 13 I drive out first. And then he comes in and he goes to bed, but I
- 14 take off.
- 15 Q. Okay, so when you drive at 11:00 p.m. -- when you start, or
- 16 when you start driving at 10:00 p.m., what time do you stop
- 17 driving?
- 18 A. On that part of the run, I stop about -- it's about 5:30,
- 19 6:00 in the morning.
- 20 Q. 5:30, 6:00 in the morning?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. Then what do you normally do?
- 23 A. We switch out.
- 24 Q. And you crawl in to sleep or you ride up front?
- 25 A. I'm usually eating an egg sandwich at a McDonald's. So I sit

- 1 until I finish that, and then I go to bed. And he drives to
- 2 Louisville. And then by then, I get back up again and then we go
- 3 out and have dinner, and go back and hook up the loads. And once
- 4 we leave, I go back to bed.
- 5 Q. So normally when you leave out, how long are you out on the
- 6 road before you go back home?
- 7 A. I go back home -- on that, on that part of the run, I go back
- 8 home maybe by Monday morning/Sunday night. You know, I get back
- 9 home about 3:00 in the morning. Monday morning, I guess it would
- 10 be.
- 11 Q. So what time is your -- so where's your route at? Explain
- 12 that to me.
- 13 A. Okay. I leave Willow Grove. I come over to Philly airport.
- 14 Then we go to Louisville, Kentucky.
- 15 Q. I meant how many, how many miles is that away?
- 16 A. Louisville, Kentucky, it's about -- from Willow Grove,
- 17 | it's --
- 18 Q. Well, from the airport.
- 19 A. Oh, from Philly airport?
- 20 Q. Yeah.
- 21 A. Let me see. That would be, like -- so it'd be like 650 miles
- 22 or so, you know, roughly.
- 23 Q. All right, so you go to St. Louis.
- 24 A. No, Willow Grove, Kentucky [sic].
- 25 Q. Willow Grove, Kentucky. Okay, so you go to Willow Grove.

- 1 And then where?
- 2 A. From there, we go to Burtonsville, Maryland, and then from
- 3 there we go back to the home terminal, Willow Grove, and then we
- 4 go home. And we leave out Tuesday morning at 4:30, and we go to
- 5 Lawnside, New Jersey, and then over to Orlando, Florida. Then we
- 6 leave there and go to Columbia, South Carolina. And then we go
- 7 from there. We go back to Willow Grove. And I got about -- we
- 8 | got about a 2 hour layover there. And then we leave out at Willow
- 9 Grove again at 2 o'clock in the morning. So it's Thursday
- 10 morning. And then we go to Lawnside in New Jersey to Florence,
- 11 | South Carolina, and then back to Willow Grove. That's about it.
- 12 And that's Thursday night. We get back there about 11 o'clock.
- 13 Q. So how many days consecutively do you work?
- 14 A. It's like 4 days right then in that, in that row. And then
- 15 on the weekend, it's just basically Saturday night at 10 o'clock
- 16 to Monday morning at 2:00, 3:00 in the morning.
- 17 O. Okav. All right. So you get at work 4 days, you get about 2
- 18 days off and just repeat that? Is that it, or --
- 19 A. Yeah. Then I'm off Monday -- from Monday to Tuesday morning
- 20 at 4:30. That's when we leave back out again, go to start the
- 21 long runs to Florida and --
- 22 | Q. Okay. So let's talk a little bit about the morning of the
- 23 crash. And I guess we should really go back to the night before.
- 24 So you left out the night before at about 10 o'clock.
- 25 A. About 10 o'clock.

