# EXCERPTS FROM DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ACCIDENT RERPORT 

(50 Pages)

FILED
DATE $\qquad$ TIME $\qquad$

WITH $\qquad$

BY $\qquad$

COURT $\qquad$

DOCKET $\qquad$
Grand Jury Referral
LOCATION OF DEFENDANT


ALIAS $\qquad$
RESIDENCE ADDRESS
 _ ___ IDENTIFICATION NO. (LAI) $\qquad$ PLACE OF ARREST $\qquad$ DATE OF ARREST $\qquad$

MAGISTRATE'S HEARING: DATE $\qquad$ TIME $\qquad$ MAGISTRATE $\qquad$
OFFENSE: DATE__9/23/05_TIME 6:07AM _SERVICE NO._ 05-100213__OFFENSE NO. $\qquad$ COMPLAINANT_Terry, Robert RACE_W__SEX_M D.O.B. (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)
WHERE COMMITTED_N/B 6300 IH45 at Mars Rd. Wilmer, Dallas County. Texas
How COMMITTED Fire started in right rear wheel area of bus causing death of complainant $\qquad$ CHARGE_Criminal Negligent Homicide $\qquad$

PROPERTY TAKEN AND VALUE $\qquad$

EVIDENCE AND SEIZURES $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



## NARRATIVE REPORT

SERVICE NO. 05-100213
On 09-23-05 at approximately 06:07 am I was dispatched to NB IH-45 at Mars Rd., a public roadway in the city of Wilmer, Dallas County Tx., on a vehicle fire. When I arrived, I saw a passenger bus on the right shoulder fully engulfed in flames. I made contact with Sgt. P. Fassett \#341 (DSO), who advised me that he had arrived to the scene just a few minutes before, and had attempted to remove people from the bus. He was on the steps leading into the bus with his flashlight shining into the aisle when the bus started to explode. He heard several explosions and was forced from the bus by the force, intense heat, and smoke. At this time he proceeded to help with passengers that had already exited the bus.

Hutchins fire dept. arrived on the scene at approx. 06:24am, and began fighting the fire. Other dept.'s arrived on the scene to assist. Lancaster fire \#Q351, Ferris fire \#5, Seagoville F\&R rescue 1, Dallas Co. F\&R Engine 31, Dallas Co. F\&R Squad 1, Wilmer fire Med. 1, and Care Flight \#41 TLC ambulance units \# 122, 340, and 560 were on scene.

Hutchins \#701 \& 702 transported three to PMH. TLC ambulance units \# 122, 340, and 560 transported four to PMH and two to Baylor. Lancaster Med \#351 transported two to Baylor. Dallas \#738 transported two to PMH. Care Flight \#141 transported one to PMH. The transported were not identified at the time of transport.

Once the fire was extinguished there were several bodies discovered inside of the bus. According to statements from caretakers that were on the bus, the bus had a flat tire on the right rear (\# 3 tag axle) a few miles south of the location of the fire. The flat was repaired by K \& S tire, towing \& recovery, Inc. \#1 out of Corisicana, Tx. Once the tire was repaired the bus proceeded a few miles from that point until the driver was notified by someone in another vehicle that there were flames coming from the right rear of the bus. The bus was pulled to the right shoulder where the driver exited, and tried to fan the fire out with his shirt. The caretakers attempted to get everyone out of the bus, but were unable to, due to several of the elderly passengers being unable to walk or stand and the intense heat and smoke that filled the bus. Bonnie Estes, the lead caretaker on the bus, advised me that several of the passengers on the bus had to be loaded by fire personnel, which took approximately three hours, before the trip began in Bellaire.

The medical examiners were requested and dispatched to the IH45 location. Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jeffrey Bernard, field agents Mary Clymer \#938, and Charles Gaylor \#844 responded to the scene to begin their investigation and processing.

The bus bearing Texas License plate \#T84305, which shows to be a 1991 Vanh bus, Vehicle Identification number YE2TA72BOM2021707, registered to Global Limo Inc. 1708 N. Jackson Rd. Pharr Tx. 78577. However, further investigation and a check of the vehicle identification number on the bus shows that it is assigned Oklahoma license plate B12951, registered to McMynn, Robert John and Joanne Jacqueline, 802 E. Main St. Ada Oklahoma 74820. The bus driver was identified by Mexican drivers license as Robles, Juan Gutierrez H/M, date of birth

All passengers were either residents, emproyees, ortamly members of Bellaire Brighton Gardens assisted living center, 4620 Bellaire Blvd. Bellaire Texas, 77401. The bus left Bellaire at approximately 2:00pm on 09/22/05 enroute to Park Ln. Forum in Dallas Texas.

The bus was removed from the scene by Prasifka's wrecker service, with the bodies inside, to Shop \# 3... 1506 E . Langdon Rd. Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jeffrey Bernard, field agents Mary Clymer \#938, and Charles Gaylor \#844 responded to shop \#3 to complete their investigation, processing the bus, and removal of the victims bodies. Due to the large number of victims, removal was conducted at different times. All victims were transported to the medical examiners office in Dallas by contract services.

