



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Witness and Good Samaritan Interviews

Randolph, NH

HWY19MH010

(96 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION *

RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE * Accident No.: HWY19MH010

JUNE 21, 2019 *

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Interview of: TAD DUARTE - PART A
Jarheads Motorcycle Club Member
Witness

Via Telephone

Monday,
July 1, 2019

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Interview of: TAD DUARTE - PART A
Jarheads Motorcycle Club Member
Witness

Via Telephone

Monday,
July 1, 2019

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of Tad Duarte:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

INTERVIEW OF TAD DUARTE

1
2 MR. DUARTE: -- Mack was on my right road guarding. And I
3 remember, as we pulled out, taking a left, I looked in my rear
4 view mirror to make sure Big Mack was coming up on my right, which
5 we was. And exact -- all within -- this all happens in seconds.
6 You know, when you tell a story, it sounds like it happens 10
7 minutes, but, I mean, it all happens in seconds.

8 So as soon as I took my eyes off my rear view mirror to make
9 sure Big Mack was clear coming up, back up on my right -- because
10 I started it out on the right-hand side and I moved immediately
11 over to the left because I like to be on the left side.

12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I like to avoid all those storm drains and all the sand and
15 all the edge of the road, where the road and the tar meet.
16 Sometimes I find that dangerous over there.

17 Q. Sure, sure.

18 A. But I moved myself over to the left lane immediately and made
19 sure that Big Mack was coming up on my right. And as soon as I
20 took my eyes off the mirror to clear myself from Big Mack, and I
21 looked forward, what all happened in the exact one moment, the
22 truck was coming across the center line taking the middle of the
23 pack out with his truck, and immediately on impact, I'm guessing
24 from the fuel tanks exploding from the motorcycles --

25 Q. Right.

1 A. -- igniting with the hot engines, everything was a wall of
2 fire, immediately. Before the truck even cleared out of the road
3 and came to a stop in the ditch, it was already a wall of fire.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It was on impact.

6 Q. Right. Yeah, from the gas tanks most likely. You are
7 correct. Yeah.

8 A. Yep. Yeah. And the first thing I did was to avoid, was to
9 veer to the left, because I couldn't go straight or to the right
10 because that's where all the action was going. So I just veered
11 to the left. And I remember Hayward being right in front of me,
12 Doug, and we both veered to the left because I have photographs of
13 -- as soon as it happened, first thing I did was I called -- first
14 thing I did, as soon as I got off the bike, I said to my wife, are
15 you okay? She was. I shut the bike off right there on the -- in
16 the lane with the opposite direction coming at me on the edge of
17 the tar, and I immediately pulled my phone out to call 911.

18 And I remember not being able to do nothing because I had
19 leather gloves on and the push button thing wouldn't work. So I
20 had to rip my gloves off to make the phone call. And I made the
21 call to 911 to let them know where we were, what we have. And
22 once I cleared myself with 911, I told them, I said, I'm hanging
23 up, I need to go assist.

24 So I hung up, and while I had my phone in my hand at that
25 exact second, I don't know why, but I just started taking pictures

1 of everything laying all over, the bodies, the truck on fire. I
2 just took about a half a dozen pictures real quick.

3 And then I put the phone into my pocket, and then I went
4 straight to the first one. And I'm not exactly sure who it is
5 that was -- the deceased under the trailer, that was pinned in the
6 back axel of the trailer under his bike. That was -- I'm not sure
7 if that was Fritz?

8 Q. Yeah, I couldn't tell you. I haven't seen those reports yet.

9 A. Okay. All right. Because Danny Boy was to my left. I don't
10 know how his body was to the left and everybody else's body was on
11 the right. My guess was, is that when the truck came through, the
12 truck came across, dragged two bikes into the ditch, all on fire,
13 and there was three people, being Taz and his wife, were pinned in
14 the fire, and the female -- what was her name Desma?

15 Q. Desma Oakes, yes.

16 A. Yeah, I think she was pinned in the fire also. And -- Desma
17 was with Aaron, right?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Okay. And Aaron's body -- and I'm not sure if that Aaron's
20 body or Fritz's body underneath the trailer. I never really spoke
21 to anybody exactly to find out which one that was under the
22 trailer because the -- it was either Desma -- it was either Aaron
23 or Fritz or -- and whichever one the opposite was, the other one
24 was dead between the tree and the truck on the hill, also.

25 Q. Oh, okay.

1 A. And then you had Danny Boy, who was not dead on impact. They
2 were trying to give him CPR on the left-hand side of the road, up
3 on -- in the grass. And --

4 Q. Somehow Big Lou escaped out of there.

5 A. Big Lou went over the handlebars, because he was right behind
6 Danny. The way I have it, the way I remember it, it was myself,
7 Doug Hayward, Lou, and then Danny.

8 Q. Right. Okay.

9 A. That's how I remember it.

10 Q. Yeah, and you were on the inside.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. Yeah, and with those names I just mentioned --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- were all on the inside in front of me.

16 Q. Right, right.

17 A. Because the pictures I have shows you all those bikes laying
18 down in that order. And --

19 Q. Would you be able to send me some of those photos? I'm sure
20 you probably shared them with the State Police.

21 A. Yeah, I can send them to you. Just send them to the number
22 that I called you on?

23 Q. That'll be fine. Yeah, this is my cell phone.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Yes, sir.

1 A. All right. And, yeah, I can send you those pictures.
2 Because I know the second day we were there, the State Police, a
3 plainclothes gentleman came --

4 Q. Detectives. Yeah.

5 A. -- and detectives took a recorded statement also and took
6 pictures of my pictures.

7 Q. Oh, okay. Yeah we haven't seen --

8 A. Because we couldn't --

9 Q. -- we haven't -- we've gotten written statements, but I know
10 they recorded some; we haven't gotten those yet.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Because, like I said, we kind of share information back and
13 forth. But I just -- so I never -- I wanted to get the spelling
14 of your name, your last name -- first and last name. Could you do
15 that for me, please?

16 A. Yeah, first is T-A-D.

17 Q. Tad. Okay.

18 A. Yeah, and then D-U-A-R-T-E.

19 Q. T-E, okay.

20 A. Yeah, Duarte.

21 Q. And your wife's first name?

22 A. Deborah.

23 Q. Deborah, okay. And this is a good contact number if I wanted
24 to call back and have any follow-ups?

25 A. Oh, yeah, this is a good number, yeah.

1 Q. Okay. Okay, sir. So you've given me a great description.
2 So you said pulling out you were probably only in second or third
3 gear?

4 A. Yep.

5 Q. When you looked up, and that's when you saw the truck had
6 come across --

7 A. The truck making contact, yeah.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Yeah. My guess is, is from what I've -- I've sat down and
10 went over this many a times --

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. -- and I put everybody's name down on paper, like as if we're
13 in the road and circled those that are deceased. And my guess is,
14 is the truck took out Fritz, Taz, and Aaron, and I think the
15 trailer whiplashed or fishtailed, if you want to call it, and took
16 out the rest of the people. I don't think the truck did all that
17 damage. Because there's -- the bodies are so far apart and then
18 different sides of the road, that that's my guess from what I can
19 look at on paper and from what I visually saw.

20 Q. Right. Yeah, I haven't, like -- again, I haven't gotten
21 those documents. I haven't seen those yet. But I know they have
22 sketches and the diagrams and all that of, I'm sure, the post-
23 crash.

24 A. Yeah, yeah. And Woody being the president, he was dead on
25 site. I mean, his brain was in the road and he lost a leg.

1 Q. That's horrible.

2 A. Yeah. And then his body --

3 Q. Are you doing okay from this, sir? Are you doing okay?

4 A. Yes. The first few days were tough. I mean, I think the
5 part that really, really bothered me the most was that I had
6 stopped and let all those folks in front of me and it should have
7 been the other way around. I should have been where they were.

8 Q. Oh, right. Yeah.

9 A. So that's the part that I was trying to swallow, you know.

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. Thinking, man, I just put these people in their grave by
12 being the gentlemen and letting them in front of me. And that's,
13 you know, and I -- but, you know, what if -- you know, it's one of
14 those things, what if, could've, you know?

15 Q. Yeah, right. Yeah, would a, could a, should a.

16 A. Yeah. But you never know, you know. You don't know this is
17 going to happen, so --

18 Q. Right.

19 A. So, but I'm feeling better. And what gets me to, what gets
20 me through this is actually, you know, speaking to people. I
21 don't want to -- I don't like to bottle it up, you know.

22 Q. How about your wife? Is your wife doing -- is your wife
23 doing good too?

24 A. She's doing better. Yeah, she took I it hard. Yeah, she's
25 doing better. Yeah.

1 Q. Yeah. Okay.

2 A. She's doing better.

3 Q. Well, I'd ask for a statement from -- I'm sure she'd probably
4 tell me pretty much everything you did, or would she have anything
5 more to add?

6 A. No, I think she saw exactly what I saw. Because, you know,
7 we were both looking the same direction at the same time, saw the
8 same thing. When she got off the bike, she saw the first body
9 underneath the trailer, and then said, that's all she could take
10 and then she went back down the hill. She said, I can't see this;
11 I got to get out of here.

12 Q. Right, right.

13 A. And so I said go, go.

14 Q. So was that (indiscernible).

15 A. Because I had to -- I wanted to -- I went to assist. No she
16 just went down the hill a little further where all the people were
17 gathering that were in the cars behind us and --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And then, Woody, the president, for some reason, his wife
20 stayed back at the cabins.

21 Q. Okay. At the cabins, yeah.

22 A. So if she would have been on the bike with him, and who knows
23 what would have happened to her, you know?

24 Q. Right, right.

25 A. So, and then we had three bikes that were at the hotel, the

1 cabins also. One guy couldn't get his bike to start so he didn't
2 go.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Another guy's wife was feeling ill, so he said, you guys go
5 ahead, I'm going to stay with her, she's not -- feeling ill. And
6 another one of our presidents of a chapter, he was inside taking
7 an insulin shot, and we didn't realize it that he was inside and
8 we took off without him, and he missed out going.