- 1 Q. And then when you left, where did you go?
- 2 A. Philly airport.
- 3 Q. Philly airport. And what did you do at Philly airport?
- 4 A. We go there and we hook up to the trailers that we're taking.
- 5 Q. Okay, so you left Willow Grove, you're empty.
- 6 A. Yeah, bobtail --
- 7 Q. Bobtailing there. Pick up, pick up a trailer. What size
- 8 trailer?
- 9 A. That night, I just had one pup.
- 10 Q. Okay. And that's, what, 23½ foot, something like that?
- 11 A. Yeah, 28 feet long.
- 12 Q. 28.
- 13 A. Pup, yeah.
- 14 Q. And so you had -- and you took --
- 15 A. Only one.
- 16 Q. And you were taking that trailer where?
- 17 A. Louisville, Kentucky.
- 18 Q. Louisville, Kentucky. Were you going to switch drivers
- 19 before you got there?
- 20 A. Before I got to Louisville? Yeah.
- 21 Q. Okay. Where would you switch drivers at?
- 22 A. I would -- we always switch Exit 208 in Ohio on I-70.
- 23 Q. I-70 at 208. There's two truck stops there. Is that the
- 24 McDonald's you go to?
- 25 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. They know you?
- 2 A. Yeah. We've been on this road for -- I think this is our
- 3 third year on this one.
- 4 Q. So you've been driving that route --
- 5 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 6 Q. -- 3 years. You've been driving along that section of the
- 7 Pennsylvania Turnpike for 3 years as well.
- 8 A. Oh, yeah, and then before that too, you know, on other runs.
- 9 Q. So how long, how long had you been driving when you reached
- 10 | where the crash occurred?
- 11 A. Like, 10 o'clock Saturday night roughly, you know. I might
- 12 have left -- I think I might have left, like, at 10 of 10:00. And
- 13 I think the crash was around 3:30-ish.
- 14 Q. Where did you get on the turnpike at?
- 15 A. Where'd I -- where is that? Can't think of the name of
- 16 the -- you know, I just come up the blue route, you know, on 76.
- 17 O. Up by King of Prussia?
- 18 A. King of Prussia.
- 19 Q. Okay, great. Great. Prior to the crash, had you seen the
- 20 bus anywhere along the route?
- 21 A. Yeah, one time. Yeah.
- 22 Q. Where'd you see it at?
- 23 A. Before I saw the bus, I stopped and used the -- there's a
- 24 Lawn Service, L-a-w-n Service. I used the restroom there and got
- 25 | a fresh cup of coffee. And then after that -- I'm trying to think

- 1 | where I saw them at. I can't remember where I saw them at.
- 2 Q. Well let me ask you this way. Do you know how long before
- 3 the crash occurred did you see the bus?
- 4 A. Oh, when he passed me?
- 5 Q. Yeah. How long, how long before the crash did he pass you?
- 6 A. It had to be 10, 15 minutes probably. There was a little
- 7 | way, you know.
- 8 Q. Anything unusual about the bus when it passed you that you
- 9 noticed?
- 10 A. It was going a pretty good speed. You know, I don't -- there
- 11 was no way to judge in how -- but he just walked right on by.
- 12 Q. How fast are you going?
- 13 A. I was going roughly 65 to 70 on there.
- 14 O. 65 to 70.
- 15 A. Yeah. It was -- the road right there was, it was all right.
- 16 I remember thinking that, you know, there was no snow and no rain
- 17 or nothing like that at that area.
- 18 Q. Did you, did you encounter ice, or -- did you encounter icy
- 19 roads any time?
- 20 A. Not icy roads, no.
- 21 Q. How about wet?
- 22 A. Yeah. Yeah. It was -- I'd run into snow, you know. Before
- 23 | the crash --
- 24 Q. This is a snow squall?
- 25 A. Yeah, a squall. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Little squalls here and