The NTSB was requested and responded to Shop \#3 and is conducting an investigation in the fire.

| DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OFFENSE/INCIDENT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Comp. Or Firm (Last Name First) | Date | Service No. |
| Etie, Anna Beth | 09-28-05 | 05-100213 |
| On 09-28-05 at approximately $1: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ all luggage, clothing, patient notebooks, meals ready to eat (MRE), adult diapers, boxes of gloves, and boxes of bed pads from the bus were transported from Shop \#3, 1506 E. Langdon Rd. to the Sheriff's Department property room in the Frank Crowley Courts Building, 133 N . Industrial Blvd. in Dallas Tx. Several attempts were made to have the belongings picked up by the nursing home, but to no avail. |  |  |
| On 09-29-05 at approximately 1:05 pm the following property was released from shop \#3 to Attorney Josh Schroeder of Fletcher \& Springer Law Firm, 8750 N. Central Expy. Dallas, Texas 75231. |  |  |
| 22 Wheel chairs |  |  |
| 4 Walkers |  |  |
| Misc. wheel chair parts |  |  |
| Oxygen cylinder cart1 case meals ready to eat (MRE) |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| 1 case Aquafina water <br> 1 plastic bag misc. clothing |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| On 09-29-05 at approximately $2: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ a wheel and mounted tire from the bus was taken to the property room in the Frank Crowley Courts Building, 133. N. Industrial blvd. During this time an inventory was being taken of all personal belongings that had been delivered to the property room on 09-28-05. |  |  |


| Officer | Badge | Officer | Badge |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| B. King | 674 | D. Sneed | 361 | Page 3 of 3 |

# Dallas Sheriff's Office <br> Investigator's Supplement Report <br> October 05, 2005 <br> Service Number: 05-100213 <br> Prepared by: Ss. Kevin Feinglas \#323 

Offense: Criminally Negligent Homicide
Suspect: Robles, Juan Gutierrez
Address:
HIS: H/M
Ht: 08 " Wt: 180 Hair: Blk Eyes: Bro Clothing: Jeans, White t-shirt


#### Abstract

Complainant: Terry, Robert R/S: WM D.O.B.:

Address: Cause of Death: Thermal injuries / smoke inhalation from bus fire due to evacuation during Hurricane Rita.


## OVERVIEW:

On September 23, 2005 at 6:07am deputies were dispatched to a vehicle fire at N/B $\mathrm{IH}-45$ south of Mars Rd., Wilmer, Dallas County, TX. When they arrived they determined that a 55 passenger ( 54 passenger + driver) MCl bus was on fire with people still on board. Fire crews had already been dispatched and rescue attempts were made by officers, fire fighters, and civilians to save the passengers that remained on board. Unfortunately, 23 of the passengers died during this incident.

During the subsequent follow up investigation of this incident it was determined that the bus was coming from a nursing home called Brighton Gardens Bellaire, which is in the Houston area. Of the passengers on board, 36 were residents of the "assisted living center", 6 were staff members, 1 was a family member of one of the staff, and one was the bus driver. They were being relocated to other assisted living centers / nursing homes in the DFW metroplex while fleeing hurricane Rita.

As a result of this investigation, this fire is believed to have begun in the right rear wheel area and intensified very quickly causing heavy smoke causing the victims to be overcome. Due to all of these factors, rescuers were unable to enter the bus safely and remove the remaining 23 victims.

## FINDINGS:

Just outside Corsican, TX the right rear tire of the bus locked leaving approximately 1.9 miles of scuff mark on the roadway prior to going flat. That tire was changed by a company called K \& S Towing and Recovery. K \& S employees have stated that they changed the tire and did not make mention of any mechanical deficiencies regarding the bus. The bus then continued northbound on IH-45 until the tire locked again, which resulted in the fire.

1. Driver did not possess a valid Texas driver license. He only possessed a Mexican CDL. He stated that he had lived in this country (in Pharr, TX) since February, 2005. His Mexican DL would allow him only 30 days from the date he moved to change to a Texas CDL. The date of the accident was 7 months after he moved. According to TX DPS officials, to change from his Mexican CDL to a Texas CDL the driver would have had to pass the proficiency exams and a driving test.
2. The driver, because of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act (FMCSA), is required to perform a "pre-trip inspection" of his vehicle. The driver stated that he did not. If he had, he should have observed any mechanical deficiencies such as the lubrication level with the "tag" axle (the third axle). The level of lubrication in this axle is visible in the hub of the wheel. This is the area where the fire appears to have started.
3. After the fire was extinguished, 5 oxygen containers were pulled from the passenger compartment. Upon observation of these canisters, 2 were found ruptured, 1 was found melted, and 2 were found whole. The oxygen from these bottles fueled and intensified the fire causing it to spread very quickly. Oxygen is considered a hazardous material and is regulated by FMCSA for transportation on passenger vehicles to 1 container per passenger requiring use. There were only two passengers requiring oxygen aboard at the time of the accident.
4. When the driver had his first flat (outside Corsicana) this would have caused a large amount of drag or pull on the bus, slowing the bus considerably and causing it to want to pull to one side. According to the bus manufacturer ( MCl ), the third axle is also a steering axle. Because of the flat tire it would necessitate that the driver overcompensate steering to one side or the other to correct for the flat.
5. Approximately 29 miles later the driver was flagged down in Wilmer by a passing motorist. The driver was told of the "glowing" red hub on the tag axle and he pulled to the right shoulder of the roadway (leaving more than 1600 feet of scuff marks on the roadway). Upon checking the wheel the driver found that the area around the tire had caught fire. According to witnesses the driver attempted to extinguish the fire using his shirt, some dirt, dry grass, and water. The driver stated that he tried to get the fire extinguisher that was on board the bus but could not. It remained in its cradle unlatched until I pulled it off of the bus a day later. During the course of the fire, officers, fire personnel, civilians, and staff members were attempting to remove as many people from the bus as possible. The driver had stated that he assisted 3 people from the bus, but his account has not been verified by anyone at the scene.
6. The FMCSA requires that the driver's English speaking skills be sufficient enough to be able to read road signs, make reports, and converse with the general public. The driver could not speak English, only broken English at best. He was unable to communicate with the passengers regarding emergency exits prior to the trip, and he could not give them the adequate warning that there were problems when the bus caught fire.
7. The driver left the Bellaire area sometime around $3: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ prior to the date of the accident. The accident occurred at 6:07am. This is roughly 15 hours of continuous driving without rest for the driver. FMCSA regulations state that a driver may not drive more than 10 hours before resting for 8 hours. He may not drive at all after
being on duty for 15 hours. In other words, if it takes 4 hours to load a bus (for example) then the driver may drive for 10 hours before stopping the bus for the rest of his shift. He must then rest for 8 hours before driving again. Coincidently, if he works prior to driving the bus for 14 hours, he may only drive for 1 hour before resting for 8 hours.
8. The driver switched registrations on the bus, according to his own statements to avoid being stopped by the police, from an expired 144 hour permit to a Texas registration from another bus on the lot.