9 Q. Oh.

10 A. So there's three more bikes that should have been -- should
11 have been, could have been in that accident.

12 Q. Yeah. Oh, my gosh.

13 A. So, and then the rest of the group was coming in. They got
14 there about a half hour after the accident. So they were running
15 late. So if they would have been there on time, we would of had
16 more bikes. And who knows who would have been in what position,
17 but --

18 Q. Right.

19 A. Again, it's that thing is, well, what if we left 30 seconds
20 earlier or 30 seconds later?

21 Q. Right.

22 A. But you don't -- you can't control that.

23 Q. So when you said when your first group pulled out from the, I
24 guess, the further west point, and then you let the other group
25 in, how many bikes would you estimate you let in?

1 A. Oh, six to eight.

2 Q. Okay. And those would have been probably the first six or
3 eight bikes that are up towards the front, ahead of you?

4 A. It would have been --

5 Q. Woody, Rib, Demon, Hard Charger, Danny?

6 A. No. No, Woody and Demon and Manny and Hooker were in front
7 of me from the get-go. I think Dawn was already in front of me.
8 The ones that I let in front of me was Danny Boy, Lou, Desma.
9 Aaron, Fritz, Taz, because those were all staying in the same
10 group of cabins.

11 Q. Cabins? Yeah, okay.

12 A. Yeah, so that's -- those are the ones that I let in front of
13 me.

14 Q. Right, okay.

15 A. And the majority of them are gone.

16 Q. Well, I hate to have to put you through this. I appreciate
17 you giving me a call back and giving me all the details
18 (indiscernible) --

19 A. No, I mean, anything we can. I mean, I hate to say this, but
20 I'd like to see justice, you know, on our part from the guy that's
21 like, you know, at fault for making this happen. You know?

22 Q. Right.

23 A. I'm hoping, you know, he gets --

24 Q. Oh, he's going to be doing some hard time, I'm sure.

25 A. I hope so.

1 Q. Yeah, I don't see how he's going to get out of that.

2 A. And I don't want to say that about somebody, but I mean, he
3 really put a -- he really made a mess of people's lives.

4 Q. A lot of people's lives, yep.

5 A. You now, so -- and then the, let's see, it was Demon, he was
6 the one, his leg was mangled. That's the one we put a tourniquet
7 on his leg because he was losing so much blood he was turning
8 white.

9 Q. Right. Yeah.

10 A. That's the one that they sent in a helicopter.

11 Q. Right. Yes.

12 A. And Lou went to the hospital. He came back the next morning.

13 Q. Yeah, for being hit, he was a pretty lucky individual.

14 A. Yeah. I'll send you some pictures and if, by chance, you
15 need to call back and talk more about the pictures in front of
16 you, you know, sometimes when you see the picture in front of you,
17 you can ask more questions.

18 Q. Yes, sure, get a description.

19 A. You know, for example, where I was sitting, parked my bike,
20 you'll see Doug's bike is to my left. Then you'll see a red one
21 laying down; that was Lou's. And the next one in front of that,
22 yellow, all mangled up, that was Danny Boy's.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then you'll see another one standing up a little further,
25 that was Big Mack's. And during the fire, he got it away out

1 of -- from the fire more, and he rolled it up further left, where
2 he was not really originally in the line. He just moved his bike
3 from the fire.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But, you know, again, I'll send you the pictures and if you
6 need to ask questions about the pictures in front of you, I can
7 help you out.

8 Q. Yeah, I can text you back and if you have a pen, I can give
9 you my email as well.

10 A. All right. I'm ready.

11 Q. Okay. It's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 A. G-O-V?

14 Q. Yes, G, as in government, short for gov.

15 A. All right, so [REDACTED]

16 Q. N -- for National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, as in
17 boy, yeah.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Board, [REDACTED] tor.

20 A. Okay. NTS, okay, NTS.gov.

21 Q. NTSB.gov.

22 A. Okay. Yeah, I got the B. Yeah, now -- NTSB.gov. Okay.

23 Q. Okay, sir. Well, I thank you very much for your time and
24 your description, and -- yeah, and if you do talk to any of the
25 other people that -- the guys and gals that were in the group and

1 want to give a statement, because I'm not getting callbacks. But
2 I understand, you guys -- it's been a pretty traumatic thing and
3 some people may not want to talk about it, so -- because most of
4 you -- I'm sure everybody's given a statement to the police
5 already, as well. So --

6 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. But, I mean, I don't -- I'd rather it be
7 passed on, the right information, you know, so --

8 Q. Sure. I understand.

9 A. So, and the only thing is --

10 Q. Okay --

11 A. -- the only thing different from what you're saying, is the
12 way I think the bikes are set up, but then again, you know, it was
13 so fast and chaos that I don't know -- everybody's story could be
14 different how who was where, you know?

15 Q. That's true, yeah. Yeah, there may be a couple people that
16 are maybe shuffled around, but I think -- yeah, I'm not sure, but
17 I appreciate the information you've given us.

18 A. Very good.

19 Q. Okay. Thank you, sir. God bless.

20 A. All right. You're welcome. Thanks.

21 Q. Bye-bye.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION
RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 21, 2019
Interview of Tad Duarte - Part A

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19MH010

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: July 1, 2019

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complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.


Deborah Dowling Sweigart
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Jarheads Motorcycle Club Member
Witness

Via Telephone

Monday,
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National Transportation Safety Board

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By Mr. Kaminski

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INTERVIEW OF TAD DUARTE

1
2 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

3 Q. What I was wondering is the -- I wanted to get the type of
4 bike you were riding, and if it has a windshield on there and --
5 why don't you just tell me that?

6 A. I was driving a 2002 Yamaha Road Star.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And it's a full-size bike with the side bags and crash bars,
9 and it has a full-size windshield.

10 Q. Okay. And then, well, how about, were you and your wife
11 wearing helmets?

12 A. Always.

13 Q. Okay, what type of helmets? Do they have the face guard or
14 any eye protection?

15 A. No. They're pretty much the three-quarter or half-open
16 helmets. DOT helmets though.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And, you know, because I have cold weather and warm weather
19 helmets and we were wearing the warm weather helmets.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And --

22 Q. Go ahead.

23 A. And definitely always, without a full helmet on you got to
24 wear, by law, you have to wear eye protection -- well, you know,
25 sunglasses or safety --

26 Q. Right, something --

1 A. -- riding glasses, yeah.

2 Q. Right, okay. And then how about gloves, a vest, pants,
3 boots?

4 A. I, myself, always wear riding boots.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I never ride in sneakers. I never ride in sandals like I see
7 some people doing. And I always wear jeans. I never wear a pair
8 of shorts when I'm riding. And I had -- we -- my wife had a
9 riding jacket on. I had a riding jacket on with my leather vest
10 on the outside of it. And I had leather riding gloves on.

11 Q. Okay. And then, that's what I was going to ask, the riding
12 gloves. And how about your wife? Does she wear any gloves?

13 A. I want to say on this particular ride, no, because it wasn't
14 as cold, but she could have had them on. I don't -- I want to say
15 no. I think I remember asking her, I said, are you going to put
16 your gloves on? I think she says, no, she says, we're just going
17 down the road; I'm not going to put my gloves on. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay. And, you know, another thing I forgot to ask you about
19 is, did you get any -- what kind of injuries did you sustain?

20 A. None. My bike -- we didn't go down at all. Nothing. No
21 injuries.

22 Q. You didn't go down. You were able to just hit the brakes?

23 A. No. Out of the 14, and I know you -- out of 14 or 15 bikes,
24 only 4 or 5 bikes remained at standing out of all those bikes, and
25 mine was one of them.

1 Q. Okay. And do you have ABS on yours?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. No.

5 Q. But you said you did have the crash bars on there. Okay.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And how about Big Mack, who was behind you? What type of
8 bike does he have; do you know?

9 A. His was the big Harley. If you saw -- did you get my
10 pictures?

11 Q. Yes. Yes.

12 A. Okay. I hope they're helpful.

13 Q. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I gave them to one of the
14 reconstruction guy.

15 A. Yep. Big Mack, I think there's the picture with -- where you
16 see the trailer, with the body under the trailer?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. That's Big Mack, I think -- that's Big Mack standing there
19 looking at the body with his hands on his hips.

20 Q. Yeah, yeah, okay.

21 A. And that's his bike, I think, standing -- I know that's his
22 bike right next to him.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then when you see Danny Boy's body in the grass on the
25 left and the blood --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- on it, that's Doug's bike right there, the first one, and
3 then Danny Boy's bike in front of that -- I mean that's Big Mack's
4 bike, the next one up. He moved it over because the fire got
5 intense.

6 Q. Oh, okay. Okay.

7 A. The yellow one that's all mangled-up, that was brand spanking
8 new. That was Danny Boy's. And Lou's was the red one, and just
9 to the right of the front of the yellow bike down, that was Mighty
10 Mouse, Dawn's bike, that she laid down.

11 Q. Yeah, there's two yellow ones on the right.

12 A. Yep. Yeah, the other good yellow one is Hooker's, him and
13 Pat's. They were on that one.

14 Q. Okay. Okay, right. Okay. Well, I appreciate your added
15 info. Yeah, we're, you know, interested in getting all the safety
16 gear and what your bike had on it, so I'm glad I -- were able to
17 get you, get ahold of you and get that information.

