



**HUMAN PERFORMANCE GROUP CHAIRMAN'S
FACTUAL REPORT**

Human Performance Attachment – NTSB Interview with Truck Driver

Delray Beach, Florida

HWY19FH008

(50 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

DELRAY, FLORIDA MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *
JANUARY 28, 2019 *

* Accident No.: HWY19FH008

* * * * *

Interview of: RICHARD WOOD
Truck Driver

Tuesday,
March 5, 2019

APPEARANCES:

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National Transportation Safety Board

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National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

(11:49 a.m.)

DR. MARSHALL: Okay. This is Rafael Marshall, M-a-r-s-h-a-l-
1. I am the human performance investigator for the National
2
3
4
5 Transportation Safety Board.

6 Today is Tuesday, March 5, and it is 11:49 a.m. I am here
7 with five other people, and I'm going to start with Debbie.

8 MS. HOUSTON: I'm Debra Houston with FirstFleet. And my name
9 is D-e-b-r-a, and my last name is Houston, H-o-u-s-t-o-n.

10 MR. WOOD: My name's Richard Wood. I'm the driver of the
11 tractor. My name is R-i-c-h-a-r-d, Richard, W-o-o-d, Wood.

12 MS. KESSLER: My name is Edwina, E-d-w-i-n-a, Kessler, K-e-s-
13 s-l-e-r. I'm an attorney for FirstFleet.

14 MR. HELLIGE: John Hellige, H-e-l-l-i-g-e, CFO and vice
15 president of FirstFleet.

16 MR. PEREIRA: David Pereira, P-e-r-e-i-r-a, National
17 Transportation Safety Board, highway crash investigator, vehicle
18 factors.

19 DR. MARSHALL: Okay. So as I mentioned, we have a -- just
20 sort of well prepared questions, so I'm just going to go through a
21 few of these things.

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD WOOD

22 BY DR. MARSHALL:

23 Q. So we are here to interview Mr. Wood. So, Mr. Wood, how long
24 have you been employed with FirstFleet?
25

1 A. Three years and 2 months.

2 Q. Okay. And who were you with prior to that?

3 A. I was with Buffalo Rock in Huntsville, Alabama.

4 Q. Okay. And when did you first get your CDL?

5 A. In 2003. It was in February 2003.

6 Q. Can you tell me what classes and any endorsements?

7 A. I went to -- oh, my class endorsements? A Class A. I have
8 doubles and triples, and I have tankers.

9 Q. And where did you go to -- did you go to a driving school?

10 A. Yeah. I went to an Alabama skill center -- it's funded
11 through the unemployment office -- in Coleman, Alabama. And I
12 qualified for a program through the state of Alabama to go to
13 their truck driving school at Wallace State Community College. It
14 was a 6-week course. I finished the course in 5 weeks with a 98
15 score. I was one of their top drivers.

16 Q. Okay. Do you hold any other licenses besides a CDL?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. I'm just going through these questions.

19 So when you started with FirstFleet did you receive any
20 training specific --

21 A. I road with a trainer for 3 days.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. The first day we done the road test, and after we got done
24 with the road test, we went over to Lakeland and delivered a load.
25 And the the last 2 days, I used the -- he sit and let me use the

1 Qualcomm. I delivered the loads to like Orlando, Lakeland,
2 different areas of the area, and he made sure I was clear on the
3 Qualcomm and how the electronic logs worked because I had never
4 used electronic log system before, and everything. Then after my
5 training was up, I spent about -- just to guess, about 3 months
6 doing nothing but locals in the Tampa Bay area because I was
7 unfamiliar with the area that I was driving in, because I had
8 never really been in Florida before. So they want to make sure
9 that I was familiar with the area and the traffic and stuff like
10 that before I started doing longer runs.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So I had like, you know, extended training, I guess is what
13 you'd say, you know.

14 Q. So what is the criteria to be hired by FirstFleet? Would you
15 or John --

16 A. I believe, if I remember right, it was 1 year over-the-road
17 experience in the last 2 years, and I think it was no more than
18 one speeding and one violation. Is that right? I had a clean
19 driving record when I went to work for them, no speeding tickets,
20 no violations, nothing.

21 MR. HELLIGE: It would be pretty much (indiscernible), like
22 he said.

23 DR. MARSHALL: Okay. And this question is also for John. Is
24 it normal for you to do a 3-month -- or is it --

25 MR. WOOD: Well, they just done that because I wasn't -- I

1 didn't know the area.

2 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

3 MR. HELLIGE: The areas of (indiscernible) town. I mean, he
4 was new to the area so it was extended, yeah.

5 MR. WOOD: And I went from driving 30 miles a day to driving
6 anywhere from a 100 to 500 a day. You know what I'm saying?
7 Because I worked for Pepsi doing local delivery route driving.
8 So --

9 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

10 MR. WOOD: That's the first one. So my boss just done it
11 just to make sure that I was comfortable what I was doing, you
12 know. So --

13 BY DR. MARSHALL:

14 Q. How are you dispatched?

15 A. By my cell phone. I get a text/email message. It's through
16 -- it comes to my phone and it's on a FirstFleet app website, and
17 it goes to my truck on the Qualcomm, too. So I have three
18 different places I can look at my dispatch.

19 Q. And are you -- do you have a choice of routes that you can
20 select --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- or are you --

23 A. No. Our routes change back and forth.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I might be in Lakeland on Tuesday and Miami on Wednesday.

1 Q. So it's a FirstFleet app that you use?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. It's a really good idea. I mean, it really works nice. You
5 can check your hours of service. You can look at your cab parts
6 and stuff on that. It's a really good app they have going.

7 Q. What else can you do on the app besides hours of service?

8 A. Do you want me to show it to you? Would you like to see it?

9 Q. Maybe later. Let's just go through the questions first.

10 A. Okay. That way you can see all the --

11 Q. Yeah. I think that would be interesting to see.

12 MR. HELLIGE: They can do their scales through it. They can
13 do the fuel stops, load tracking, load views, find a trailer if
14 they need it.

15 MR. WOOD: Yeah, it's -- can pretty much do everything.

16 MR. HELLIGE: I mean, it's -- pretty hard with it to get a
17 lot of information to the driver. And it doesn't work while
18 they're driving, so --

19 MR. WOOD: Right.

20 BY DR. MARSHALL:

21 Q. Okay. I think we already received information on this one
22 but I'll ask anyway. Do you maintain a logbook or a time record?