## SUMMARY

The combination of all of these factors proved to be lethal. The drivers actions, had he been in compliance with the laws of this state and the FMCSA, could have prevented the loss of 23 lives.




On September 23, 2005 at 6:07am Deputies were dispatched to a vehicle fire on IH-45 south of Mars Rd. When they arrived they determined that the vehicle was a 55 passenger ( 54 passengers + driver) MCl bus that was engulfed in flames and still had passengers on board. Attempts to rescue several of the passengers were unsuccessful, however several passengers made it off. The passengers were elderly evacuees from the Houston area fleeing hurricane Rita. The cities of Wilmer, Hutchins, Lancaster, Seagoville, Dallas, and Ferris, as well as Dallas County Fire and Rescue all sent fire equipment to the scene for rescue and fire suppression attempts. The fire consumed the bus and 23 of the 45 passengers on board died. The fire appears to have started in the area of the right rear tag axle and tire. There is a very long scuff mark leading from the lanes of traffic onto the shoulder under the bus. The driver also has stated in interviews that he was flagged down prior to stopping and told that his right rear tire was on fire. I asked TX DPS commercial vehicle enforcement (Troopers M. Dial and A. Cummings) to come to the scene to inspect the vehicle and the NTSB has also come to inspect the vehicle. The Dallas County ME's office was notified and sent two field agents to the scene. The decisions were made to tarp the vehicle and transport it by Prasifkas Wrecker Service to Road and Bridge District Shop \#3 with the 23 decedents aboard and Dallas County ME (Dr. J. Bernard) met us there to unload the bus. All of the injured were transported to area hospitals and the deceased were taken to the DCME's office. The names of the staff, one passenger who was not a staff member, and patients as well as their dispositions are listed on page two.

The bus bore the registration of TX T84305 but that registration is not correct for this bus. The correct registration is OK 04 B12951.
*Note (for reporting statistics from the back of ST-3): It is unknown if any of the passengers were wearing seatbelt at the time of the accident, no passengers wore helmets, and no passengers were ejected.

This is a preliminary report and $A L L$ findings, as far as causative factors, are subject to final report by the TX DPS and NTSB. This report may be supplemented upon final receipt of inspection reports.

Sig. K.J. Feinglas \#323
Accident Reconstructionist
Dallas Sheriff's Office
Traffic Section


## Disposition of Killed and / or Injured

| Seat position: | Name | Address | R/S | D.0.8. | Age | Transported to: | By: | Injury <br> Code: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| P/B | Billie Barton | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 88 | Parkland Hospital | Dallas F.D | C |
| P/B | Gloria Putney | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 84 | Parkland Hospital | Hutchins F.D. | 8 |
| P/B | Edna Briant | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 87 | Baylor Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| P/B | Ruby Goldberg | 4620 Bellaire Bhud, Bellaire, TX | WFF |  | 84 | Baylor Mospital | Lancaster. | C |
| P/B | Clara Briant | 4620 Bellaire Bhud, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 84 | Baylor Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| P/B | Harry Wilson | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 78 | Parkjand Hospital | Hutchins F.D. | C |
| P/B | Warren Dahl | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 93 | Parkland Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| P/B | Carlo Aiello | 4620 Bellaire Bud, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 81 | Parkiand Hospita] | Dallas F.D. | C |
| P/B | Jean Alello | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | WIF |  | 81 | Baylor Hospital | Dallas F.D. | C |
| P/B | Bill Talbot | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 76 | Parkjand Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| P/B | Lee Daniel | 4620 Bellaire Bkd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 78 | Baylor Hospital | Lancaster | C |
| P/B | Álta Morgan | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 99 | Parkland Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| $P / B$ | Fred Reynolds | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | B/M |  | 68 | Baylor Hospital | TLC Amb. | C |
| P/B | Lillie Spies | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 87 | Parkland Hospital | Hutchins F.D. | C |
| P/B | Dorothy Mod | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 80 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Portia Waddle | 4620 Bellaire Błvd, Bellaire, TX | WFF |  | 92 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Fannie Mills | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 94 | DĆME | DCME | K |
| P/B | London England | 4820 Bellaire Btvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 86 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Evelyn Greer | 4620 Beilaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 84 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Bessie Kaplan | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 92 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | lda Dahi | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 91 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Dorothy Miller | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 79 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Ruth Nicely | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 88 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Rebecca Elledge | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | $W / F$ |  | 80 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Maxey Hathome | 4620 Bellaire Blyd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 87 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Louis Stolz | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 92 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Martha Talbot | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 77 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Matti Bynum | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 100 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Mary Gillette | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 85 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Natalie Lenzener | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 68 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Anna Beth Etie | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, IX | W/F |  | 92 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Gene Macey | 4620 Bellaire Bıd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 76 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Robert Terry | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 74 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Lester Lothman | 4620 Bellaire Bivd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 86 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Rose DePuma | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/F |  | 91 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Adrien Flake | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 90 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Mike Boudreax | 4620 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX | W/M |  | 89 | DCME | DCME | K |
| P/B | Marie Ceres | (R) | B/F |  | 55 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Lerline Fuller |  | B/F |  | 59 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Bernadette Nanez |  | H/F |  | 50 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Shiela White |  | B/F |  | 42 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Ayelech Taywork |  | O/F |  | 51 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Bonnie Estes |  | W/F |  | 57 |  |  | N |
| P/B | Conchita Lorenzo |  | H/F |  | 79 |  |  | N |

$$
\begin{array}{cl}
\text { Dallas Sheriff's Office } & \text { Approved for Filing } \\
\text { Investigator's Supplement Report } & \text { Date: } \frac{9.29 .05}{9.323} \\
\text { September 28, 2005 } & \\
\text { Service Number: } 05-100159 & \\
\text { Prepared by: Sig. Kevin Feinglas \#323 } &
\end{array}
$$