18 A. Yeah, like I said, you need any information, feel free to
19 text me or call me, and I'll help out any way I can.

20 Q. Awesome. I appreciate your help.

21 A. I don't know if everybody had a (indiscernible) --

22 Q. You broke up there. Yeah, you're breaking up. I guess
23 you're --

24 A. -- if you do have to have one on.

25 Q. You're breaking up there for a little bit. They don't have a

1 helmet law in New Hampshire.

2 A. New Hampshire.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Correct. Yeah, but I -- my wife and I wear one at all times.

5 Q. Great.

6 A. It's just that we're used to it because in Massachusetts you
7 have to have one, so --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. But -- and I'm not sure if, I'm not sure if Woody, the
10 president who died, had a helmet on not because, I mean, his brain
11 was in the road. I don't know if that would have made a
12 difference. I don't know.

13 Q. Right. Yeah, I don't how he got hit, you know, and how much
14 (indiscernible) --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. So -- okay, sir. I thank you very much for your added
17 information.

18 A. Okay. Very good.

19 Q. God bless. Take care.

20 A. All right, thank you. Yep.

21 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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Transcriber

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Jarheads Motorcycle Club Member
Witness

Via Telephone

Monday,
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I N D E X

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Interview of Michael McEachern:

By Mr. Kaminski

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INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL MCEACHERN

MR. MCEACHERN: -- just get on the phone, call 911, tell them we're, you know, about a quarter mile east of the hotel. I need ambulances. We need fire trucks.

I walked up to check on my friends and I saw Joanne, she was deceased, to the front right of the bumper. Fritz was deceased in front of the bumper. And my best friend, Aaron, and his girlfriend, they were in the woods, deceased.

The fire started. I was able to -- I tried putting -- I put Joanne out, and then I put Fritz out and covered them up with whatever I could. And then the truck basically caught fire from the fuel from the motorcycles. And then, you know, we just -- and I kind of did crowd control and tried to keep the spectators away from what was up on the berm and prevent pictures from being taken. And then once the truck was fully engulfed, I had to push everybody back about 100, 200 feet.

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

Q. Sure, sure.

A. And about 40 minutes later, I think the fire department showed up and they were able to put the fire out. You know, they -- then the state --

Q. Well, it wasn't 40-minutes. It probably seemed like 40 minutes.

A. Yeah. I don't know.

Q. Yeah. So --

1 A. It was a long time.

2 Q. Right. So let me kind of just go over this again. So you
3 guy kind of lined up to leave. And you're usually the tail gun,
4 you said, so you kind of pull out. And at that point, there
5 really wasn't any east/west traffic, but you just kind of go out
6 there any make sure everybody pulls out, and then you kind of
7 follow them up. And as you pulled up behind the group, that's
8 when you saw the impact, or you saw Woody up --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- getting up in the air, and then it just came through with
11 the trailer, through the middle of the group.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you think that was Aaron's bike that you saw exploded,
14 you know, truck hit it.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And afterwards, you went off the road and you kind of, kind
17 of covered up the people you saw were obviously deceased. And
18 then as the fire progressed, you just kind backed up from there.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Now what kind of -- I have seen most of the bikes, at least
21 the ones that the police impounded.

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. What kind of safety -- which one was you bike? It was
24 probably one of the ones I saw that was barely damaged, if it was
25 one of the ones that was --

1 A. No, mine -- my bike, I was able to -- when the truck caught
2 fire, and the state troopers started coming in and the emergency
3 vehicles, I was able to just turn my bike around and back it up.

4 Q. Okay. You didn't have to lay your bike down or anything?
5 You were able to stop in time?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Now do you have ABS on that bike?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. And what other kind of safety equipment you got? I'm
12 just wanting -- I mean, I'm trying to get this information from
13 everybody. What kind of safety equipment did you have on that
14 motorcycle? And which -- and like give me the make and model and
15 that.

16 A. Oh, it's a 2014 Street Glide Special. I mean, do you mean
17 like that comes with the motorcycle or like did we have first aid
18 kits or something like that?

19 Q. No, no, I'm not -- like did it come with a windshield? Did
20 it come with --

21 A. Oh, yeah, I got a windshield.

22 Q. -- crash bars on the side?

23 A. I have windshield, crash bar, foot pegs, the four-way
24 flashers, I put those on. I think that was about it.

25 Q. Okay. And then what type of equipment were you wearing at

1 the time? Safety equipment?

2 A. I was -- oh, my helmet.

3 Q. Is that with goggles or with a face mask?

4 A. Mine has a -- it's a full face modular.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And my wife had a three-quarter helmet on with a face shield,
7 clear face shield. Both of them have clear face shields on them.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Had my gloves on. I had my high-top sneakers, leather
10 sneakers on, jeans, T-shirt.

11 Q. Okay. And how about your wife, was she wearing any gloves
12 and -- other than the helmet?

13 A. She had jeans, a shirt. She doesn't wear gloves, no.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. She had jeans, a t-shirt.

16 Q. No boots or anything?

17 A. No, she wears boots. She had boots on.

18 Q. Okay. I'm just trying to get an idea of the safety equipment
19 that everybody's wearing, even though it's -- I know that New
20 Hampshire is a no helmet law, it sounds like everybody in your
21 group was wearing them.

22 A. Yeah, yeah, Woody, the president, he was adamant about it.
23 We had one of -- before I patched over to the club, one of the
24 other members had a severe accident and severe head trauma. And
25 I've seen a guy -- I saw a guy in Wisconsin with severe head

1 trauma, and I switched from a half helmet to a full face because I
2 didn't want that to happen to me.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. But Woody was adamant about making sure we all had helmets
5 on. But he couldn't force people to do it, so he just --

6 Q. Right.

7 A. -- he would give them a stare, and sometimes they would put
8 it on and -- you know.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. I always wore it when I was with him, so -- even though New
11 Hampshire's a -- I'm from Massachusetts, so I'm used to wearing a
12 helmet.

13 Q. Sure.

14 A. Even though I'm living in Nashua. So --

15 Q. Right, right. Okay. Well, I appreciate you taking the time
16 to give me a call back and give me a statement. I know, I think
17 I'm going to talk to Dawn Brindley. She's going to be calling
18 me --

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. -- in a little bit. And I think one of my colleagues was up
21 at the Rib's house, I guess over the weekend or maybe that was a
22 week ago. And there were several people there that he had talked
23 to that stopped by, that were in your group as well.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So I know he got to talk to -- I didn't get their names yet,

1 but I know there were several people there that he talked to.

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. But I do want to thank you again for -- and pass along my
4 condolences. I know that, you know, it sounds like you had a
5 pretty tight group with a lot of good patriots involved, so --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But I do want to thank you very much for taking time to give
8 me a call back, and to say God bless, sir.

9 A. Yes, sir. Thank you. I appreciate it.

10 Q. Okay. Bye-bye, sir.

11 A. Have a good day.

12 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION *

RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE * Accident No.: HWY19MH010

JUNE 21, 2019 *

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Interview of: CORINNE JENNINGS

Witness

Via Telephone

Friday,
June 28, 2019

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Corinne Jennings:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1

MR. KAMINSKI: Hey, Corinne Jennings?

2

3

MS. JENNINGS: Hi.

4

MR. KAMINSKI: Hi. This is Ron Kaminski --

5

MS. JENNINGS: Tag; you're it.

6

MR. KAMINSKI: I'm sorry I didn't answer the phone. I was driving and I just -- I was just driving back from the scene and --

8

9

MS. JENNINGS: Okay.

10

MR. KAMINSKI: So I'm back and I can talk safely now. So --

11

MS. JENNINGS: Okay. So I'm looking at a pull-off right up ahead, a parking area within --

12

13

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. I can wait.

14

MS. JENNINGS: Okay.

15

MR. KAMINSKI: No problem.

16

MS. JENNINGS: I pulled over and shopped for a little while after I called you, so you allowed for that.

17

18

MR. KAMINSKI: I'm sorry.

19

MS. JENNINGS: All right. Okay, putting my blinker on.

20

MR. KAMINSKI: Take your time.

21

MS. JENNINGS: All right. Now, I think -- okay. Great.

22

INTERVIEW OF CORINNE JENNINGS

23

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

24

Q. Okay. So why don't we -- spell your name out for me to make sure I got the right spelling.

25

1 A. C-O-R-I-N-N-E.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. J-E-N-N-I-N-G-S.

4 Q. Okay. So if you don't mind, I'm going to tape this so I
5 don't have to interrupt you while you're talking and then I'll
6 just have some follow-up questions -- if I have any follow-up
7 questions, I'll ask them when you're done.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. So I'm just looking to get, you know, a description of where
10 you were and what you saw. I believe you were behind the truck?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I was behind a car who was behind the truck. So second --

14 Q. Okay. So you were the second vehicle behind the truck?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay, go ahead.

17 A. Where do you want me to start? Like, when I left the
18 restaurant or -- I left the restaurant. I stopped for gas. I
19 turned onto Route 2. I set my odometer when I left the restaurant
20 because I was curious to know how far it was to where I stay in
21 Wilder (ph.).