23 A. I have electronic log.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And do you have a normal work schedule?

2 A. No, not really. It's production type work, so the -- your
3 start time is when the load is ready and your end time is when you
4 get back from doing the load. So --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. There is no like you start every day at 1 o'clock. It's --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- could be anywhere from midnight to 6 in the morning, you
9 know.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. It's truck driving.

12 Q. And so how many hours do you usually work a week?

13 A. Between 55 to 60, on average.

14 Q. Okay. And how are you paid? Are you paid like weekly or
15 biweekly?

16 A. I get paid weekly, and I get paid by the mile unless it's a
17 flat rate run, then we get paid like so much for going to Orlando
18 or so much for going to Lakeland and back.

19 Q. Okay. Are you on any medications right now?

20 A. I take a medicine called Cepra.

21 Q. Cepra?

22 A. C-e-p-r-a.

23 Q. Okay. And what is that for?

24 A. Well, it's for different pains. It's for -- it's like a -- I
25 guess, to break it down, it'd be like a nervous disorder

1 medication. It's for headaches, seizures, and stuff like that.

2 I had -- from the time I was born to I was 14, I had three
3 seizures, and they tried me on, you know, tried me on different
4 medications and stuff. And certain medications made me have
5 anxiety, some changed my mood and stuff like that. And they put
6 me on this Cepra because it was new drug and -- it was a new drug
7 when I -- I was about 19 years old when they come out with it, and
8 they put me on it to see how I would do. And during that time
9 they done testing on me and everything to see, you know, why I
10 even had seizures when I was a kid and stuff. There's no
11 traceable evidence of why I even had them when I was a kid. They
12 just know that if I don't get proper amount of sleep and stuff
13 like that, that it could cause me to have one. I'm not saying it
14 would.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. But I asked the doctors to leave me on the medication because
17 I am operating a 80,000 pound vehicle that would kill someone, and
18 I'd rather take a pill --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- that I don't really need than put someone else's life on
21 the line.

22 Q. So when was the last time you had a seizure?

23 A. When I was 14 years old, and I'm 45 now.

24 Q. Okay. Are there any other medications that you're on at the
25 moment?

1 A. Well, I take a pill right now called Carafate, and it's
2 because I'm getting ready to go and have a -- where they run the
3 camera down your throat to look inside your stomach.

4 Q. An endoscopy.

5 A. Yeah. I have -- they believe I have ulcers and stuff because
6 I've already had this surgery once before. They had to remove 6
7 inches of my esophagus and part of my stomach because I had
8 erosion of the stomach and ulcers and stuff. So they put me on
9 this medicine for 30 days to do some healing. That way they don't
10 take a chance on doing any kind of tearing or anything that might
11 create an infection in my stomach. The test is on March the 21st.
12 I'm waiting for the doctors to come and tell me what time to be
13 there. But that's just a temporary drug.

14 A week before all this happened, I was taking a drug
15 called -- I got the name of the pill on my phone. But the doctor
16 gave it to me for like a week. It's a anti-inflammatory because I
17 have lower back issues and sometimes my back throws out. I was
18 putting on a pair of shoes the other day and it went out, and I've
19 been dealing with that. So --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that was -- I believe you told me
21 that was meloxican.

22 MR. WOOD: Yeah, meloxican. But I only took it for a week,
23 and I called the doctor and told her that it wasn't -- it didn't
24 seem like it was working; I do better with ibuprofen than I was
25 with that, and I quit taking it. And I disclosed it to the police

1 officer because I had a pretty good idea I was going to go out and
2 take a drug test and I didn't know if it was going to show up or
3 not, so I wanted to disclose it without --

4 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

5 MR. WOOD: So no questions would be asked.

6 BY DR. MARSHALL:

7 Q. Okay. And the one who prescribed you this is your primary
8 care physician?

9 A. Yes, ma'am. I mean sir.

10 Q. Do you have --

11 A. Paula Proch is her name.

12 Q. Paula Proch?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And this is out of Tampa?

15 MS. HOUSTON: If I'm not mistaken, that's an anti-
16 inflammatory.

17 MR. WOOD: Yeah, it's an anti-inflammatory.

18 BY DR. MARSHALL:

19 Q. Okay. And she's out of Tampa, this area?

20 A. She's out of Apollo Beach. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yeah, it's just for like -- it's basically supposed to take
23 the place of ibuprofen, but it wasn't doing its job because my
24 back went out putting my shoes on.

25 Q. I think I have this information already. I have the

1 physical, DOT physical information.

2 Now I think -- could you tell me a little bit about the
3 accident vehicle? Is this your -- the first time you've operated
4 it or have you --

5 A. No. I've been driving the truck since about the second week
6 of December.

7 Q. Okay. So you're familiar with it.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Is there any issues with its operation?

10 A. No. It's a brand new truck. It's got like 29,000 miles on
11 it.

12 DR. MARSHALL: Do you have anything you want to ask?

13 BY MR. PEREIRA:

14 Q. So is that your assigned truck?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. So you're assigned that, then --

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. -- that nice shiny truck?

19 A. Yeah. Yeah, I had a 2014 Volvo before then. I put almost
20 300,000 miles on it. Yeah.

21 Q. Where do you park that truck at night?

22 A. I park in the parking lot of International Paper. They have
23 a special spot for day cab trucks and they have another parking
24 spot for sleeper trucks, and I drive a day cab.

25 Q. And how far is that from your home, sir?

1 A. From my home? About 35-minute drive with traffic, red
2 lights, stuff like that.

3 Q. Okay. And from there, you're dispatched and you pick up the
4 trailer?

5 A. Yeah, the trailer is where the tractor sits.

6 Q. Yep, where the tractor -- or the trailer is where the tractor
7 sits.

8 A. They're all part of the same (indiscernible) --

9 Q. So they're empty when you pick them up and then you --

10 A. What, the trailer? No, it's already preloaded truck.

11 Q. Preloaded trailer?

12 A. Yeah. Yes, sir. We haul boxes for International Paper.

13 BY DR. MARSHALL:

14 Q. Okay. Now I wanted to talk a little bit about the day of the
15 crash or have you talk a little bit about it.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Can you, from the minute you woke up or started -- actually
18 let's just start from the minute you started your duty. Could you
19 go through as much detail as possible about the events leading up
20 to the point of the crash?