ST-3C (Rev. 3/1/02) COMMERCIAL MOTOE AHCLE SUPPLEMENT TO THE TEXAS PEAL OFFICER'S ACCIDENT REPORT

22. CARGO BODY TYPE
t-BUS (SEATS FOR 9-15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DRIVER) . 7-CONCRETE MIXER 2-BUS (SEATS FOR >15 PEOPLEE, INCLUDING DRIVER) . $\quad 8$-AUTO TRANSPORTER
2 3-VAN/ENCLOSED BOX 4-GARGO TANK
5-FLATBED 9-GARBAGE/REFUSE 10-GRAIN, CHIPS, GRAVEL 11-POLE 6-DUMP
12-NOT APPLICABLE
23. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL $\square$ YES $\square$ NO $\square$ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASED

1. CLASS
ID NO.
2. CLASS $\qquad$ ID NO.
3. CLASS $\qquad$ ID NO. $\qquad$ $\square \mathrm{YES} \quad \square \mathrm{NO}$

TRAILER NUMBER 1 INFORMATION 24. LICENSE PLATE

Year State Number
TRAILER TYPE
25. Gross Vehicle Weight Rating GVWR $\square$
$\square \begin{aligned} & \text { 1-FULL TRAILER } \\ & \text { 2-SEMI-TRAILER } \\ & \text { 3-POLE-TRAILER }\end{aligned}$

- Registered Gross Vehicle Weight RGVW


TRALLER NUMBER 2 INFORMATION
26. LICENSE PLATE

| 26. LICENSE PLATE |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Year State | Number |
| 27. Gross Vehicle Weight Rating GVWR |  |
| Registered Gross Vehicle Weight RGVW | $\square$ |

TRAILER TYPE




SIGNATURE:
I HEREBY PROMISE TO ARPEAR AT THE TIME AND
PLACE DESIGNATED IN THIS NOTICE. ITHIS IS
NOT A not a plea of guiluty

X
ox



UnitNo: 1692
Disp Status: NEW
Return Type: DL Cheak
Identifier string: ROBLES-GUTIERREZ, JUAN U/M $/ \mathrm{MX} /$ SOC:
Query Return:
FROM: NLT\# TO: 08X1
09/27/05 15:13:30

DR.MXLIC0000
13:17 09/27/2005 07161 .
13:17 09/27/2005 02625 TXDPS08X1
*X\&8851\&XXX
TXT
ROBLES-GUTIERREZ@JUAN
LICENSING OFFICE/MONTERREY, NUEVO LEON, MEXICO.
MAILING ADDR/HUIZACHE
OLN $/$
CATEGORTA/A. EXPIRES/09022006. STATUS/VALID. RGTR/A Pasaje y Turismo.
OLT/A - BUSES WITH MORE THAN 13 RIDERS AND RELATED CARGO; NO HAZARDOUS MATERTAL.

UnitNo: 1610
Disp status: NEW
Query Return:
FROM: NLTH TO: 08X1
09/27/05 10:04:50

RR.OK00000VS
08:08 09/27/2005 07642
08:08 09/27/2005 89313 TXDPS08X1
*X\&87C4\&XXX
TXT
INQUIRY BY: NLET

*** END OF RESPONSE ***



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY <br> State of Texas 

Voluntary Statement - (Not under arrest)

## THE STATE OF TEXAS

## COUNTY OF

## Navarro County

Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the
 a Global Limo Bus with a Blown out tire, Torrive to the Bus' location on I 45 at mitemerker 241 at $4: 30 \mathrm{am}$; The right rear Jog axle tire webs Blown out. The Driver of the Bub was standing by the blown out tine and - had the mounted spore tire Leaning against the bus. I jot 2 Jocks out of my. Service truck par t put I under the frame of the bus to yet the tyg axle of $P$ of the ground, I removed the Blown out tire of whee) off the bus, laid it on the ground by the bus, got another jack put under the axle, jacked the axle up. The Bus driver took the blown out tire to the front of the bus to put in spore tire rack. Int spore tire of wheel provided by bus driver on Right Rear ton apter tightened lug nuts Removed both jocks from under bus tout all my equipment beck in service truck. The Rice 80 officer that was on the seen asked me to led the bus driver to move down the interstate to the next exit to free traffic bock up. we move off the interstate at the next exit to bettlenp bill, the bus dries pod with a crolit cord 4 I left the seen of dproximite 450. An, End of Stetememt.


## Ra-5

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY State of Texas 

Voluntary Statement - (Not under arrest)

## THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF

## Vlauarro

Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the 23 .d day of $\qquad$ ,A.D. $19^{2000^{\circ}}$ , personally appeared Manx MANson TExas driven License\# who after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:

ON The mornituy of Sept 23 d approx 345 tm I was notified of A bus broken down in the North bound Lane of $I 45$ south of CAlhoun sT <xt. When I Arrived at the scare, I noticed the ran rit tree wits
Almost completely off the Rind. Also Inoticed something wat under the bus around the Tire area m trogreand. I mantinad it to the others who were standing aromal. I cAlled K \& s wrecker service to come OUT \& Repair and they had Arad been dispachal. There sorn the Scene with me we the Drier, ww. Water night triffid inter Personal spice R.D. I Asked About mooing the bus to A sod for AREA buT the AqRementwas that if the bus were nivaEd it word Ruin the wheel and the tire murat damage some ago the beater m brake system on ate or bus unde-penning. The wrecker arrived And Changed the tine and we Lett the same. The bus pulled roe n (a) Eathom Exit for a while and later drove off:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned authority, on this the $23 / \mathrm{rd}$ day of $\qquad$ A.D. 493005 nom
Marx Madism
Tx-Dot Nauaro co Area office-
Ra-5

Notary Public in and for
County, Texas.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
State of Texas
Voluntary Statement - (Not under arrest)
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF
Navarre County
Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the
$\qquad$ , A.D. $79^{2}$ $\qquad$ , personally appeared Kenneth Brown Texas Driven License _ after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:

oft Tim TowingtReiam the:


On 9.23-05 around 3130 Am W.W.W. Weber Called about a
Bus with Elderly People. With a Flat. I was also Dispatched By ness. \& Tx dot. I Sent my Employee To the 242 NB Bund. I. 45 To Install a mounted spare on the Bus. Position of Flat was unkown to me. JeFF Konkendall was the tech.


Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned authority, on this the $\qquad$ 23 day of $\qquad$ september , ADD. 2005.

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

SERVICE NUMBER

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally
appeared $\qquad$
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
se poncho ta llanta del Buy y la cambio una reata en la mill 242. y nod arancamos dol Lugar en la milla. 270 y un campo mo abiso greg cesta sclicudo lumbre y me
pave scliendo dol Bus y $l l a$ estaba la lumbredt pave scliend Pres Bus


ADDRESS: $\qquad$
CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$
WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or

CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$ Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

* Bus Driver* (22)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$
$\qquad$ A. D. 19 $\qquad$
$\qquad$

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF $\qquad$
Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, on this the
$\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ , ADD. 2005 , personally appeared Juan Robles , who, after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says:
DRIVER observed a white vehicle on the RT side of his bus. DRIVER traveling in the left lane. Next, the driver observed the white vehicle pass And changed lane to the left in front of the bus And slowed down. Devin observed the white vehicle slow down. DRIVER observed the brake lights observed the white vehicle come on. Driver applied his brakes Ard looked in the Right side mirror. At this point the driver observed flames on the Right side of the bus. Driver moved bus onto the Right shoulder, \& Exited the vehicle. Driver observed that it was the same tire that had been changed earlier. Driver entered bus and attempted to ge get fire but was unable to get Fine Extenguishen. Driver Attempted to help passengers off the bus. Derive pet Fine ext get 3 other passing GS off. When police greived, Driver assisted the passengers as the exited the bus. Driver Attempted to open emergency exits. AriEL passengers as the exited
opened the $i^{\text {st }}$ Emergency window on the Driver side And managed to get the ind Emengenap Exit on the Driverside unlatched. Driver Assisted the 3 ed posen pea off ane Ran to the mars Rod under pass when he head the explosions.


Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned authority, on this the $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ , ADD. 19 $\qquad$

Ra-5
Statement was written during an interview with Me. Robles by M. Dial.

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME,
A NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
Aa 2 wale onverthres blew up) threwos claud norse $\&$ then the hus has to druse slowly until me had a rape rect to slap, The haghway shari came $v$ tad us the wruefer waserang, it fenalig came $\bar{P}$ probably an char or more dicertopiafkic the shuribid bayed thus until it woo fropeel.

Asfan as \& know me hmuent gore far, seel asleep the land nubile life attire bloung up agon waimhot $A$ heard $*$ the pal of burningtive. weight aus of the lens viand that the hight rear on the area of tires was in flame. Wexvee to pull the patient that we cark come ant, most of then witness coiffured, inpames $\forall$ respecting to erne ant. Sural ADDRESS CITY PHONE \#

OR SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME continued

THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$ ARD.
WITNESS
ADDRESS ADDRESS PHONE \#
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME,
A NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
people came $V$ top the lp, drum 7 to to the der thy can to help, the lows was file of annie theremere punch suplozions at the rear paros af the lows then it was leurning, 2 reveinkerthat ne have orygen tares for the patent ot the bale of the fud.


WITNESS :
ADDRESS CITY
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OR SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
WITNESS
ADDRESS
CITY
PHONE\#

THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$ ADD.

NOTARY PUBLIC, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

## AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

$\underset{\sim}{z}$ SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said county, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared Jason $\operatorname{cau}_{5} / 5$ bury

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
pulled up behind bus was already pulled over. and rear right side was on fire people were still in bus and tried to get as many out as possible


Sails Bury JHSON RODERT


WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
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WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or

CITY:
PHONE \#: $\qquad$ SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$
$\qquad$ A.D. 19 $\qquad$

[^0]
## AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

$\qquad$
the state of texas
COUNTY OF DALLAS
before ne, Vincent loera
A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared Vincent LoerA:
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
I PULLED UP ABOUT THE TIME THE FLAM CS, ROSE TO ABOUT HALF WAY UP THE BUS I RAN Inside. The BUS Help pul 3 people out, trike to break out windows but were shatter proof. I: was running BACK IN ABOUT THE TIM IT EXPUDERS and fart pull back:

WITNESS: $\qquad$
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WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\quad$ or
CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE 并: $\qquad$

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE RE THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$
$\qquad$ A.D. 19 $\qquad$

Notary Public, Dallas. County, Texas

## AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

## THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

## BEFORE ME,

A NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:


WITNESS
ADDRESS
CITY
PHONE \#
$\qquad$
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OR SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
WITNESS $\qquad$ THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$ ADD.
ADDRESS CITY
PHONE \# $\qquad$ NOTARY PUBLIC, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME,
A NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says: at the back, hand hond norse pit the back and the car started gong slow, and stopped t thought tire flat again. I heard our leader bloyms fire, them when 1 turn to the window the fire was already at the window, then I Started pulling pot at the back and took the ladies off of the oxygen, and walk them to the front, most of them won't getup, then the smoke engulfed the whole room. We could ont help few, the smoke got stronger a got out of the ca

WITNESS Ayelech Tayework
ADDRESS CITY PHONE \#

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
WITNESS
ADDRESS
CITY
PHONE \# THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$ ADD.