22 So as we were going past that first truck route, the slow
23 truck lane, the car that was in front of me was beside me. We
24 were like going the same speed, you know, side by side for quite a
25 while. He was inching forward, and we looked over and we waved

1 and said, hi, and -- you know. So he, you know, finally was
2 ahead. When the road bottlenecked, I was in back of him. And
3 then when we came to the second truck lane, I stayed -- I went
4 over in the right and he stayed in the left, so he was, you know,
5 again, just a little bit in front of me. But then there, about --
6 in front of him, is when I noticed the truck when it was whipping,
7 the trailer was whipping. And my husband taught me how to drive,
8 you know, pull the 30-foot camper. He said if it ever gets
9 whipping, you lock your elbows and you go straight ahead. Don't
10 try to fight, try to catch it. So I did that (laughing) for him.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And I was like, come on buddy, come on buddy, pull it
13 together. And then it straightened out, so I was like, okay,
14 phew. And then I saw him weave again over the white line, and
15 then weave -- I don't know if out of his lane, but (indiscernible)
16 to the other side. But couldn't tell if he went over the yellow
17 line because the car in front of, you know, diagonally in front of
18 me was blocking my (indiscernible) --

19 Q. When you say the white line, are you referring to the outside
20 line or the center?

21 A. The outside, right side.

22 Q. Okay. Right. Okay.

23 A. Like, on -- yeah. And then, so the center line, I'm not sure
24 if he went over it, but sure swerved towards it. And I remember
25 saying --

1 Q. I'm kind of losing you here. I'm losing you.

2 A. Oh, I'm sorry.

3 Q. Oh, there you go.

4 A. That good?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. So when he was swerving or, you know, going from side to
7 side, I said out loud, I said, well, no wonder he was whipping,
8 you know, because he was doing that. And then the car in front of
9 me pulled over to the same lane in front of me and slowed right
10 down because, you know, he was kind of erratic up ahead. And so
11 instead of, you know, going around him, I just stayed in back of
12 him going slower. It was probably going 55, or -- and so that's
13 when I came, you know, up over the very -- that little knolled
14 area --

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. -- and the car in front of me slammed on his brakes, as did
17 I, because there was just fire balls. So I went around Steve,
18 pulled over, and called 911. And while I was calling 911, the
19 truck was still moving and hitting.

20 Q. Okay. So there was a fire ball initially --

21 A. There were --

22 Q. -- right off the bat, and then it continued all the way till
23 he finally stopped?

24 A. Yeah. You know, I think -- I'm not sure how many motorcycles
25 he hit because I had to look away to dial and, you know, just --

1 it was just -- I would just see fire and smoke, and then more fire
2 and smoke and debris. And then he went across the -- where he
3 ended up in the woods, his truck was on fire.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But his truck didn't blow up until the fire, you know, came
6 down further and further towards his -- the cab of his truck.

7 Q. Sure, sure.

8 A. And so that sat there and burned for a while, and the woods
9 started burning, and the motorcycles were, you know, done burning.
10 I'm sure it's just the gas tanks. I don't, I don't know.

11 Q. Yes. Yeah, exactly.

12 A. Ooh, I got to get out of the car. It's hot in here. You're
13 going to have come rescue me. (Laughing.)

14 Q. You okay?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. Take your time.

17 A. So, and then, then I was just there, you know. I got out of
18 the car after I called 911. Told them it was a dire situation.
19 Many motorcycles versus one truck. Lots of people around. You
20 need ambulances and you should probably get DHART in the air or at
21 least on standby. And then I -- and then they said, can you stay
22 on the line till I know somebody -- you know, how far are you?
23 And I was like -- or she asked where I was. I said I'm on Route
24 2, but I don't know where. And then I remembered that I set my
25 odometer. I said I'm 9.9 miles from Route 16 in Gorham. So then

1 she -- when she got people on their way, she let me hang up.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And then I just called my husband because he knew I just left
4 and, if he heard all those sirens, he would be panicky.

5 Q. Sure.

6 A. So I called him and then he came up and stayed with me. We
7 were there for a couple hours.

8 Q. Oh, you did -- you stayed on scene there for a couple hours?

9 A. Yeah, because they wanted my statement.

10 Q. Sure. Okay.

11 A. And I really wanted to give it them because I feel like the
12 car in front of me and myself, and maybe there was -- I think
13 there was a kid in back of us that gave a statement too.

14 Q. Yeah, I think there was three cars, yes.

15 A. But I just --

16 Q. I think you're correct.

17 A. I just needed them to know what I saw.

18 Q. Right. Very good.

19 A. So, yeah, I -- and, you know, I helped out for the, what
20 seemed like 3 hours of waiting for the ambulance, you know, just
21 gave my belt for a tourniquet, and I just kind of jumped around
22 seeing if I could do anything. I didn't really -- I didn't take
23 any pictures. I didn't really study anything. I just felt -- I
24 don't know.

25 Q. So are you -- do you have any medical training in your

1 background?

2 A. I do not.

3 Q. Okay. I was just wondering if you knew to get out a
4 tourniquet and things, or you used your belt for the tourniquet.
5 That's, you know, pretty quick thinking.

6 A. Well, it was actually the -- his friends was, his friend was
7 doing a tourniquet with his belt, and he said, my belt's not
8 working; somebody get me a tourniquet. And I said, here, try
9 mine.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah. And, you know, I just -- I mean, I'm kind of calm in
12 situations like that.

13 Q. Very good.

14 A. But --

15 Q. Okay. So let me just go over it real quick. You were about
16 two cars -- you were two cars behind the pickup truck.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You noticed that the truck trailer was kind of whipping side
19 to side.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You -- so you kind of laid back and the other car got in
22 front of you, and -- let's see -- you saw him go over the white
23 line a couple times. And then you noticed the car in front of you
24 hit the brakes or pulled -- oh, pulled in front of you. Then
25 you're going about 55, and then the car in front of you hit the

1 brakes. You saw a fire ball, and the truck kept hitting
2 motorcycles, and it went off the road into the woods and that's
3 when it started to really get on -- catch on fire.

4 A. Yeah. Yeah, it was --

5 Q. And then you called 911.

6 A. By the time it got to the trees, it was on fire. But it
7 burnt -- the whole thing burnt by the time they were able to put
8 it out.

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. I mean, it --

11 Q. Yeah. And then you called 911 and you called your husband.
12 You got out of the car, and when you called 911 you reported there
13 was many cycles involved versus a truck.

14 A. Yeah. And I said there were -- I told them there were lots
15 of bodies.

16 Q. Okay. Are you doing okay from this?

17 A. I feel like I am.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I've had a couple moments, but I'm -- I know that the fire
20 chief called Jack and said that they were having a debriefing, and
21 I have friends --

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. -- you know, I have a lot of friends who are, you know, that
24 are first responders and, you know, I talked to them and they're
25 like you got -- you just have to take advantage of any -- you

1 know, you should to call the town, see if they have any
2 debriefings. And I was like, I don't even know what that means,
3 you know.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. But --

6 Q. Did you get a chance to go to that? I think that was on
7 Monday?

8 A. Oh, there was one Monday?

9 Q. Yeah, I think there was one on Monday.

10 A. Oh, no, I didn't.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I was away for the week. You know, I had to head to Vermont
13 right after that. I didn't get in town until, like, quarter of
14 11.

15 Q. Sure, sure.

16 A. And then, then I was there till now I'm on my way back. But
17 he said that there might -- Jack thought he said this coming
18 week --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- they'd be having one. Do they usually do a couple?

21 Q. Well, I know they always do one. And it's possible, if not
22 everyone could make it, they may do a second one.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. I haven't talked to the chief. I know he just mentioned
25 having the first one.

1 A. Yeah. Okay.

2 Q. So -- okay. Well, you've given me a great description.

3 A. Best I could.

4 Q. And especially the part, you know, about the fireball coming
5 immediately after hitting the first bike, most likely.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then continuing, other bikes hitting. And you said you
8 saw another flash as well?

9 A. I thought -- yeah, I thought it was the truck blowing up.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. But then I realized it wasn't the truck blowing up. It was
12 the motorcycles.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And after that, after I saw that, and then as we were just
15 kind of running around, and I saw a man up by the truck in the --
16 beside the woods, I saw a body. So I was heading in that
17 direction to see if anybody checked him out, and then that's when
18 the truck blew up.

19 Q. Oh, okay.

20 A. So when -- as the truck was blowing up, people were just
21 yelling, get out of the way. They didn't know if, you know, does
22 have ammo in the truck? You know. So they didn't know what was
23 happening and it was starting to blow up and pop and everything.
24 So I just looked at somebody and said, did anybody check that
25 person? And he looked at me and said, yeah, he's gone.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So --

3 Q. Okay, so you just -- you stopped and you did help -- you
4 helped the one guy with the tourniquet, and did you talk to
5 anybody else or talk to the -- happen to talk to the truck driver?

6 A. I just gave a shit ton of hugs.

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. I talked to some of the victims. I didn't even -- I believe,
9 I believe I saw the truck driver climb out of the window.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. But I'm not -- I can't -- you can't quote me on that.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I just, it's just -- like, there were so many people running
14 around. And I looked at the truck to see if maybe -- you know,
15 just to make sure -- I don't know. I just didn't know where to
16 look.

17 Q. Right, right.

18 A. But it seems, though, I saw him coming -- I mean, do you know
19 if he opened the door or not, or -- I don't know. I'm not real
20 sure, but --

21 Q. I don't think so. I don't think the door was operational.

22 A. Okay. Because I just -- like for some reason, I feel like I
23 saw -- because I asked, did the truck driver get out? And he
24 said, yes. And then it dawned on me that I might have seen that
25 happen.

1 Q. Okay. Okay. Well, Ms. Jennings, I can't thank you enough
2 for giving me a call back and giving me such a good description.
3 And I really appreciate that you stopped and tried to help and did
4 what you could.

5 A. Yeah. It -- yeah. Never thought in my life I'd see
6 something like that.

7 Q. Yeah, and hopefully you never see anything like that again.

8 A. Never again, man. That's going to be my top, right there.
9 The end.

10 Q. Yes. Yeah.

11 A. Nothing worse.

12 Q. Okay. Well, you continue your safe drive, and I appreciate
13 you giving me a call back. And thank you for your cooperation.

14 A. Okay. All right. All right, great.

15 Q. Thank you. God bless.

16 A. Thank you for your work. Okay, bye.

17 Q. Bye-bye.

18 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

19

20

21

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION
RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 21, 2019
Interview of Corinne Jennings

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19MH010

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: June 28, 2019

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.