21 A. I mean, I got in the truck at about 2 o'clock. I left -- I
22 hooked up my trailer, done my inspection as I normally do. I left
23 the parking lot with the load at 2:15. I got down to Pero
24 Vegetable at 5:40 in the morning. I had an 8 o'clock delivery,
25 but the receiver, their guy is pretty nice, he lets us come in

1 there before it starts getting chaotic and drop our trailers and
2 grab an empty and get out of there.

3 I drop my empty trailer in a grass field parking lot where
4 they have for -- they have it set up just for FirstFleet trailers.
5 I grabbed my empty. I done a quick inspection on it. I went
6 inside, got my paperwork signed by the receiver. I went to the
7 restroom. I come back out. I cranked the truck up, turned the
8 lights on, and I turned the emergency flashers on, and I walked
9 around the trailer to make sure all the lights was working and the
10 flashers working on it. I got back in the truck and I pushed the
11 brake pedal and looked in my mirror to see if my brake lights lit
12 up behind the trailer. It was still dark at the time.

13 And I left from there, going across the parking lot. I was
14 proceeding at the guard shack. The gate came up. I pulled up at
15 the stop sign and I looked at the traffic coming south. And it
16 really looked like I had plenty of time to go across, so I
17 proceeded out in the intersection. Once I proceeded out in the
18 intersection, I started looking at the northbound traffic because
19 I was going to take the left-hand lane and proceed on going north.
20 And but -- I mean, it's a very busy intersection. But -- and I've
21 done it a dozen times. And I clearly thought I had plenty of
22 time. I mean, it was dark and the cars looked like they was back
23 further than what they was.

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. And, I mean, it's just something I'm --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's okay.

2 MR. PEREIRA: It's okay.

3 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah, take your time.

4 MR. PEREIRA: Take your time. Just --

5 DR. MARSHALL: We can take a break if you --

6 MR. WOOD: It's something I'm going to have to live with.

7 MR. PEREIRA: We understand, sir. If you want to take a
8 glass of water, take a break, you can, please.

9 MR. WOOD: No, I'm good.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a walk out --

11 MR. WOOD: I'm good.

12 MR. PEREIRA: We're sorry, Mr. Wood.

13 BY DR. MARSHALL:

14 Q. So you said you're familiar with --

15 MS. KESSLER: You sure you don't want to take a minute? Can
16 we walk out --

17 MR. WOOD: I'm good.

18 MS. KESSLER: I think you probably should take a minute.

19 MR. WOOD: No, I'm good.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's understandable that you're sad.
21 We can walk outside for a minute.

22 MR. WOOD: No, I'm good. I'm good.

23 MR. HELLIGE: It's just sad that that (indiscernible) break
24 for a minute?

25 MR. PEREIRA: Sure. Please.

1 MR. WOOD: No, I'm all right.

2 MR. PEREIRA: Why don't we just take a break. Can't we just
3 stop this --

4 (Pause.)

5 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

6 MR. WOOD: I was -- my tractor was already in the median and
7 I was watching the northbound traffic. And I was about to pull
8 out of the intersection into the northbound lane, and I felt a
9 push against my trailer.

10 And I pulled the truck forward about 10 feet and I got out.
11 And there was a guy, he was parked -- he was parked in front of
12 the guard shack facing the intersection when I was there at the
13 stop sign. And I got out and he was still there. And I looked at
14 my trailer and I seen debris stuck in the side of the trailer and
15 it had a scuff mark down the side of the trailer. It was still
16 dark. Like I said, all you could see was headlights until I -- I
17 walked to the back end of the trailer and there was a car pulled
18 over on the right-hand side of the road. And I hollered at the
19 guy in the white minivan. I said, did that car just hit me? He
20 goes, yes, and they're leaving. I thought I was -- I thought I
21 had been involved in a hit and run.

22 So I got back in the tractor and I pulled it forward another
23 10 feet, 10 or 15 feet, because I wanted make sure that the
24 tractor and the trailer itself was completely off the road so no
25 one else would hit it. Because I -- I mean, I try to make sure I

1 do everything as safe as possible. I don't even like getting out
2 of the truck on the side of the interstate.

3 But at that time I called safety told them, I said I believe
4 I was involved in a hit and run. And the lady asked me what
5 happened, and I told her -- and I got out of the truck when I was
6 talking to her and I said it looks like there's part of the
7 windshield stuck in the side of my trailer. And at this time the
8 sun was -- you know, it was starting to get a little bit light,
9 not real light, but light enough to see. And I said the glass
10 looks like it's a pink tinted color. I said whoever hit me is
11 probably hurt. And she goes, well, if they're injured, they'll be
12 at the emergency room. She goes, we can check the emergency room.
13 She goes, but you need to -- she goes -- she finished up my
14 statement. She goes, you need to call the police department and
15 tell them that you believe you was involved in a hit and run.

16 So I got in the truck and I'm trying to get my mind all
17 together about what all just happened. And I look in my rearview
18 mirror when I was getting ready to call 911 and I see all these
19 blue lights behind me. But they was like -- it looked they was
20 200 yards down the road. So I get out of the truck and I start
21 walking down the road on the northbound side in the grass. And
22 this guy in this pickup truck come up and goes, are you the guy
23 that drives this tractor? I said yeah. And he goes, that dude
24 didn't make it. I said, what are you talking about? He goes,
25 that guy -- he goes, it sheared the whole roof off his car. He

1 goes, he didn't make it. And I just -- I went downhill after
2 that.

3 BY DR. MARSHALL:

4 Q. Did you go to -- what did you do afterwards?

5 A. I went and got in the truck and I sit there until the cops
6 got there because I was just shaking.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. And that's all I been thinking about since.

9 Q. Did they --

10 A. It shouldn't have happened.

11 Q. Yeah. How long were you on scene?

12 A. I don't know. It felt like 5 to 6 hours.

13 Q. Can you give us an idea of how long it took before the blue
14 lights appeared?

15 A. The fire department showed up maybe -- it seemed like maybe
16 10 minutes. Then the cops started showing up just shortly after
17 that. There was just so much going on, it was hard to keep up
18 with timelines and -- I didn't even know it was -- what time it
19 was. I mean, when we finally left to go, like to go take drug
20 tests and stuff, it was after lunch, and I didn't even realize
21 that I had been sitting there that long. It was just like all the
22 time stopped.