- 1 | there, but --
- 2 Q. So when -- leading up to the crash, what vehicles were
- 3 traveling ahead of you?
- 4 A. Well that bus that passed me. The other UPS truck. I would
- 5 pass him going up a hill because I was so light, you know. Going
- 6 up the hills, I would pass him. And then coming down, he would be
- 7 | heavier, so you know, he would go on. And we were side by side
- 8 for a, for a minute or a couple minutes, you know, and then it
- 9 started going down the hill, and then --
- 10 Q. Did you know him?
- 11 A. No, I didn't know those drivers. I've seen them probably,
- 12 you know. I remember the week before -- my partner saw the guy's
- 13 picture, one of the guys' pictures, and he says, yeah, we saw him
- 14 | at Louisville, Kentucky, the week before that.
- 15 Q. So when you're on the road like that, you have no way of
- 16 | communicating with the other truck?
- 17 A. No, we didn't. No, I didn't. Because we always have the
- 18 other guy when somebody's sleeping, so we always just leave the CB
- 19 off just out of respect for the other guy sleeping.
- 20 Q. I understand.
- 21 A. And then, like, if we come up to a traffic jam, we'll turn it
- 22 on low, because to find out if it's an accident, or sometimes just
- 23 | construction. Somebody will say, yeah, you know, the left lane
- 24 has opened up or whatever. You know, and then we just move over
- 25 in the left lane, but --

- 1 Q. And so -- but leading up to the crash, you said the UPS truck
- 2 was in front of you.
- 3 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 4 Q. How far ahead of you was it, was he?
- 5 A. He wasn't that far ahead. Because when we came down around
- 6 the corner, he was ahead of me a little bit. But I seen him
- 7 | crash. You know what I'm saying? I saw him hit something. I
- 8 didn't know what it was because it was complete darkness.
- 9 Q. So did you see, did you see any other trucks involved in the
- 10 crash?
- 11 A. No. No.
- 12 Q. So the only truck you saw --
- 13 A. The only truck I saw at first, when coming around the corner
- 14 there, was the UPS truck. I saw him hit something, you know, and
- 15 | you could just tell that he hit it, and parts of the truck went
- 16 | flying. And then the trailer started jackknifing, started sliding
- 17 around. And then it went dark, because they pulled the cord out.
- 18 | So all his back lights went out. So now it's totally dark. Just
- 19 what I got on my headlights.
- 20 Q. Okay. Did you see another car?
- 21 A. I didn't see the car until I was beside them, until I said,
- 22 oh, I don't want to hit the trailer, back into the trailer. And I
- 23 just drove off to the side into the bank. And when I -- my
- 24 | headlight -- when I turned like that, then my headlights picked up
- 25 | the white car. I don't want to hit him either, so I steered to

- 1 | the right a little bit more. By then, I was, like, into the mud,
- 2 you know, the dirt and mud or whatever. Because it was real quick
- 3 like that. And so it was kind of pushing me that way, and I'm
- 4 trying to fight it going that way. But when it stopped, I looked
- 5 down there and I seen they were okay.
- 6 Q. And you were operating a Freightliner, correct?
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. You know what year it was?
- 9 A. That one -- this is '20. Maybe '18?
- 10 Q. Is that the same truck you, truck you always operate?
- 11 A. Um-hmm. That's it for us. Me and, me and Jerry, we put our
- 12 stuff in there. Microwave, refrigerator. And we keep all our
- 13 clothes in there, you know --
- 14 Q. So you can --
- 15 A. -- whatever we want to travel with.
- 16 Q. Okay, cool. And what kind of transmission is in the truck?
- 17 A. That one is an automatic that you can use it as an automatic
- 18 or you can use it as -- you can shift it too.
- 19 Q. Which manual -- which mode do you use it in?
- 20 A. I use it automatic. I'm tired of -- I'm done. I don't need
- 21 | the standard vehicles anymore. I've done my leg, you know, the
- 22 clutch.
- 23 Q. Any crash avoiding technology on that truck that you're aware
- 24 of? Is it, like, say, emergency braking, automatic emergency
- 25 braking or anything like that?