Deborah Dowling Sweigart
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION *

RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE * Accident No.: HWY19MH010

JUNE 21, 2019 *

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Interview of: STEPHEN PIWOWARSKI

Witness

Via Telephone

Wednesday,
July 10, 2019

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of Stephen Piwowarski:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1

MR. PIWOWARSKI: Hello.

2

3

MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, Mr. Piwowarski?

4

MR. PIWOWARSKI: Yes. This is him.

5

MR. KAMINSKI: Hi. This is Ronald Kaminski with the National
Transportation Safety Board.

6

7

MR. PIWOWARSKI: Hi there, Ronald. How are you today?

8

MR. KAMINSKI: Good. I appreciate you trying to get back to
me, and I'm sorry to bother you when you were out of the country.

9

10

MR. PIWOWARSKI: No, no, of course. I mean, you know, it's
important, so --

11

12

MR. KAMINSKI: Right.

13

INTERVIEW OF STEPHEN PIWOWARSKI

14

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15

Q. I just wanted to get -- I know you were a key witness there.
You were following the truck, correct, the first vehicle?

16

17

A. That's right.

18

Q. Okay.

19

A. That's right.

20

Q. So why don't we start, why don't you give me your first --
spell out your first and last name.

21

22

A. Sure. It's Stephen Piwowarski, S-T-E-P-H-E-N; Piwowarski is
P as in Peter, I-W-O-W-A-R-S-K-I.

23

24

Q. Okay. And you were -- you were the driver? You were
driving?

25

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Okay. And did you have you wife in the car with you?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Okay. And her name?

5 A. Her name is Anne Baron, A-N-N-E, B-A-R-O-N.

6 Q. Okay. And she was in the back seat; is that correct?

7 A. She was in the back seat, that's right.

8 Q. Okay. And so why don't you just give me a description of
9 when you first noticed something about this driver and just tell
10 me what you saw?

11 A. Okay. Sure.

12 Q. And if you don't mind, I'm going to tape this so I don't have
13 to interrupt you and I can just follow up with questions when
14 you're done talking.

15 A. That's fine with me. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay, great. Go ahead, sir.

17 A. Okay. So we had left Gorham -- well, passed through Gorham,
18 I should say, and going westbound on Route 2 outside of Gorham.
19 There are a couple overtaking lanes as you're going up hills.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. And, you know, I was -- I was two cars behind the truck and
22 trailer. And then at one of the overtaking lanes, I had passed
23 the car behind, behind the truck and trailer, so then I was the
24 car behind the truck and trailer.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I'm not sure exactly how far I -- I know when the state
2 police interviewed me, I gave an estimate but I believe, in
3 subsequently like driving that stretch of road again, that it's
4 actually further than I thought it was. I thought it was 3 miles
5 or something, but I think it's a little bit more like 5 miles.

6 Q. That you had passed or you had gotten behind him?

7 A. Yeah, that I had gotten behind him. So from that overtaking,
8 wherever the overtaking lane is, until the scene of the accident,
9 I was behind him. But it was not long after the overtaking lane
10 where I wound up behind him, that I noticed that his driving was
11 erratic, and I actually pointed out to my wife. We were, you
12 know, in the car. Like she was -- we have a 1-year-old, so she
13 was in the back seat with our 1-year-old, you know. And --

14 Q. Sure. And describe erratic, what do you mean by erratic?

15 A. So, good -- yeah, what I mean by erratic is both crossing the
16 white line into the shoulder and then the double yellow into the
17 oncoming lane.

18 Q. Okay. Was it because his -- was it because you think he was
19 just driving that way or was he having trouble controlling his
20 trailer? Or what --

21 A. Right, yes. So early on, you know, I said, whoa, I'm going
22 keep my distance from this fellow, like there's something not
23 quite right about his driving. And so I kept back a little ways.
24 But, at first, yeah, I thought it might have been his trailer
25 because it was an empty trailer.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. You know, he didn't have like a -- he didn't have a load on
3 the trailer. So it's like, well, maybe it's, you know, maybe he's
4 having some trouble keeping the trailer in line. But in watching
5 it, I think it was almost completely due to the driver, you know.
6 It was being guided by the truck.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. In other words, it was not being guided by something
9 happening in the back and him correcting in the front. It was
10 happening in the front and following through in the back, yeah.

11 Q. Got it. Okay. So you were following, you were going
12 westbound.

13 A. That's right, going westbound. And, you know, it got to the
14 point where I said, you know, I may just pull over and call the
15 police or something. But I never did, which --

16 Q. How far was he crossing over the oncoming lanes; do you
17 recall? Was he just a couple of feet? A foot? A couple feet?

18 A. Several feet. I'd say a third of a car length.

19 Q. Okay. Was there any near misses?

20 A. No, no. I mean, that was sort of the fortunate thing. There
21 was not a lot of eastbound traffic that I noticed.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So no, there weren't any near misses until the one that was
24 not a near miss, unfortunately.

25 Q. Right. And in that case, I guess he crossed over and he just

1 kept going; is that correct?

2 A. Yeah, and that was sort of the weird thing, right? You know,
3 so getting to exactly where the accident happened, the way it
4 works there is the road sort of -- going westbound, there's a
5 little bit of a crest. It's not like a steep hill or anything,
6 but it just comes to a point where the road crests and you can't
7 really see what's down over the other side.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And, you know, maybe like a small grade coming up eastbound.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. And, you know, it was just suddenly these bikes were in view
12 and he veered into the other lane, and just started taking out
13 bikes, you know. It was just really pretty, pretty bad.

14 Q. How fast were you going prior to, right before he crossed
15 over? How fast would you say you were traveling behind him?

16 A. I'd say between 55 and 60 miles an hour.

17 Q. Okay. And you think he was probably doing the same, about
18 the same?

19 A. Yeah, I don't -- I wouldn't say that he was going much faster
20 than that, no. My inclination is that he was probably going right
21 around the speed limit.

22 Q. Okay. Well, you know, I think the speed limit is 50.

23 A. Is it 50? I thought it was 55 in that section. Okay.

24 Q. I think everybody does.

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think that section everyone thinks is 55

1 and, I mean, I think because of the width of the road and the
2 condition of the road, people, you know -- I mean, I don't drive
3 that stretch like that often because I don't have much reason to
4 go over there.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. But having lived in a similar situation, with a road in a
7 similar situation in Vermont, you know, if the road appears to be
8 built for a speed limit, that's the one people choose, not the one
9 that is posted.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. You know what I'm saying?

12 Q. Yeah. So when the vehicle crosses over, do you recall seeing
13 how many bikes did the truck take out and how many bikes hit the
14 trailer? Do you have any kind of recall on that?

15 A. You know, it was -- because the bikes, you know, were
16 traveling as a group, and they had, I think -- they had really
17 just -- well, what learned afterward, they had just pulled out.

18 Q. Correct.

19 A. So they were grouped pretty closely together. So it was, you
20 know, almost hard to say exactly how many, you know, as it
21 happened, because it happens very quick. The bikes were
22 definitely all on their side of the road. There's no doubt about
23 that. The one thing I would say is that, you know, there may have
24 been a couple bikes early on -- well, I know there were a couple
25 bikes early on, that did -- you know, that passed unscathed

1 because they were, you know, they were towards the right side of
2 their lane.

3 Q. The outside lane, right.

4 A. Yeah, like the south side of the road.

5 Q. Sure.

6 A. So, you know, as he entered the lane, those bikes got by
7 unscathed. However, there were also plenty of bikes toward the
8 inside of the lane, and I'm assuming those were the first ones he
9 caught. But kind of getting back to the point of what I was
10 saying earlier is, you know, the really surprising thing was the
11 truck entered the lane and hit a bike and there was like no
12 corrective action whatsoever.

13 Q. By the trucker? By the truck driver?

14 A. Right, by the truck driver. It was just the truck continued
15 like pretty much on a tangential path across the lane. And I
16 think that's -- you know, had the trucker corrected and gone back
17 into, you know, gone back into his lane, many people -- you know,
18 there would still obviously have been some, you know, at least
19 injury, if not loss of life, but not to the extent that there was.

20 Q. Right. Yeah. Okay. And so then following the crash, was
21 there -- did you see fire right away? Was there explosions?
22 Describe what you saw when they hit and leading up to the final
23 rest.

24 A. Yeah, sure. So directly after, you know, after the -- after
25 everything came to a stop, there was a small fire in the truck.

1 And my wife and I have been talking about this, you know, it's
2 really unclear what the cause of the fire was. All we know is
3 that the fire was not fully involved, obviously, when the vehicles
4 came to a rest. So one thing we've been trying to figure out,
5 like, is what -- you know, like what was the cause of the fire?
6 What was the cause of ignition? And the only thing I can think of
7 is that one of the bikes -- so there were several bikes that got
8 pinned under the trailer.

9 Q. Truck and trailer? Yes. Yeah.

10 A. So that -- you know, like a gas tank got ruptured or
11 something like that.

12 Q. Well, I think you're right about that. That's a --

13 A. And then there were sparks or something, you know --

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. -- as the bikes got dragged, so --

16 One of the first things that we said to people was, you know,
17 we need a fire extinguisher, because it was small at that point.
18 But no one came with one so we weren't able to put the fire out
19 early on, unfortunately.

20 Q. So I take it, you pulled over to the side, your wife stayed
21 in the car and you got you got out and then tried to help or do
22 what you could?

23 A. Actually we both got out. We left Johnny, our son, in the
24 car with, you know, the doors open, the windows open. My wife is
25 a nurse -

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- so she immediately started doing -- like we both started
3 triaging victims and seeing, you know, who could be helped and
4 what could, you know, what could be done to assist people. You
5 know, several of -- you know, there were of course several bikers
6 who were unscathed that were fine, and they started doing the
7 same. We were all kind of working together. My wife wound up
8 doing CPR for about 25 minutes on one patient. I kind of was
9 coordinating with the cars, the other westbound car or -- yeah,
10 the other westbound cars, trying to see if there was any water,
11 blankets, you know, towels, that sort of thing.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. You know, water for people who were either in shock or were
14 injured, and then blankets to sort of cover things up. And also,
15 of course, see if there were any medical personnel who were
16 driving behind us.