NOTARY PUBLIC, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME,
A NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
7 lat tire at mile marker $241-242,911$ called. 2 white trucks came with one male in each truck, Sometime later a Larger yellow truck arrived - Felt trock rise in rear sparetive $O N$, drove down road ( 077 shoulder) met a tire repair man, paid $70 \Omega$ fire repair with credit card. Apx mile 220 a nothes pirk-up got in front + stopped - got out

* said truck is on Fire' - driver puled bus over* got out -swatted at fire with shirt. I had stock my head out door, phsesved 4 immediately shorted shouting get residents out. Another cane mgr. in the rear did the same + we all pulled as ming out as we could-volonteers t passerbyers stopped to help. 7 Heat tired Changed was Right Rear.
ArIESEs
CITY, CITY PHONE \# $\qquad$ OR SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
 THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$ ADD. ADDRESS CITY

NOTARY PUBLIC, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally
appeared $\qquad$
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
Came from Bellaire, Tl


Hest
at 1.00 pm
9/22105
L. Henan

WITNESS: $\qquad$
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CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$
WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or

CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$

Park ln Forum

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$
$\qquad$ A.D. 19 $\qquad$

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

* Not on bus

Administrator for ( 3grum Park Ln. Dallas
$\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, State $q f$ Texas, on this day personally appeared $\qquad$ Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
We pulled up bus was on fire we got out ind tried to pull people ontuf the buscisfustas we could.


WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
CITY:
PHONE \#: - $\qquad$
WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or

CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$ Notary Public, Dallas. County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared DAN Crabace
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
Came up on bus stopped to help.
bus on fire helped out as many
People as we could until smoke
was too much X Wo at

WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
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WITNESS: $\qquad$
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CITY: $\qquad$
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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE IE THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$
$\qquad$ A.D. 19 $\qquad$
$\qquad$
Notary Public, Dallas. County, Texas

## AFFIDAVIT $\mathbb{I N}$ ANY FACT

$\approx \quad$ SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared Riel Harold

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
I putted up back of bus was on Fire. When I got to the bus it was Filling with smoke, we started pulling people out ex fly

WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
CITY:

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
PHONE \#: $\qquad$
THIS $\qquad$ DAY OE $\qquad$
WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or

CITY:
$\qquad$ A.D. 19 $\qquad$

PHONE \#: $\qquad$


AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS.

BEFORE ME,


A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared
Who' after being by me duly: sworn on oath deposes and says:
I was dispatched to bus fine od DB I-4SAMARS at Gotham. when I arrived I observed the bus almost Fully engulfed, the front passenger ane was not burning but full of heavy smolse. I shined my Flashlight
$\because$ in the aisle and yelled len people to try to get. out. I could hear several people yelling ton hello but I could Not see then due to the smalse. Then was A longe explosion forcing me out the bus door. Awning this time deputy Evans was on the shriven side of the bus and deputy Ganint WAS Running up to the bus. A fen the explosion we retreated from the bus pa wd begin assisting the people already Removed flem the bus since there was nothing else we cauld do for the people: on the bus.


SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
PHONE \#: $\qquad$
WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
$\therefore$ CITY : $\qquad$
$\therefore$ CITY : $\qquad$ Dallas county; Texas


THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
BEFORE ME


A Notary Public in and for said, county, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared $\qquad$ :..... Whoa after being by me duty sworn, on oath deposes and says:




$\qquad$
 $\qquad$ CITY :
PHONE ${ }^{2}$ : $\qquad$ : $\qquad$ OR
$\therefore$ ADDRESS: $\qquad$
$\therefore$ CITY : $\qquad$ SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME' THIS 'DAY OF $\qquad$ A.D. $20^{\circ}$ Notary Public, Dallas coûrityi Texas

# AFFIDAVIT IN ANY ACT 

SERVICE NUMBER 05-100159 $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS,
BEFORE ME, E.S. EVANS
A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared, E.S. EVANS
Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
ON 09/23/05, I WAS DISPATCHED ON A BUS FIRE N/B I45 AT MARS. UPON MY ARRIVAL, I NOTICED PEOPLE LYING ON THE GROUND. I HEARD SOMEONE SAY THAT PEORLE WERE STILL ON THE BUS. I COULD HEAR THE FIRE CRACKLING AND THE WINDOWS POPPING. S/SGT. FASSETT AND OFC. SHAW WERE ON THE STEPS OF THE BUS TRYING TO RESCUE THE TRAPPED PASSENGERS. I TRIED TO WALK AROUND THE BUS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER ENTRANCE. AS I MADE IT TO THE DRIVERS WINDOW, THE BUS EXPLODED. THE PERCUSSION KNOCKED ME BACKWARDS. AS I REGAINED MY FOOTING, I NOTICED EASSETT AND SHAW COMING OFF THE BUS. I WENT OVER TO THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE OK. ONCE I KNEW THEY WERE ALRIGHT, MY ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THE INDIVIDUAL THAT WERE LYING ON THE GROUND NEAR THE BUS. I STARTED DRAGGING PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE BUS WITH THE HELP OF OTHER PEOPLE. THERE WERE MORE EXPLOSIONS. ONCE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED, I WENT OVER TO THEM AND TOLD THEM THAT PEOPLE WERE STILL TRAPPED AND THAT THERE WERE OXYGEN BOTTLES EXPLODING INSIDE THE BUS. I WALKED BACK TO THE SERVICE ROAD AND TRIED TO FIND THE DRIVER OF THE BUS. I NOTICED DEPUTY WILSON AND OTHER PEOPLE TENDING TO THE INJURED PEOPLE. I THEN WALKED OVER TO A SQUAD CAR PARKED ON THE SERVICE ROAD AND JUST WATCHED AS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SPRAYED WATER ON THE BUS. LnmS

WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$
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WITNESS: $\qquad$
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OR
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEEORE ME THIS $\quad$ DAY OF
$\qquad$

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

# AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT 

SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared E. E. WIlSon ${ }^{\text {of }}$ Seas

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:















 Ephis. Users until Enocent Fris Depr:5 went on Scene:

WITNESS: $\qquad$
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WITNESS: $\qquad$
ADDRESS: $\qquad$ or SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS $\qquad$ DAY OF $\qquad$

CITY:
PHONE \#: $\qquad$
A.D. 19 $\qquad$

[^1]$\approx$

## AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS

## COUNTY OF DALLAS.

BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared $\triangle-\mathcal{N}$ FSNARS B GRANT H639
Who i after being by me duly sworn on oath deposes and says:
 NB





 AKP日, From the Bus because There kos AH Explosion AFEE This Thee was at hiss Tho move Explosion. AT That purist myself. alone With otter Deputes un the scenic ans The people



## EQUIPMENT STATES AiRING OFGCLNE



## AFFIDAVIT IN ANY ACT

SERVICE NUMBER $\qquad$
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALIAAS,
BEFORE ME, $\qquad$
A Notary Public in and for said County, state of Texas, on this day personally appeared, M. Spurger \#653

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
On September 232005 at approximately 6:07 am I was dispatched to a vehicle fire involving a bus that was fully engulfed with people trapped. At that time $I$ was at North Bound $I-45$ and $T \times 310$ on a traffic stop. I cleared my stop and went to the bus fire code 3. Upon arrival I saw a bus that was fully engulfed in flames 510 and 511 arrived at the scene before me and proceeded to the bus to try and rescue people from the bus. I turned my car sideways on north bound I-45 at Mars and shut the highway down. I got out of my car to go back and set out a flare line and I heard and felt and explosion from the bus, I looked and there was flames being shot in the air approximately 40 to 50 feet high. I started laying out the flares and then I saw another explosion just like the first. I was back at my squad car keeping the highway shut down until the fire dept arrived.

$\qquad$
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WITNESS : $\qquad$
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$\qquad$ A.D. - 2004

WITNESS: $\qquad$
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CITY: $\qquad$
PHONE \#: $\qquad$

## Proclamation,-September 20, 2005|:


i
Proclamation
by the
Governor of the State of Texas

## TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, do hereby certify that Hurricane Rita poses a threat of imminent disaster along the Texas Coast beginning September 20, 2005.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby proclaim the existence of such threat and direct that all necessary measures both public and private as authorized under Section 418.015 of the code be implemented to meet that threat.

As provided in section 418.016 , all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the incident.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of September, 2005.

## RICK PERRY(Signature) <br> Governor of Texas

Attested by:
ROGER WILLIAMS(Signature)
Secretary of State
U.S. Department : SEP 232005

400 Seventh Street, seW of Transportation Weainhoten D.C. 20.590

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

DOTE 14248

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2005

1. GRANTEE: Texas State, local, and Federal government officials and persons conducting operations under the direction of those government officials within the Hurricane Rita disaster areas.
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION: This emergency exemption authorizes the transportation in commerce of hazardous materials used to support the recovery and relief efforts to, from and within the Hurricane Rita disaster areas under conditions that may not meet the Hazardous Materials Regulations. This exemption provides no relief from any regulation other than as specifically stated herein.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR, Parts 171 through 180, except as specified herein.
5. BASIS: This emergency exemption is based on a determination that it is necessary to avoid a risk of significant harm to persons or property by facilitating expedited transportation of hazardous materials to, from or within'the disaster areas.

Continuation of DOT-E 14248
6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR § 172.101):

| Proper shipping name $-\infty$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hazardous materials description | Hazard <br> Class/ <br> Division | Identi- <br> fication <br> Number | Packing <br> Group |
| Hazardous Materials listed in | Class 1, | As | As |
| the 49 CFR other than | $2,3,4$, | Applicable | Applicable |
| radioactive materials | $5,6,8$, |  |  |

7. SAEETY CONTROL MEASURES: Compliance with the HMR is required to the extent practicable. When compliance with the HMR is not possible or practicable, shipments may be offered or transported under alternative safety requirements imposed by the grantees.
8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS: Operations under this exemption are lImited to the grantees.
9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicles, rail freight, cargo vessel, cargo aircraft only.
10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS: The shipper must provide written notification to the carrier of the hazardous material and packagings being offered at the time the shipment is initiated.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:


PO: RP

Office of the Governor

RIck perry
governor
September 23, 2005

The Honorable Richard F. "Rice" Williamson
Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas .78701-2483
RE: Hurricane Rita - Waiver for Motor Carriers
Dear Chairman Williamson:
To accompany my September 20, 2005 State Disaster Proclamation for Hurricane Rita, I am issuing this letter to provide guidance to the commercial motor carriers that will be involved in disaster relief or economic recovery efforts following. the Hurricane Rita event.

I direct the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to suspend all oversize/overweight permitting requirements and fees for motor carriers involved in relief efforts, with the exception of exceeding posted weight limits on bridges. Carriers moving loads that exceed 14 high will be required to contact TxDOT's Motor Carrier Division at 512/465-3592 between 6 am. and 6 ppm., Monday through Friday. If calling after hours, please call 512/658-1149.

I direct the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to suspend all size and weight enforcement for motor carriers involved in relief efforts.

I direct that all requirements concerning Motor Carrier Registration, Single State Registration, the International Registration Plan, and International Fuel Tax Agreement be suspended for motor carriers traveling within or into Texas to assist with relief efforts. I am also suspending the requirements regarding the purchase of trip permits for registration and fuel for commercial motor carriers engaged in interstate disaster relief efforts.

Hours of service limitations are temporarily suspended for carriers involved in evacuation and recovery efforts. Also carriers not directly involved in evacuation and recovery efforts that were caught in evacuation traffic are excused from hours of service overages noted in their logbook.

The Honorable Richard F. "Rice" Williamson
September 23, 2005
Page 2

Insurance, commercial driver's license, and safety requirements associated with the above mentioned permits, registration, and programs are not suspended and remain in effect. Motor carriers traveling into or within Texas must, at the minimum, have liability insurance at limits required by Texas or their home state.