23 Q. Yeah. When you went to -- I mean, the other times that
24 you've been to Pero -- you said that you've been there a dozen
25 times -- were they at night or were they in the morning or --

1 A. It's always in the morning.

2 Q. Always -- around the same time?

3 A. Around the same is when I normally get there. I drop my
4 trailer. The guy is always in his office. I always make sure I
5 carry an ink pen with me because they don't ever have a pen. And
6 he signed my paperwork for me. He asked me, you know, how I've
7 been doing and stuff. He's a really nice guy.

8 Q. Yeah. How would you describe the traffic going both
9 southbound and northbound?

10 A. It's heavy. I mean --

11 Q. It's usually heavy?

12 A. It's one of them intersections where you wonder why there
13 isn't a traffic light.

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. You know what I'm saying? I mean -- but there's not, so you
16 just do what you can do.

17 Q. Have you ever witnessed any other crashes in that area?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. No, because I try to get in and out of there before traffic
21 gets heavy. I mean --

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. I mean, my delivery wasn't till 8 o'clock that morning, and I
24 was there at 5:40 trying to get in and out of there before traffic
25 will hit, you know. That's just the way I am. I remember areas

1 that I go to and I try to get in and out of, because I want to try
2 to do it as safe as possible.

3 Q. Yeah. You mentioned that when -- you did see the lights
4 coming but you weren't able to judge the speed?

5 A. Well, you can't judge the speed because it was dark, you
6 know. I couldn't even tell you what color the vehicles are, you
7 know.

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. I mean, when I looked and seen them two vehicles coming at
10 me, I mean, one of them -- it looked like one of them flickered
11 their lights, so I thought they was going to slow down. So I
12 proceeded across the intersection.

13 Q. Do you remember which one that was?

14 A. It was the one in the right-hand lane.

15 Q. The right-hand lane. Okay. Was that the leader -- the lead
16 vehicle or were they about the same?

17 A. I couldn't really tell.

18 Q. Can't tell?

19 A. I couldn't really tell. No. I mean, they got these LED
20 lights on these cars now and they look like they're on high beam
21 all the time, you know.

22 Q. Yeah, yeah.

23 A. I even have people flicker their lights at me and my truck's
24 on low beam. It's just them halogen lights are so bright.

25 Q. Um-hum.

1 A. They're nice, but they're bright.

2 DR. MARSHALL: Do you have --

3 MR. PEREIRA: Yep.

4 BY MR. PEREIRA:

5 Q. So you picked up -- you started at 2, you said? You started
6 your shift at 2?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And then you took off to the road at 2:15. How did you get
9 from -- and what route did you take from Tampa?

10 A. I took 60 to the turnpike.

11 Q. 60 to the turnpike --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- going the same way. Then down the turnpike?

14 A. Yep. Down to -- I think it's exit 86 I get off at, which is
15 like 2 miles north of -- well, 2½ miles north of Pero. You go
16 down to the end, there's a light, and turn left. I think that's,
17 what, 441 or something like that, is the name of the --

18 Q. 441. Route 7.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. 441.

21 A. Yeah. And go down to there, yeah. I've had people talk
22 about turning Yeehaw Junction, but they said there's like a
23 million lights if you do that, so -- to bypass the turnpike.

24 Q. Now in a month period -- you said you've been there a dozen
25 times. So in a month period, how many times do you think you drop

1 off there?

2 A. Oh, that's the first time I had been there in a couple
3 months.

4 Q. In a couple months.

5 A. I'm talking about that I've even been there.

6 Q. To have been there. Okay.

7 A. Yeah.

8 MR. PEREIRA: No, that was --

9 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

10 BY MR. PEREIRA:

11 Q. And you did your precheck at 2?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. No issues?

14 A. No issues.

15 Q. Knocked out the precheck, hooked up to the trailer, then
16 that's the route. All right.

17 A. They -- I mean, FirstFleet gives us time to stop and fuel and
18 stuff, and I didn't need fuel, so I drove straight there.

19 Q. Straight down.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. When was the last DOT inspection you had before this one?

22 A. Well, the truck was coming up for a fuel change -- oil change
23 and stuff. I believe they have a company, it's Efficiency, does
24 the -- they do an inspection on the truck. They check the brakes,
25 they readjust everything, change the oil and stuff like that. I

1 believe it's a 30,000 mile. The truck has 29,000 miles on it. It
2 was actually coming up due for its first oil change.

3 Q. For its first oil change?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Are you responsible to get the maintenance done or do you get
6 a notification or something?

7 A. Well, on our dispatch it'll say that the truck is due for PM,
8 and we let our boss knows. His name's Kelly Gold (ph.). We'll
9 let him know, you know, hey, I got back today at 10 o'clock, going
10 home, do you want to get my truck serviced so it'll be ready
11 tonight when I come back in? And he's pretty good about doing
12 that. A lot of times he'll tell us just call the head mechanic
13 yourself and get him to go get it. But they're real good about --

14 Q. And you're the only one that drives that truck?

15 A. Well, supposedly, yeah.

16 Q. Well, they keep it clean, keep it clean so it looks good.

17 A. Yeah. The yard guy, I mean, every once in a blue moon might
18 grab it and move a trailer.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. But other than that, yes, as far as hitting the road, yes,
21 I'm the only one drives the truck. I'm pretty sure if I went on
22 vacation for a week and somebody's truck broke down, they'd
23 probably use mine. But like 99 percent of the time, yes, I'm the
24 one that drives it.

25 Q. How do you like the automatic?

1 A. I like -- I mean, I'm old school. I mean, when I was 13
2 years old, my dad put me in a 3-on-the-tree pickup truck to teach
3 me how to drive a car. And I drive a 6-speed car now. And to me,
4 a 10 speed truck, if you got -- if someone slams on their brakes
5 in front of you, you can downshift and stuff. That automatic, I
6 mean, you push brakes and you hope that it does what it's supposed
7 to do. You know what I'm saying?

8 Q. Now that truck has a --

9 A. I mean --

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. -- 10-speed you can knock out of here --

12 Q. You can back it out or whatever.

13 A. -- but automatic you got to put it in either neutral or --
14 you know, it's like being in your car; you're limited on what you
15 can do.

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. But as far as comfort and a truck that I would drive and feel
18 safe in and stuff, 100 percent, yes. It's a good truck.