17 Q. Right. Sure.

18 A. If they could help, yeah. So --

19 Q. Okay. So --

20 A. That was -- yeah.

21 Q. So you're thinking you got behind him, you think it was
22 farther than about -- you said you've driven it again since and
23 you were following him maybe --

24 A. Well -- right. So --

25 Q. -- for 3 miles prior to it, where he was driving erratically?

1 A. So when I drove back into town from, I guess, from the
2 accident, because, right, the road closed. So from Randolph,
3 where the accident site was, back into Gorham, I realized that,
4 oh, this is further than I thought it was that I was behind him.
5 So, yeah, I'm just not quite sure what that distance is.

6 Q. Okay. So it's more than 3 miles though?

7 A. Yeah, I'd say it's more than 3 miles.

8 Q. And, maybe 5 at most?

9 A. Yeah, I'd say about 5 miles.

10 Q. Okay. Yeah, and that's when you got behind him and that's
11 when you noticed he was going back and forth, and that you don't
12 believe it was from the trailer, you think it was just from his
13 steering going from --

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. -- outside lane to the double white line and out, going back
16 and forth like that?

17 A. Yeah. I mean, right -- you know, usually if there was like
18 any wind or anything like that, you would at least be aware of it.

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. And I know that that stretch of the road, because of the
21 mountain range there, can be windy, but I didn't detect any
22 noticeable wind on that day. I know it's different when you're
23 driving a trailer, but -- no, I think that this was -- you know,
24 what we did in the -- I work with railroad, and I would say that
25 this was a case of operator error. This was not, you know,

1 equipment malfunction or anything like that.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So, yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Well, you've given me a great description. I
5 appreciate it. And, you know, I probably I could get a statement
6 from you wife, but she's probably going to tell me pretty much
7 what you have told me. Correct?

8 A. Yeah, in fact, I would say not nearly as much. Only from the
9 -- for the simple fact that she was in the back seat.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. And she was, you know, focused on our boy, so --

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. She was like, you know, looking at what was going on with him
14 and stuff, and not necessarily as aware of what was going on, on
15 the road as I was.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Which I'm thankful for, that I was as aware of what was
18 happening, you know.

19 Q. Absolutely.

20 A. I think people that usually forget that. I've said to nearly
21 every person since the accident, you know, people have asked me
22 about it, they say, you know, do you think it was like a cell
23 phone or what do you -- you know, what do you think the cause was?
24 I'm like, look, I don't know, and I'm sure it will eventually come
25 to pass what the cause of the accident was, so it's all

1 speculation. But I will tell you, if I had been on my cell phone
2 when the accident happened, I might not have been as --

3 Q. Attentive?

4 A. -- you know, because -- attentive, right. It kills your
5 reaction time. So, you know, regardless of somebody having a
6 Bluetooth or, you know, whatever in their car, if you're engaged
7 in a conversation with somebody on the phone, you're not going to
8 be as aware as if you're just focused on your driving. So --

9 Q. Exactly, yeah. That's -- we're trying to get the word out,
10 you know. We've seen plenty of crashes involved with people using
11 their cell phones and things like that. So --

12 A. Yeah, I'm sure that, you know, like as far as rear end
13 accidents go, there are probably more rear end accidents now
14 because of it.

15 Q. Right. Yeah, yeah.

16 A. So --

17 Q. Okay. Well, sir, I thank you very much for taking the time
18 to give me a call back and give me your statement.

19 A. You're very welcome.

20 Q. Like I said, a lot of good detail. And I thank you for
21 stopping and try to help as much as you could. I'm sure the
22 motorcycle group was as well, you and your wife stopping to help.

23 A. Yeah. You know, it was really something to see, you know,
24 for the most part, people just jumped out of their cars, you know,
25 and, not just us, literally people from both directions just

1 jumped out of their cars and got right to helping.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. Which I think, you know, for the few people who were able to
4 be saved, probably made a big difference for them. So --

5 Q. Sure. Absolutely. Okay, sir. Well I thank you again, and
6 safe travels.

7 A. Yeah, thank you. Thank you so much. And if you need
8 anything else, just give me a call.

9 Q. Okay, sir. Thank you and (indiscernible).

10 A. You're welcome. Take care.

11 Q. You too, sir. Bye-bye.

12 A. Bye.

13 (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: TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION
RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 21, 2019
Interview of Stephen Piwowarski

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19MH010

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: July 10, 2019

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.


Deborah Dowling Sweigart
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION *

RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE * Accident No.: HWY19MH010

JUNE 21, 2019 *

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Interview of: JEFFREY PARKER

Good Samaritan

Via Telephone

Wednesday,
June 26, 2019

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Senior Survival Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. PARKER: Not many people refer to me as that, so you must
3 be the guy from the highway safety board?

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes, Ronald Kaminski with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board.

6 MR. PARKER: Okay.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Do you have a couple minutes?

8 MR. PARKER: I do. I am off the clock and just chilling.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Well, if you don't mind, I'm going to
10 record this so I don't have to interrupt you and you can just
11 talk, and then I'll have some follow-up questions when we're done.

INTERVIEW OF JEFFREY PARKER

12
13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Start with your first name is Jeff, Jeffrey?

15 A. Jeffrey, yeah.

16 Q. Okay. And Parker, P-A-R-K-E-R?

17 A. Correct. And my first name is spelled with a J not a G.

18 Q. Okay. Got it. And so I guess why don't you -- just talking
19 to Chief Horne, he said that he got a call directly from you.

20 A. Yep.

21 Q. And why don't you start from right before you called him,
22 where were you and -- and your position, I mean, you're with the
23 fire department as well as a volunteer, correct?

24 A. I am not.

25 Q. Oh.

1 A. I am kind of operating in a huge gray area.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Did you want me to start with what I -- with my affiliation
4 with fire? Is that what you want?

5 Q. Well, I guess I was just wondering, that's what I was --
6 that's what the chief told me. I guess I was -- so yeah, why
7 don't you tell me what your affiliation is?

8 A. Okay. My affiliation with fire is, I am one of the engine
9 bosses with the White Mountain National Forest. I'm a wildland
10 firefighter.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And I am, on top of that, I am third generation fire --
13 forest fire warden for the Town of Randolph.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I took that over from my mom, of all things, like 8 years
16 ago. And so that's my affiliation with the fire department, is
17 through the forest fire. So --

18 Q. Okay. I do recall him saying that, yes, you were with the
19 forestry service. Yes.

20 A. Yeah, so that's my affiliation with fire.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. As far as that afternoon goes, do you want me to just start
23 off from when I got to the scene?

24 Q. Yeah. Did you witness anything?

25 A. I did not witness the actual crash. I was the second person

1 on scene. The first person was not an emergency responder at all.
2 It was just a guy.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. He was calling 911, and I pulled up behind his car. I saw
5 the smoke. I saw him on the phone. I knew immediately something
6 bad was happening because that's a very bad corner. So I left my
7 family in the car. I ran up to him, and all I said to him was, I
8 said, 911? And he nodded. And so I proceeded my way into the
9 scene to see what was going on and if I could do anything to help
10 anybody.

11 Got into the scene, just saw the wreck, saw the truck
12 burning, saw the pile of motorcycles just down everywhere. And
13 immediately then, I was like, knowing the bad cell service of the
14 area, I ran over to the corner of the garage that was right by the
15 accident scene, the old garage that's there, knowing that there's
16 a little bit of cell service there, and called Dana directly
17 because I was -- I figured that just hearing the conversation that
18 that guy was having with 911, I figured that they had not
19 dispatched anybody yet. So I called Dana directly just to tell
20 him what was going on and where it was, to give him an actual
21 address, because, you know, with emergency response, a lot of time
22 you get like it's between this and this kind of thing.

23 Q. Yeah, he mentioned you were a big help giving an exact
24 location. Yes.

25 A. Yeah. Because, you know, the guy that lived there was -- is

1 a loose family member of both of ours.

2 Q. Right. Yeah, he mentioned -- yeah, right. Yeah.

3 A. So I was like, we're -- I'm at Allman's (ph.) house and this
4 is what's going on, you know, a truck fully engulfed in flames;
5 I've counted four, at least four dead bodies at that point. And
6 then got off the phone with him, and then called my town constable
7 and just told him where I was and what was going on, and then hung
8 up the phone with him, and then I ran back over to the scene to
9 try to find somebody that I could help.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And it was -- I mean, not that any part of this was a good
12 situation --

13 Q. No.

14 A. I was super bummed-out because I had just rolled through that
15 area a hour and a half before that with my wildland fire engine,
16 with the trauma kit, with good radio communication, with all the
17 stuff that I would normally need, dropped it at the ranger
18 station, and then picked up my family and went to go out to
19 supper, and I had absolutely nothing but a cell phone.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. So, yeah, at that point I just -- I found one person who was
22 down on the ground yelling all kinds of words that I couldn't
23 understand. And I tried to calm her down as best I could, you
24 know, so she wouldn't go completely off her rocker.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And not that anybody couldn't do that in that situation, but
2 at that point, that's when I realized what was going on. You
3 know, I realized that this group of motorcyclists had been run
4 over at that point. Like I didn't know what really had happened
5 at that point. I just knew that there was dead bodies, I knew
6 there was something going on, but then I realized -- I realized
7 the gravity of the situation at that point, that there was
8 multiple -- more dead bodies than what I had initially counted.