- 1 A. Oh, you mean like the new systems that they got out into the,
- 2 in the trucks? Yeah.
- 3 Q. It does?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Have you ever, have you ever experienced it come on before?
- 6 A. Oh, yeah. And when that comes on, it hits hard.
- 7 Q. Explain that to me. How does it feel? I mean --
- 8 A. On the front, okay, they have a radar thing, all right? It
- 9 measures the distance between you and the car behind -- in front
- 10 of you, the vehicle in front of you. It will set off an alarm if
- 11 | it's too close. And that --
- 12 Q. What's that alarm look like? I mean, is it a sound or is it
- 13 a light?
- 14 A. Yeah, it's a buzzer, and it will say, collision alert.
- 15 Q. Is that on the dashboard so --
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 O. So does it, like, read into --
- 18 A. Yeah, it'll come up, you know, like, on your -- where your
- 19 | speed is and all that. It'll come up on that screen. It will
- 20 say, collision alert. I'm sorry. Lost train of thought there for
- 21 a second.
- 22 Q. That's all right.
- 23 A. It'll say that. And then, and then if it -- sometimes it'll
- 24 hit the brake --
- 25 Q. For you.

- 1 A. -- for you. Personally I don't like that, but that's --
- 2 Q. And so when that happens, is it, is it -- are there any
- 3 consequences from your job? Here's what I mean. Some companies,
- 4 | not necessarily trucking companies, but some companies, they'll
- 5 have equipment on the vehicle that monitors how the vehicle
- 6 operates. So if it senses a hard braking or if the automated
- 7 braking thing comes on, they get, you know, they get penalized for
- 8 | it in some way. Is that the -- is that your experience with UPS?
- 9 A. You mean if you, if you --
- 10 Q. If the, if the automatic braking comes on.
- 11 A. Oh, if it comes on? No. No, they say that's what it's on
- 12 there for, you know. But you know, they -- you know. Sometimes
- 13 what it is, is cars will cut you off. You know how cars -- you
- 14 know, they'll try to get around a truck and they're too close
- 15 anyway, and that'll set that off, you know. And then you're just
- 16 driving along. He decides, I'm coming over and I'm taking that
- 17 exit right there. So he'll cut you off, and then the alarm will
- 18 go off, you know, but --
- 19 Q. So after the crash, anything -- tell me what you, tell me
- 20 what you saw. Tell me what happened.
- 21 A. After the crash, we were sitting like this. You know, I
- 22 double checked to make sure Jerry was okay in the back, you know.
- 23 And he had opened the curtain, goes, what's going on? Because now
- 24 | the truck is sitting on a slant and he's trying to get dressed.
- 25 | It's like, hey, you know. But he says -- I said -- he thought I

- 1 just went off the road. And I said, no, there's a whole bunch of
- 2 us here. And there was a car down there, and I looked down there.
- 3 And they turned the dome light on inside, and they were getting
- 4 their stuff out of there. You know, putting their stuff together
- 5 and climbed out the windows on passenger doors. Rolled down the
- 6 | windows. If you're going to buy a car, buy a Mercedes. You
- 7 | got -- that poor car got hit by two trucks, and all they did was
- 8 roll down the window and climbed out.
- 9 Q. Wow.
- 10 A. But anyway --
- 11 Q. So one thing else I did forget to ask you about, your CDL
- 12 medical. When was the last time you had that done?
- 13 A. September.
- 14 Q. September of 2019?
- 15 A. Yeah, just past September.
- 16 Q. Just past September? Now how long was it, was it valid for?
- 17 A. Good until next September.
- 18 Q. So you get a year?
- 19 A. A year. I get, I get a year because I got -- I take blood
- 20 pressure pills. So if you take medicine from a doctor, you have
- 21 | to do it once a year. Otherwise it's once every 2 years.
- 22 Q. I can't think of anything else I would like to talk about.
- 23 Is there anything you know of that you think might be of interest
- 24 to me about the crash?
- 25 A. Not that I -- I don't think of anything.

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MR. BRAGG: Okay. The time is 2:44 p.m. I will conclude the
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 2
    interview. Thank you very much for participating.
 3
         (Whereupon, at 2:44 p.m., 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 MOUNT PLEASANT

TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

JANUARY 5, 2020

Interview of Peter Carle

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH002

PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE: January 14, 2020

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.

Eileen Gonzalez

Transcriber