19 Q. How do you like the -- it has collision avoidance. How do
20 you like it? And this is just as a professional truck driver I
21 want to hear what you think about it.

22 A. I didn't know it had the collision avoidance.

23 Q. So you never --

24 A. I know if you set the cruise, that'll --

25 Q. Right.

1 A. -- it adjust on it's brake or something like that.

2 Q. Adjust -- exactly.

3 A. But I don't use the cruise, so --

4 Q. You don't use the cruise.

5 A. I don't feel safe doing it. Yeah. I mean, I'd rather have
6 control of my foot on the -- near the brake pedal and my foot near
7 the accelerator. That's where I keep my feet all the time. I
8 just feel better that way, if I have full control of the truck on
9 how fast it's going and all that.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. I mean --

12 Q. No, I always like to hear what a professional driver has to
13 say about the technology. So --

14 A. Cruise control has a sensor; you push the brake it shuts the
15 cruise off. What happens if it don't shut off? What happens if
16 your brakes don't work? So I don't use cruise.

17 I don't even like the doors locking when I get into a
18 vehicle. I feel trapped. I mean, what if I wreck, flip upside
19 down and there's no power to unlock the doors? What do you do? I
20 like the old school where you grab a knob and pull it up.

21 DR. MARSHALL: That's the reason why I -- for the longest
22 time I didn't have automatic windows. I was always afraid of like
23 falling in a river and like wouldn't be able to --

24 MR. WOOD: This year I'm -- well, not this year. I've had it
25 for 2 years. But I'm driving the first electric start car that I

1 got. It's got an electric button. Because I just, I don't know,
2 I would just -- I like things back when he was a teenager, you
3 know, you have to get in there and you got your emergency brake
4 that you pull up and you got your shifter on the dash that tells R
5 -- you know, drive, R, park, and all that stuff.

6 But, I mean, I didn't even know that there was an arrow on
7 the gas tank gauge that shows what side the gas tank is on. I
8 didn't even know -- my wife showed me that.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. WOOD: And she don't even --

11 MR. PEREIRA: She (indiscernible) --

12 MR. WOOD: She don't know how to put air in a tire, but she
13 showed me that little arrow. Well, you know, I just
14 (indiscernible). But --

15 BY DR. MARSHALL:

16 Q. So could you describe what the -- what was it like? I mean,
17 you said it was a little dark around the time of the crash.

18 A. It was real dark.

19 Q. Is there a --

20 A. I mean, it was as dark as your shirt.

21 Q. Could you tell me a little bit about the environment? I
22 mean, was the road dry? Was it wet? Was it --

23 A. It wasn't raining and the road didn't appear wet. But as far
24 as visibility, seeing, all I could see was lights. That was it.

25 I mean --

1 Q. Okay. It wasn't -- was it foggy or was it --

2 A. No, sir. No. It was clear.

3 Q. Clear?

4 A. As far as dark goes.

5 BY MR. PEREIRA:

6 Q. Is their yard lit up?

7 A. Their yard is lit up, yes, to -- you know, to a certain
8 point. You know, parking lots, they don't lighten them up to
9 where it looks like a football field, you know, where you can see
10 the game, you know, but --

11 Q. Right.

12 A. But it's lit up enough to where you can drive without hitting
13 something, you know.

14 Q. Any trucks behind you?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. No? Anything in front of you?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. The only thing that was around me was that white minivan. I
20 keep bringing up -- I wish I would've asked the guy for his name,
21 got his tag number or something, you know.

22 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah, we need to ask the --

23 MR. PEREIRA: Maybe the police might know.

24 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah.

25 MR. WOOD: I'm assuming maybe he was -- like he might work

1 there or he was waiting on someone to get off work or something,
2 you know what I mean.

3 BY DR. MARSHALL:

4 Q. Yeah. So the truck is -- the tractor is equipped with
5 Omnitracs; is that correct?

6 A. Um-hum.

7 Q. What are the things that you can do with an Omnitracs? Is
8 there anything that you need to do to it prior to --

9 A. What is Omnitracs?

10 MR. HELLIGE: The little on-screen --

11 MR. WOOD: Oh, my electronic log?

12 BY DR. MARSHALL:

13 Q. Your electronic log.

14 A. Oh. I know how to log in and log out and --

15 Q. So you don't have to --

16 A. -- I stick my load information in there.

17 Q. You don't have to interact with it at all, you know,
18 during --

19 A. No, not when you're driving down the road no.

20 MS. KESSLER: Let him finish asking his question. You're
21 cutting him off.

22 MR. WOOD: I'm sorry. I thought he was finished. Sorry.

23 BY DR. MARSHALL:

24 Q. Or when you're unhooking or -- I mean, is there anything that
25 -- or is everything automatic?

1 A. What, you talking about like disconnect the trailer?

2 Q. Yeah. I'm just wondering if you have to interact with the --

3 A. The Qualcomm itself?

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. No, sir. You do not.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. No.

8 Q. So the only time you interact with it is when you start your
9 trip and when you end?

10 A. Well, no. You start your trip, and if you're going to stop
11 and get fuel, when you get there, you go into your hours of
12 service, you change your duty status from driving to on duty; you
13 click on fuel. Then when you leave, you don't have to do nothing,
14 it automatically switches back to driving.

15 Then when you get to the shipper or receiver, you go back to
16 on duty again, and you put down that you're either getting
17 unloaded or if you're doing a drop and hook, stuff like that. And
18 then when you do the drop and hook, you put down your new trailer
19 number, because we have codes that we do. Like a number 2 is "I
20 got to the shipper," which is International Paper; and number 3 is
21 "I'm leaving the shipper." It shows my trip number and my trailer
22 that I hooked in, and it shows how much weight is in my trailer,
23 how many pieces in there, stuff like that.

24 And supposedly that's supposed to be set up to where like if
25 I cross a camera on a scale house, in the scale house they can

1 read that information and know what I'm hauling, even though they
2 still pull us in to pull across the scale. So technology is still
3 behind.

4 But when I get to the receiver, same scenario. I do a number
5 4 when I'm getting ready to leave, and if I change a trailer, I
6 put my trip number in and I put my -- whatever trailer I'm pulling
7 in there, and that's it.

8 Then when I get to the yard, I do a number 6, which ends that
9 trip, closes it out, showing that that trip is finished and I'm
10 ready to start either a new trip or log out of the truck for the
11 day and go home.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And it even has a setting in the hours of service for logging
14 out the truck.