9 You know, the truck at that point was almost fully engulfed
10 in flames. I mean, it was -- like the cab was burning and it was
11 starting to burn the bed. And then I asked somebody, I asked
12 somebody who was there, one of the motorcyclists, I was like,
13 where's the driver of the truck? And he said, he's over by the
14 garage. And I said, is he conscious? And he said, yes. So I ran
15 over and saw him, and at that point he was going through all kinds
16 of shit, you know, shaking, you know, obviously crying. I think
17 all kinds of his own things going on.

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. And so once I realized that, you know, he wasn't suffering
20 any physical trauma, I then left and went back to try to help more
21 with the people that were suffering physical trauma.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And, you know, like I said, it was -- it's hard for me to
24 recall all of it, because it was all happening so fast. It was
25 so --

1 Q. Oh, I understand. I can understand that. Sure.

2 A. It was so incredibly fast paced that, being a wildland
3 firefighter, I am not used to that kind of a scene. Like I'm used
4 to more like, the woods are on fire.

5 Q. Sure.

6 A. Let's get at it.

7 Q. Yeah. You're not dealing with people, or bodies --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- I should say.

10 A. Yeah. I mean, in some cases I have, and I do, but not to
11 that degree. You know, like, not that many, not that much fire,
12 not that much carnage, not -- you know. One of the things that
13 was really, I was having a hard time with, was there was a
14 motorcycle there that still had the stereo blaring on it, and that
15 was a super distraction to me because I just couldn't get that out
16 of my head, you know what I mean, like it was just like, wow. And
17 so somebody shut that off, thankfully, and -- you know, so then I
18 did what I do with wildland firefighting because you always divert
19 to your training, and I went -- well, like I said before, I
20 counted the number of dead bodies, I got a rough description of
21 what was going on, called the person that I thought was going to
22 be the incident commander, told him what was going on, and then
23 inserted myself in the situation and try to help as best I could,
24 you know, and -- so then I started looking at people that were
25 down on the ground, like how can I help somebody, you know.

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. And at one point I looked to my left and there was a guy that
3 had his head broken in half and there was a brain sitting beside
4 me on the ground. And then I looked and there was a dismembered
5 leg over here, but the rest of the body looked like the guy might
6 still be alive. And then I went over and it didn't -- he wasn't
7 breathing. And, you know, so I just was just basically going down
8 the line trying to find somebody that I could do something for.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. There was not many patients there. There was a lot of bodies
11 there. And, you know, the people that were moving, were moving,
12 you know what I mean? They're up and about and they were moving,
13 but the ones that were down, generally speaking, weren't going to
14 make it.

15 Q. Were down, yeah. Okay.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. And so then, that to me, it calmed the situation down in my
19 head because I knew there wasn't anything I could do for those
20 people, you know. And so then I started to focus on trying to
21 make sure that people -- at that point I started to focus on
22 trying to make sure that people stayed out of the scene, which was
23 a huge challenge because there was no law enforcement there at
24 that point and people were just filtering in.

25 Q. Trying to help, thinking they can help or trying to help.

1 Sure.

2 A. Trying to help or taking pictures or --

3 Q. Oh, my gosh.

4 A. You know, one guy was walking around with a baby that was
5 probably a year and a half old, maybe not even that old. Then
6 later on in the accident, there was a family that just walked
7 through --

8 Q. Oh, my gosh.

9 A. -- because they wanted to. And it was a mom, dad and a kid.
10 It was a mom, dad and an 11-year old kid. And they just walked
11 through.

12 Q. Oh.

13 A. The kid was hiding his face in his father's back the whole
14 way. I mean, he did not want to see this.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. But his parents, for whatever fucking foolish reason, decided
17 they wanted to walk through this accident. I don't want to see
18 what I saw.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. But I did see it. I can't imagine putting my child through
21 that.

22 Q. No, I can't either.

23 A. But, yeah, it's just a really bad section of road. You know,
24 that little piece right there is just really shitty. And when
25 Allman was still alive, the man that owned the homestead there, he

1 called me years ago and was like, you ought to come over and learn
2 stuff from me; I'm getting old. And I'm like, okay. And I went
3 over and I pulled into his driveway. He's like first thing you're
4 going to learn is never pull in my driveway ever again. He's like
5 always pull into my mother's old driveway over here. Do not use
6 this driveway. This driveway isn't safe. Somebody's going to get
7 killed here.

8 Q. Oh, because there's kind of a blind curve there or something?

9 A. Well, I mean, think about it, you know, from like the
10 construction of the highway, to the east of there you've got a
11 straight flat road that people can go fast on it and to the west
12 of there you've got a straight flat road that people can go fast
13 on it, but you have that one section right there in the middle
14 that is kind of an S-turn with a hill in the middle of it. And
15 people come into it going fast because that's what they're use to,
16 and they hit that S-turn, then they hit that hill, and given the
17 time of day this whole thing went down, the sun is blinding when
18 you're headed west.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Because the setting sun follows the path of Route 2 this time
21 of year, and so when you come around that corner and you go over
22 that little rise, you hit the sun, wham, right in your face.

23 Q. And that would have been for the truck driver or that would
24 have been for the motorcyclists?

25 A. The truck. For the truck.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. The motorcyclists were headed east. Then they wouldn't have
3 experienced that. That would have been the truck. And the only
4 reason I bring that up is because the very first thing I thought
5 when I saw that truck driver was like, that kid's 21-years old or
6 something, he was texting while driving. That was my first
7 prejudiced -- that was the first thing that came into my mind.

8 Q. Yeah. Yeah.

9 A. And then I said to myself, self, remember when you were
10 commuting from Lancaster to Randolph? I mean Lancaster to Guam
11 all the time to work at the ranger station? On the motorcycle,
12 commuting that road every day? Late spring/early summer and then
13 late summer/early fall, I would change my work schedule by 1 hour,
14 and I would go into work an hour earlier and take off an hour
15 earlier so I wouldn't be in that rising sun in the morning --

16 Q. Oh, okay.

17 A. -- and then the setting sun in the evening, because that
18 corner and that whole section of Route 2, it's right in the path
19 of the sun and it's really hard to see.

20 So I can see how this accident could happen, you know, just
21 looking at it from a completely objective point of view and not
22 thinking above all the death and the carnage and everything. But
23 just seeing that truck coming up over that rise, on an unfamiliar
24 road, you know, not taking the corner like he should have and
25 causing this huge catastrophe. So --

1 Q. Yeah, I know one of our guys are -- went out and took a look
2 at that, and I'm not sure he went up to that hill, but I have to
3 mention it to him. I know he was at the scene checking out the
4 sun's position just at that time, and I think he went there on
5 Sunday or something, but --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But I'll have to mention to him that maybe go up to that hill
8 and might be sun --

9 A. Yeah, it's just like pretty much right, when you're at the
10 scene -- have you been to the scene?

11 Q. No, I have not, believe it or not. I came in from Portland
12 and I'm here at Littleton, and --

13 A. I'm assuming Portland, Maine, not Portland, Oregon?

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Yeah. Well, I drove in from Portland, Maine, yes.

17 A. Yeah. So that spot on Route 2 was the Farrar (ph.) Farm.
18 And when they initially moved Route 2 in the 1960s they tore down
19 the barn of the farm and they built the gray building that's still
20 there as the replacement for that barn, as -- you know, through
21 the eminent domain process.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And so pretty much the driveway, like when you're coming from
24 the east to the west and you're on Route 2, and you go -- when
25 you're pretty much at the driveway of the big garage -- it's a big

1 gray building with, I think, four bays under it, four-bay
2 garage --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- the driveway to that building is basically right at the
5 top of that rise. And it's not much of a rise, but it's enough to
6 where, like, you're coming towards it, you're kind of shaded from
7 the sun, it's no big deal. You get to the top of it, wham; it
8 hit's right there in your face.

9 Q. And what's the speed limit there?

10 A. Fifty-five.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Nobody -- I try to obey it as much as possible. Nobody obeys
13 it. It's like a raceway. People are driving way faster than that
14 all the time. It's a pretty busy road in general. It's the only
15 east/west corridor in that part of the state.

16 Q. Okay. Yeah, I think from Portland, I think I took 302 for
17 the majority of the ride here.

18 A. Yes, you would. Yeah, that is -- 302 or -- either 302 or 26
19 out of Portland is the two ways to get -- if you said you're in
20 Littleton?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. 302 is like -- there's one road. I mean, you take 302 the
23 whole way.

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. And yeah, so, yeah, but like in that part of Coos County,

1 that's the only east/west, that's the only major east/west
2 corridor that goes through. So it sees a lot of traffic. A lot
3 of commuters. A lot of Buddhas (ph.) going really fast.

4 Q. Yeah, I want to make a point of driving over to the scene
5 tomorrow. I heard it's only about an hour away from me, so I
6 might go over there --

7 A. Yeah, it's not even that far. It's probably about 40 minutes
8 from where you're at.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Because my wife and I commute from Randolph to Littleton all
11 the time because Randolph is a town full of nothing, and Littleton
12 has a grocery store, you know, so --

13 Q. Oh. What, the Walmart?

14 A. No. We go to the co-op grocery store.

15 Q. Oh, okay.

16 A. But yeah, so we're over there a lot. But yeah, it's about a
17 40-minute ride --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- from wherever you are in Littleton. And, yeah, so, I
20 mean, as far as the rest of the scene goes, I was trying to push
21 people out of it, but they would not -- I had no semblance of
22 authority. You know what I mean? Like I was dressed in my street
23 clothes. I wasn't wearing my U.S. Forest Service uniform. I
24 didn't have my truck. I didn't even have a radio. So like nobody
25 would pay attention to me.

