National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Highway Safety
Washington, DC 20594

HWY24MH013

CRASH INFORMATION AND SUMMARY REPORT

Swanton, OH

A. CRASH INFORMATION

Location: Swanton, Lucas County, Ohio
Date: August 15, 2024
Time: 5:29 a.m. EDT

Vehicle 1: 2019 Mack Anthem truck tractor in combination with a 2009 Great Dane semi-trailer
Operator 1: Best National Industries Inc.

Vehicle 2: 2015 Toyota Highlander sport utility vehicle
Operator 2: Private auto

B. CRASH SUMMARY

On Thursday, August 15, 2024, about 5:29 a.m. eastern standard time, a 2015 Toyota Highlander sport utility vehicle (SUV), occupied by a 58-year-old driver and three passengers, was traveling eastbound on Interstate 80 (also known as the Ohio Turnpike) (I-80) in the right lane of the high-speed (EZ-Pass) toll lanes near mile post 49. In this vicinity, eastbound I-80 consists of two EZ- pass toll lanes with a 70 mile-per-hour (mph) speed limit and two toll booth (cash/credit) access lanes. The cash/credit lanes transition to three lanes at the Swanton Township Toll Plaza. The EZ Pass lanes and cash/credit access lanes are separated by a painted gore area which transitions to a concrete barrier wall on approach to the toll plaza. As the Toyota reached the location of the crash, while in the right through lane, the driver slowed to enter the cash/credit access lanes and was struck from the rear by a 2019 Mack Anthem truck-tractor in combination with 2009 Great Dane van style semi-trailer. After impact, the Toyota veered right, across the toll booth access lanes, and came to rest in a ditch adjacent to the right eastbound shoulder. The Mack combination unit veered right and struck the concrete barrier wall. After striking the barrier wall, the semi-trailer overturned causing the release of its hazardous materials cargo. As a result of the crash, two passengers in the Toyota were fatally injured, the driver and another passenger were seriously injured, and the driver of the Mack truck was seriously injured. None of the injuries were caused by the hazardous material release. Following this crash a traffic queue began to form in the eastbound lanes of I-80 leading up to the crash site.

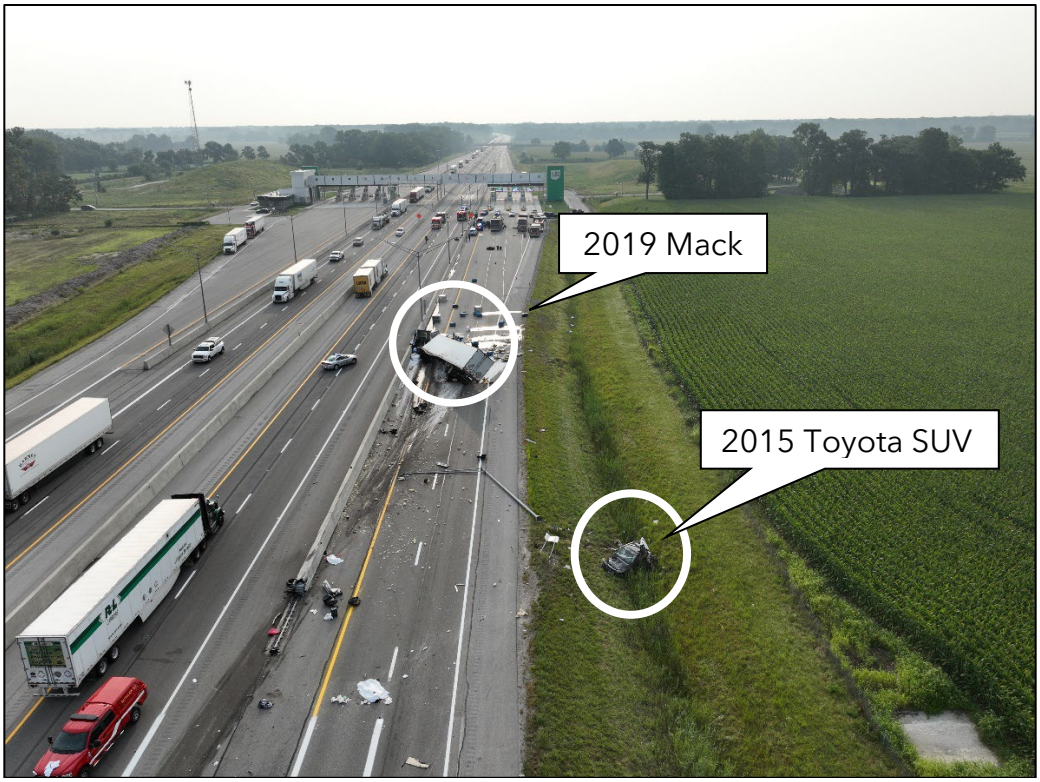

Figure 1. Aerial view of the initial crash looking to the east with the toll plaza shown in the background (Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol).

At 5:54 another crash involving five commercial motor vehicles (CMV) and one passenger car occurred in the traffic queue in the left lane of the eastbound lanes of I-80 near mile post 48, west of the initial crash. The initial striking vehicle in the second crash was a 2022 Volvo 760 Series truck-tractor in combination with a 2022 Wabash semitrailer (2022 Volvo combination vehicle). Four of the CMVs involved sustained varying levels of damage while a postcrash fire destroyed the 2022 Volvo combination unit and the passenger car. As a result of the crash and fire, the driver of the 2022 Volvo combination vehicle was fatally injured and four occupants of the other four CMVs and passenger car sustained injuries of various degrees. After the two crashes in the eastbound lanes near the toll plaza, a queue began to form in the westbound lanes of I-80 near mile post 51. In this area, westbound I-80 consists of two lanes with a 70-mph speed limit.

At 6:24 a.m., a westbound 2024 Volvo VNL truck-tractor in combination with a van-style semitrailer (2024 Volvo combination vehicle) did not stop for slowing traffic in the queue and struck the rear of a pickup truck towing a trailer and two passenger cars. One of the passenger cars then struck another CMV. This crash in the westbound lanes involved five vehicles and resulted in one fatality and seven additional injuries of varying degrees.