15 Q. So when did you do the number 6? I guess it was number 6
16 prior to leaving Pero?

17 A. I never made it back to Tampa, so there was no number 6. I
18 done number --

19 Q. Okay. So it was number 4 once you got to --

20 A. I done number 4, yep.

21 Q. -- once you got to Pero? So --

22 A. When I was getting ready to leave, I done -- once I done
23 my -- I done a second inspection on that trailer, and the reason
24 why I done a second inspection on the trailer was it's a leased
25 trailer, it's an older trailer; there was a cord on it that wasn't

1 connected and I was trying to figure out was it locks or what. So
2 I rechecked all the locks and made the sure the locks was working.
3 So apparently that cord did nothing, you know.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. And it wasn't long enough -- for the TEMs to be sitting where
6 they're supposed be, it wasn't long enough to match. It had to be
7 -- the TEMs had to be slid all the way forward, which ain't even
8 legal in the first place. You can't ride with them slid all the
9 way forward. You supposed to be inside bridge laws. But I wanted
10 to make sure that that cord wasn't doing -- because if that cord
11 was like creating a lock not be working or something, I was going
12 to drop that trailer and grab a different trailer and report that
13 that trailer had problems so they could send someone out to fix
14 it. But I couldn't find nothing wrong with the truck. So I done
15 my number 4 and I proceeded towards the guard shack.

16 Q. Okay. I don't know what the system looks like, but is there
17 any other -- can you communicate with the company through the
18 system or --

19 A. I think there's a plug -- there's a way to do a free-form
20 message, but I've never done a free-form message.

21 Are you more aware of that?

22 MR. HELLIGE: You can message back and forth.

23 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.

24 MR. WOOD: I've never done one. We usually use our cell
25 phone. We text with the dispatcher back and forth.

1 DR. MARSHALL: Oh, okay.

2 BY DR. MARSHALL:

3 Q. Is that cell phone provided to you by the company or is
4 that --

5 A. No, it's our own personal cell phone.

6 Q. And where was your cell phone located prior to --

7 A. It was laying on my dash.

8 Q. It was laying on your dash?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Do you have -- I mean, is there like a --

11 A. It's -- there's a limited area where --

12 MS. KESSLER: Let him ask the question, please.

13 BY DR. MARSHALL:

14 Q. Is it --

15 MS. KESSLER: You guys are talking over each other and
16 they're not -- they're going to have a hard transcribing the
17 statement.

18 BY DR. MARSHALL:

19 Q. So there's a specific spot you always put it?

20 A. I just lay it up on the windshield of the dash. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. And it won't fall off or anything like that?

22 A. No. It's like a foot deep. It goes down.

23 Q. Okay. Is that the only cell phone that you have?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. And you weren't -- were you interacting with it prior

1 to --

2 A. No, sir. No.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I have a headset that I wear. I even had it hanging on the
5 dash. There's a trailer brake handle that you can pull, and I
6 hang my -- I never use it because it's only for emergencies. You
7 know, for like your brakes don't work or something, you can pull
8 that as emergency. And I always leave my headset hanging right
9 there. And when I do use my phone, I always put my headset on. I
10 don't hold the phone in my hand. So --

11 Q. Okay. Was the radio on?

12 A. No, sir. I've never even put it on channel since I've been
13 in the truck. The last truck I had the radio didn't work. I
14 don't really care about listening to the radio when I'm driving,
15 so --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It's interference with what's going on around you. You can't
18 hear and stuff like that.

19 Q. How are the displays in the cab? Were they -- was it causing
20 a glare or --

21 A. No, sir. No -- I mean, no more than what a normal vehicle
22 would be, you know.

23 Q. Okay. So it wasn't causing any problems with visibility
24 outside of the --

25 A. No, sir. No.

1 Q. Okay. I wanted to go a little bit into -- one of things we
2 always do is we try to get a 72-hour history on a driver. So I
3 just --

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. -- wanted to ask what you were doing, you know, what your
6 activities were in the 3 days prior to the crash. Let's start
7 with the day prior. I guess that would be February 28th. Could
8 you tell me --

9 A. Talking about on Wednesday?

10 Q. I think that would be --

11 MS. KESSLER: Thursday.

12 MR. PEREIRA: Thursday.

13 MR. WOOD: Thursday? Okay.

14 BY DR. MARSHALL:

15 Q. Well, can you -- first of all, can you tell me what time you
16 woke up prior to your trip?

17 A. It was around 10 o'clock at night on Wednesday night.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Is when I got up. And I usually, when I'm working is I go in
20 there and turn the coffeemaker on and --

21 MS. KESSLER: Are you talking about Wednesday or Thursday,
22 the night before this? I'm sorry. I just want to make sure
23 you --

24 MR. WOOD: Well, he asked me what time I got up.

25 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah, so this would be --

1 MS. HOUSTON: Because the accident was on Friday.

2 MS. KESSLER: On Friday. That's what I'm talking -- I want
3 to make --

4 MR. WOOD: I'm talking about Thursday, though, what I did on
5 Thursday.

6 MS. KESSLER: But you said --

7 MS. HOUSTON: You said Wednesday.

8 MS. KESSLER: You said Wednesday.

9 BY DR. MARSHALL:

10 Q. Okay. Let's start -- I confused you. This is my fault.

11 A. No. I believe they're confused. You asked me what I did on
12 Thursday. You said what time did you get up?

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. Well, I got up on Wednesday night at 10 o'clock at night. I
15 got me a -- I made my coffee, got me a shower. I went into work.
16 I got to the yard at 11 o'clock. I logged in my truck, hooked up
17 my trailer. I got down to Hialeah -- there's a place we deliver
18 to there down there. It's about 2 miles north of Miami. It's
19 called Dependable Packing.

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. I got there around 4:20 in the morning. I had a 5 o'clock
22 delivery. And the guy got there about 10 minutes till 5. He had
23 me unloaded about 5:15. I left there. I got to the lunch truck
24 stop in Moore Haven, Florida on the US 27. I got there around 7
25 o'clock, I believe it was. It might've been a few minutes before

1 that. I got fuel and I got back to the yard that day -- I think
2 it was about 10, 10:15, somewhere around there. By the time I
3 left the office, it was around 10:30 that morning.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And then after that, what did you do?