1 Q. Sure. And I can, I can see people just, you know, who are
2 you? Yeah.

3 A. Well, exactly, I can see why they wouldn't do it, but it
4 frustrated me to no end. And even if I had a radio --

5 Q. Yeah, pictures and video, I mean, that's just disgusting. I
6 just --

7 A. Yeah. Well, and I can't understand why they'd ever want to
8 expose a child to that, you know?

9 Q. Right.

10 A. Like even that little baby, you know. It's like my
11 daughter's 5. She was in the car waiting for me. But she was
12 just down -- like where I parked, was just down the rise from the
13 top of the hill. She never saw any of it. The only thing that
14 she saw was smoke and some ambulances going by. She never saw any
15 of the accident. Willingly exposing your child to that is
16 ridiculous, but that's what he did.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. And -- but yeah, and as far as --

19 Q. Do you have a guesstimate how many motorcycles would you -- I
20 mean, there was, I think there was six of them that were really
21 hit bad, and there was a couple of them, I guess, that laid down
22 after or right -- you know, trying to avoid it.

23 A. Yeah. I'd have to say, as far -- like when I first got up to
24 the scene, the bike that had the radio blaring on it was a blue
25 one and it was off to the left, so south side of Route 2.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. It was laid down on it's side. It wasn't run over like the
3 other ones were. I'm not sure who was operating that. I don't
4 know if that person was deceased or not. And then there was
5 probably two or three others that were just laid down in Route, in
6 the road. But when I got there, some of the bikers were trying to
7 move the bikes. I'm really not sure why they were doing that.
8 Maybe they were trying to clear a path for emergency response.

9 Q. Oh, sure. Okay. Yeah.

10 A. But yeah, there was a couple of bikers that were trying to
11 move motorcycles. Which to me was, like, don't do that because
12 this is the scene of an accident, but I can understand why you
13 are, because you're trying to get emergency response stuff in
14 here.

15 Q. Right. Right.

16 A. But, yeah, so there was -- God, that's taxing my memory a
17 little bit, but I have -- let's see, there was that blue one,
18 there was a black one, there was the yellow one that were not
19 completely crushed. You know what I mean?

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. They still looked like a motorcycle. And then, God, this --
22 I know for certain there were three but I'm guessing there may
23 have been as high as five that were laid down.

24 Q. Okay. Yeah, we'll get that information from the police.
25 They'll have that information.

1 A. Yeah, sure. Oh, yeah, they'll definitely have that. I'm
2 sure somebody took a detailed accident report.

3 Q. Yeah. Yeah, they're still working on it. They're still
4 trying to put together everything. I mean, I saw nine motorcycles
5 today.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. They were out at the -- where they towed them away. So --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. But I'm sure there might have been a couple that were just
10 laid down, but they -- you know, there's no injuries, no nothing,
11 and the people pick them up and went, you know, or you know --

12 A. Yeah. Or just moved them off to the side.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. There was one woman I was talking to at the scene of the
15 accident when I was trying to calm the first one down, when she
16 walked up to me, she said, you know, right before, you know, when
17 I -- she's like, said when I braced for impact, you know, when I
18 saw the truck coming. And I looked at her and I was like, you
19 were in this accident? You know, she was not scratched. She was
20 so lucky, you know.

21 Q. Oh, absolutely.

22 A. She had a cut on her ankle that was a half of an inch long.
23 That was it. And I was like, oh, my God, you know --

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. -- that is amazing that somebody would come out of that like

1 that. But, yeah, that was totally not -- that she was able to
2 make it through that with only that little scratch. That was
3 just, that blew my mind, you know.

4 Q. Yeah, somebody's looking over her shoulder, that's for sure.

5 A. All totally. I mean, there was definitely something going on
6 there. But --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. You know -- but yeah, I mean I don't know how much more I can
9 give you that's going to be really beneficial for you.

10 Q. Yeah. No, you've done a good job, you know, describing what
11 you did and what you saw. That's all I'm asking for.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And but I appreciate you stopping to help, and I can't
14 imagine -- you have a tough job as well doing -- fighting those
15 fires, I can imagine. That's not an easy job as well.

16 A. It's not an easy job, but, you know, in the last -- I've been
17 doing it for 20 years, and in the last, I'd say 5 to 7 years,
18 they've stopped calling us wildland firefighting crews and started
19 calling us all incident response.

20 Q. Oh, okay.

21 A. And so, they still call us wildland firefighters, but we are,
22 in a nutshell, we're all incident response. And so like, if I had
23 been going through with -- well, in the fire engine that I'm
24 sitting in right now, if I had been going through in that, I am
25 expected to stop and do something.

1 Q. Because you do have some medical, I guess, background, I
2 guess, or a little training?

3 A. I am what they call -- there's different levels of wilderness
4 first aid. I am a wilderness first aid person. I'm not a
5 wilderness first responder.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But where -- everything I do is in the backcountry for the
8 most part. I take all these trainings for trauma, you know. So
9 if we're using chainsaws and somebody drops a tree on themselves,
10 what are you going to do, you know?

11 Q. Oh, okay. Sure.

12 A. You know, run drills all the time. I mean, and honestly, I
13 have a full-on trauma kit behind me in the seat of the truck that
14 was put together by an EMT that worked for me a few years ago, and
15 she did a banger job on that thing, and she made a really nice
16 trauma kit. And it's all labeled of what's where, like on the
17 zipper fobs when you pull them.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. And so it's really handy, and I'm kind of heart broke that I
20 did not have that to offer to somebody, you know.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. But, you know, on the other hand, the only thing that I --

23 Q. You were on family time, you know.

24 A. Yeah, totally. But like I used to carry a trauma kit in my
25 personal car all the time because I was like, what am I going to

1 run across? But the last few years, you know, having a little kid
2 around the house and stuff, I've had a lot less time to be able to
3 do that kind of stuff.

4 Q. Sure, sure.

5 A. So I, you know, I don't -- I'm not always, you know, I'm not
6 always as keyed-up as I used to be as far as trying to be ready
7 for any situation that could possibly pop up.

8 Q. Sure. I do understand that when you have children, I think
9 you kind of, you know, you kind of set your priorities a little
10 bit different.

11 A. Yeah, you come at things from a different angle, and that's
12 what I've been doing.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. But I ended up putting together another trauma kit and
15 putting it in my personal car, and --

16 Q. Oh, you did. Okay.

17 A. -- up in there. And the other thing that was a nightmare at
18 that scene was communication. The radio communication was
19 horrible.

20 Q. Yeah. Well, Chief Horne said that he ended up going in one
21 of the engines and -- that was right there, and working out of
22 that just to make sure he had good communications.

23 A. Yeah. And for me, that -- I find that really interesting
24 because, for me, I work for the U.S. Forest Service and we have a
25 repeater right on top of Mount Washington that's almost line of

1 sight from where we were, and I never have an issue getting out
2 with the radio there at all, you know, because I use that repeater
3 and I'm able to hit to go wherever I need.

4 Q. Could it be just to the cell service provider, like T-Mobile,
5 you know, AT&T; is it that? Or is it just --

6 A. It's just a bad spot for cell service.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. You know, like --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- you lose all your bars going through there. And for
11 radio, like I can never go from radio to radio there. I have to
12 go through the repeater on top of Mount Washington. But my
13 supervisor told me when I talked to him yesterday, that he has
14 them working on what's an agreement with the state, for the state
15 and municipalities to use that repeater on top of Mount Washington
16 so they can have it at their disposal in those situations.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. I don't know if that agreement's ever going to go anywhere,
19 but that would be awful handy for them. You know, it would have
20 made things so much better there.

21 Q. Okay. Well, if I need any more information on that, I may
22 get back to you and you can maybe direct me with your supervisor
23 you said you talked to and --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So --

1 A. He's on vacation right now but he's going to call on me to
2 see how things are going because somehow he found out that I was
3 there.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. I don't know how he found out. because I didn't tell him.

6 Q. Well, you should be commended for stopping and doing what you
7 could. I understand it had to be a grizzly scene and --

8 A. Yeah, it was probably the most horrific thing I've ever seen
9 in my life and I hope to never see anything like that ever again.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. But it wouldn't stop me from trying to help again, you know,
12 but it was still pretty fucking brutal.

13 Q. Yeah. I can imagine.

14 A. My heart goes out to all those people. But I don't know what
15 the deal with the driver of the truck was. I've been -- I have
16 made a conscious effort to not look at Facebook, not look
17 newspapers, you know. I kind of wonder what his deal was, you
18 know, like I --

19 Q. Well, if you want to know, in the newspapers, he was charged,
20 he was -- for negligent homicide and he --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- pleaded not guilty. And they did find some substances in
23 his blood.

24 A. In his blood?

25 Q. Yeah.

1 A. Okay. So was he under the influence or was it just residual
2 from some other times?

3 Q. No, it was some pretty hard-core stuff.

4 A. Yeah. So he was under the influence then? Or he
5 (indiscernible) --

6 Q. I don't know the cutoff is. I know that they found it in his
7 system. I couldn't tell you what the cutoff is that showed that
8 he's under the influence or he has it in his system but he's not
9 under the influence, I don't -- I'm not sure how that works. But
10 some of the hard-core stuff, it only stays in your system for 24,
11 48-hours, so --

12 A. Yeah. Okay.

13 Q. So if it's still in his system, I don't know. I don't know
14 what effect that would have had on him, but --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Mr. Parker, I'll let you go.

17 A. Thank you. Have a good evening.

18 Q. And I appreciate you taking the time and giving me a
19 statement of what all you saw and what you did out there, sir.

20 A. Okay. I hope it helps you. I can't guarantee that it will,
21 but have a good evening

22 Q. Okay. And you be safe out there, sir.

23 A. Yep. Bye-bye.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Bye-bye.

25 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE COLLISION
RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 21, 2019
Interview of Jeffrey Parker

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19MH010

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: June 26, 2019

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.


Deborah Dowling Sweigart
Transcriber