7 A. I go and pick my daughter up. She gets out of school at 11
8 o'clock. And me and her usually goes home and just watches TV.

9 Q. Okay. And then --

10 A. And my wife gets home at 6 o'clock that evening and I go
11 straight to bed soon as she walks in the door.

12 Q. You go straight to bed.

13 A. Yeah, it's like one of them hi and bye relationships, you
14 know. (Laughs.)

15 MS. KESSLER: Remember this public.

16 BY DR. MARSHALL:

17 Q. So this is -- so you went to bed around 6, you said?

18 A. Around 6, yes.

19 Q. And then -- so you went to bed around 6 on Thursday.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you woke up --

22 A. Around 1 o'clock.

23 Q. One o'clock a.m.?

24 A. Friday morning, yeah.

25 Q. Friday morning. And --

1 A. Same routine. I got my coffee, got a shower, got in the yard
2 at 1:50, was in the truck by 2, was leaving the yard by 2:15.

3 Q. Do you have -- I mean, how do you sleep? Do you sleep
4 soundly or do you have some --

5 A. I sleep pretty soundly. I mean, normally, on average, if I'm
6 not getting up at 10, 11 o'clock at night, I'm usually waking up
7 to go to the bathroom. And I have a -- like that stomach pill I
8 take for my stomach, I have to take it twice a day on an empty
9 stomach. So if I get up at 11 o'clock at night, I'll take it, go
10 back to bed.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. That way the next time I take it, it's in a window where I'm
13 not going to eat, you know. But normally, I mean, but most of the
14 time I'm usually getting up to go to work. But when -- that one
15 night I got up at 11 o'clock, went to the bathroom, went right
16 back to bed. Alarm clock went off at 1.

17 Q. Do you use a sleep aid or anything like that?

18 A. No, sir, I do not. No.

19 Q. Okay. So we covered -- that was -- we covered your sleep
20 pattern for Thursday. And then you told me that you woke up for
21 work on Wednesday around 11?

22 A. Around -- it was -- no, it was around 10 o'clock at night.

23 Q. Right. It was 10 o'clock at night.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And then, so on Wednesday, what time did you go to sleep?

1 A. Wednesday I went to sleep at 6 o'clock.

2 Q. Six o'clock. Okay.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Did you work that day, on Wednesday?

5 A. No, I did not. I had a doctor's appointment that morning. I
6 had a ultrasound done on my stomach.

7 Q. Okay. So --

8 A. I had been off for like -- I think it was like between 36 to
9 38 hours. I was doing a reset. Because I had worked over the
10 weekend --

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. -- and didn't get reset in, because I had a doctor
13 appointment the week prior to that, too. So --

14 Q. So tell me what your activities were on Wednesday.

15 A. Wednesday?

16 Q. Yeah. What time did you get up?

17 A. I got up and went to the doctor --

18 Q. Got up around what time?

19 A. It was around -- let's see -- around 6 in the morning. I
20 think I had --

21 Q. Six in the morning?

22 A. -- to be at the doctor that morning at 7 o'clock.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And I went to the doctor, then I went -- after I left the
25 doctor's office, I went to Home Depot and bought some yard

1 fertilizer, and I went home and put that out. Hung around the
2 house till about 11 o'clock and then I went and picked my daughter
3 up 11:30, and me and her hung out together till 6. Went to bed.

4 Q. Okay. So you try --

5 A. Same routine every day. I mean --

6 Q. I see.

7 A. I got a 4-year-old and I don't -- I mean, I try to spend as
8 much time with her as I can because --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. -- before I know it she's going to be 15 and not want to talk
11 to me, so --

12 Q. So let's go to Tuesday, then. So Tuesday, what time did you
13 wake up on Tuesday?

14 A. Tuesday, I think it was -- I'm trying to remember back what I
15 did. I don't even remember what I done that day. I mean --

16 Q. But you were off that day?

17 A. Yes, I was done by like -- actually, I do remember what I did
18 that day because he gave me the load for -- he gave me the load
19 for a reason. I got up Monday night at 10 o'clock. I got to work
20 at 11, went down to Hialeah, Dependable. Made my delivery at 5
21 o'clock in the morning. I got back at the yard at 10:30. And the
22 reason why I done that is because the load planner told me, he
23 goes, I'm going to give you this load so you can get back to the
24 yard, get off the clock. He goes, we need to have your reset done
25 by 10 o'clock Wednesday night.

1 So he had it all planned out perfect to where I would have my
2 34 hours in for my reset. That's why I got that certain load.

3 Q. Yeah. Okay.

4 A. So it was the same routine as I did Thursday.

5 Q. Okay. And -- okay, so are you -- are there any stressors
6 right now family-wise or any other thing that is stressing you
7 out?

8 A. Can you define stress other than normal day life, you know?

9 Q. Oh, just -- I guess out of the normal. I mean, like --

10 A. No, not really.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. No.

13 Q. Like no deaths in the family or no --

14 A. Well, my dad died in 2003.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. He was my best friend.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. And every February it's really hard. I mean, I visited his
19 grave the day they buried him and I ain't been back to it since.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Because it's really hard to deal with, I mean --

22 Q. Were you thinking about that during that time?

23 A. I'm always thinking about that, you know.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. You know, you grow up in life, it don't matter if you're 60

1 or you're 70 years old, you want your dad to ask -- you know, you
2 want to ask him what do you now, and he's not there.

3 Q. Yeah. Do you use tobacco or --

4 A. No, sir, I don't.

5 Q. -- do you use alcohol?

6 A. No, sir, I don't.

7 Q. Do you use any other type of --

8 A. I ain't smoked since 2010 and I ain't dranked a drop since
9 2014.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I made a promise to my wife that I wouldn't drink after our
12 daughter was born.

13 Q. How's your eyes? Are they --

14 A. Really good eyes, because I had -- I wore glasses up till
15 2011. I had some issues with my left eye, so I went and seen a
16 doctor in Nashville, Tennessee, and he done eight surgeries on
17 each eye. I got 20/10 vision in my left eye and I got 20/20 in my
18 right, which is my reading eye. I read --

19 Q. Oh, so you actually got the Lasix?

20 A. I read with my right eye and I see my distance in my left
21 eye. Yeah.

22 Q. Read with your right eye and distance with your --

23 A. Yeah. Yeah, I got the surgery, it's right there on Church
24 Street, which you're probably aware of where that's at.

25 Dr. Shofner. He's a really good eye doctor. Does good work.

1 Q. Okay. And your hearing? Your hearing, how's that?

2 A. It's great.

3 Q. Great?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I mean, I had everything checked out a couple weeks ago. And
7 as far as my health goes, I'm in perfect shape other than my
8 stomach's giving me issues, you know.

9 Q. Have you been involved in previous crashes?

10 A. Define previous crashes. Like --

11 Q. Previous crashes or -- yeah, just any previous crashes.

12 A. City kind of wreck --

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. -- or anything like that?

15 Q. With a commercial vehicle.

16 A. Oh, with a commercial vehicle. I was making a left-hand turn
17 off a one-way street and the turn is kind of tight. I was turning
18 left to circle the block to come back up, and -- to able to back
19 on the dock without having to do a blindside back-in. And when I
20 made the turn, I cut the tractor back too sharp and it -- when the
21 tractor come around, it made the trailer roll back about 10 feet
22 and it hit a car that was parked on the side of the road.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And other than that, no, other than like hitting like -- you
25 know, people put yellow poles up so you don't hit their building.

1 Scuff them down with the nose of the truck. I mean, because it's
2 tight anyway. That's why they put the yellow pole there.

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. So -- but other than that, no, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Besides the -- when did you get the eye surgery, by
6 the way? I'm sorry.

7 A. 2011.

8 Q. 2011.

9 A. It was in -- I had a lot of surgeries. I had my shoulder
10 done --

11 Q. I was going to ask that.

12 A. -- then I had my eyes done, then I had my stomach done all in
13 a 3-month period. I had my last major surgery on --

14 Q. Oh, all in 2011?

15 A. Yeah, they done a heart test on me to make sure I could go
16 through all them surgeries.

17 Q. Yeah. Okay. And do you have any issues with controlling the
18 vehicle after your shoulder surgery?

19 A. No, sir. No.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. That's how I end up getting the surgery. I done -- they done
22 -- the doctor done my shoulder surgery, and while I was laying on
23 the table having the surgery, I had like a -- he said, he
24 described it like a brown-yellow stuff running out of my mouth.
25 And he sent me to a stomach doctor. And when they sent a scope

1 down my throat, they said my esophagus was rotted out and I had a
2 hole deteriorated inside of my stomach and it was ate up with
3 ulcers. So they cut out 6 inches of my esophagus and the top half
4 of my stomach.

5 Q. Okay. And that was --

6 A. And ever since then, I feel like somebody's punched me in the
7 stomach. Yeah, that's why I'm having all these tests done to find
8 out why I have abdominal pain.

9 Q. So besides those three surgeries, is there any other
10 surgeries you've had?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. And how do you like working for FirstFleet?

13 A. Oh, that's the best company I've ever worked for.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I hope I can return to them in the future.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. I mean, out of all the trucking companies, they're -- they
18 treated me like I'm a person instead of another number in a truck.

19 DR. MARSHALL: Dave, do you have any other questions?

20 MR. PEREIRA: No. I think you hit them all.

21 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah, I don't think I have --

22 BY MR. PEREIRA:

23 Q. The DOT test the day of the incident, who took you to take
24 that test?

25 A. I think his name is David Richards. He was there doing --

1 like taking pictures of the incident. He's like -- I think he's
2 like a claim adjuster or something.

3 MR. HELLIGE: I think he's with Custard.

4 MS. KESSLER: He's with Custard --

5 MR. PEREIRA: Oh, okay.

6 MR. WOOD: So he's a really nice guy. Yeah, he took me for
7 my drug test and he actually drove me home.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's nice.

9 MR. WOOD: Drove me home to Ruskin, Florida, and I really
10 appreciated that. Because, you know, when something like that
11 happens, you want to be with someone that don't know you that
12 ain't going to badger you to death with questions, you know.

13 MR. PEREIRA: Yeah.

14 MR. WOOD: And he was a really nice guy. I felt more at home
15 with him than I would have with someone around my age, you know.
16 His wife was real nice, too. She rode with us.

17 And I showed him back roads on how to go up 27 and 70 to keep
18 from dealing with traffic through Fort Myers and Naples and all.
19 Because she didn't want to deal with the turnpike at 6 o'clock in
20 the evening. So we bypassed all the traffic and she enjoyed
21 herself.

22 BY DR. MARSHALL:

23 Q. Do you interact with any drivers when you're at Pero, or is
24 it just drop and hook and you're gone?

25 A. No. I don't even --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Couldn't even tell you who worked there or what they even
3 look like.

4 Q. Okay. I just wondered what they thought about that
5 intersection or anything like that.

6 A. Yeah. They probably feel the same way I do about it; it
7 should have a traffic light out there.

8 Q. Yeah. Okay.

9 A. I mean, it's a long straightaway that's heavy traffic, you
10 know.

11 Q. Yeah. So is there anything else you want to add?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Okay. You had mentioned something about -- to us off the --
14 while we weren't recording about how you felt about autonomous
15 vehicles. Have you ever interacted with --

16 A. With what type of vehicle?

17 Q. Like -- or just, I guess, highly automated vehicles like --
18 or vehicles like the Tesla or --

19 A. I don't believe they're safe to be on the road.

20 Q. Okay. Have you ever interacted with any of those before
21 or --

22 A. I wouldn't even sit in one. I mean, it's --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I trust myself behind the wheel before I do a computer. I
25 mean, that's just the way I feel. I believe that you should have

1 your hand on the steering wheel. I mean, I don't even believe in
2 cruise control, so --

3 Q. Okay. So anything else that --

4 A. No.

5 Q. Anything you'd like to ask us?

6 A. No.

7 DR. MARSHALL: Okay. Well, in that case, I think we'll
8 conclude our interview. It is 12:39, Tuesday, March 5th, and
9 that'll be it.

10 (Whereupon, at 12:39 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

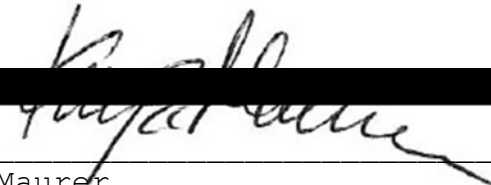

IN THE MATTER OF: DELRAY, FLORIDA MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
JANUARY 28, 2019
Interview of Richard Wood

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY19FH008

PLACE:

DATE: March 5, 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.

Kay Maurer
Transcriber