I ask all Texas law enforcement and other federal and state officials to honor this letter as a blanket permit issued to commercial motor carriers for the purpose of Hurricane Rita disaster relief or economic recovery efforts.

This waiver will be in effect until October 31, 2005, unless extended or repealed.
Thank you for your cooperation


RP:khp
cc: The Honorable Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Ms. Colleen McHugh, Chairman, Public Safety Commission

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM 

ro: All Regional Commanders, HP, and CVE Captains Date: 03/30/05<br>R. K. Elliston, Chief, Texas Highway Patrol Division<br>Division: THP<br>Subject: 49 CFR 391.11(b)(2) - English Language Requirement - Enforcement Policy

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, in Part 391.11(b)(2), provide that a person is qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if he/she can read and speak.the English language sufficient to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records.

This English language requirement was originally established by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) in 1936. When promulgated at that time, the ICC explained that this regulation was not intended to be enforced at the roadside. The ICC specifically stated that it was the motor carrier employer's responsibility to evaluate the driver's proficiency in the English language as the employer was presumed to know what communication skills were necessary for the type of cargo handled, the route taken, and the public contact required (see 62 FR 45200 - 45201 issued August 26, 1997). In July 2003, the Federal Motor Carrler Safety Administration (FMCSA) again reviewed the English language requirements in Part 391.11(b)(2) and determined the following: "As written, the regulation sets forth the qualifications of drivers of CMV's to read and speak the English language and allows each motor carrier employer the flexibility to determine the extent of proficiency needed to enforce it. It provides carriers with the flexibility to indlvidually determine whether a driver has communication skills and English fluency to operate safely on the highway" (see 68 FR 43889-43891). Clearly, the FMCSA continues to believe that this regulation is not intended to be enforced at roadside, but rather through the compliance review process with the employing motor carrier. Based on this FMCSA interpretation of Part 391.11(b)(2), the following enforcement policies will be in effect.

## CMV's Operating in Interstate Commerce

Neither custody arrests nor arrest citations should be initiated against a driver for a violation of 49 CFR 391.11(b)(2). If the driver has insufficient command of the English language and highway safety is compromised, then that driver may be issued a warning for violation of 49 CFR 391.11(b)(2) and placed out-of-service in accordance with the North American Standard Driver Out-of-Service Criteria that becomes effective on 04/01/05. DPS employees that place a driver out-of-service for violation of 49 CFR 391.11 (b)(2) shall promptly notify their
first-line supervisor of such action. DPS employees shall also submit a Compliance Review Complaint Form to the Motor Carrier Bureau requesting that a compliance review be initiated against the employing motor carrier of the driver. If the Compliance Review determines noncompliance with 49 CFR 391.11(b)(2) by the employing motor carrier, then appropriate enforcement action may be initiated against the motor carrier by the Motor Carrier Bureau.

## CMV's Operating in Intrastate Commerce

Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, $\S 4.12$ (b)(5), provides that 49 CFR $391.11(\mathrm{~b})(2)$ has not been adopted for intrastate drivers. Therefore, no enforcement or out-of-service action shall be initiated under Part 391.11(b)(2) for intrastate drivers. Compliance Reviews conducted on intrastate motor carriers shall not include any enforcement action for violations of 49 CR 391.11 (b)(2).

cc: Assistant Chief Lamar Beckworth, THP. Division<br>Inspection Dale St. John, OAI

stops. Often, the driver is $\mathrm{fl}_{\mathrm{l}}$ zd to spend hours trying to obtain sl i or rest aboard the bus during offduty periods. Most destinations do not provide driver "lounges". With rare exception, the typical motorcoach is not equipped so the driver can lay-down to obtain restful sleep - most of the time the drivers are forced to rest in a passengerseat. Also, local idling laws may prevent the driver from running he engine in extremes of weather for heat or air-conditioning during layover periods.

Lastly, the subject of extended days. In the course of the typical charter or tour, there are pre-scheduled intermittent off-duty periods throughout the day. The driver is free to leave the vehicle for a specified period of time until the group finishes their activity. Unlike the 14 hour rule for property carriers, the motorcoach driver's day can extend to 18 hours and beyond due to the intermittent off-duty periods. It is not uncommon for a driver to report at 5:00am to the garage and to return past midnight and still be on task and not in violation of the hours of service.

## PART 396

## INSPECTION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE

## Push out window tests

When reviewing maintenance files, investigators should ensure that the motor carrier is conducting tests on the push out windows, emergency door, and emergency door marking light. These tests should be conducted at least every 90 days and a record of the tests should be retained for each vehicle as required by 396.3(b)(4). State mandated inspections that include these satisfy this requirement.

## Periodic inspection

State mandated inspection programs that have been approved by FMCSA meet the requirements of 396.17. Those vehicles that are inspected by a State listed in 396.17 are considered in compliance with the annual inspection requirements. Otherwise, documentation of inspection must be maintained by the carrier.

## PART 177 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Part 177.870 of the Hazardous Material Regulations describes the condition under which specific hazardous materials may be transported on a for hire passenger carrying vehicle. An often-asked question concerns the transportation of oxygen cylinders (non-flammable gas) for personal use by the passenger. Passengers who require oxygen are permitted to bring one cylinder into the passenger compartment for their personal use. On multi-day tours for example, there are occasions when the passenger may require several back-up cylinders to sustain them for the duration of the trip.

A RSPA interpretation, dated 4/2/99 addresses this issue According to this interpretation, additional . cylinders that must be stored outside the passenger compartment (in the luggage bays) are considered to be in commerce and therefore are subject to the Hazardous Materials Regulations. Therefore, when transporting additional oxygen cylinders for the passengers' persorial use as cargo, a motor carrier of passengers is subject to the shipping paper requirements, marking and labeling, blocking and bracing, and the hazardous materials training requirements found in Subpart H of Part 172.

Dallas Sheriff's Office Investigator's Supplement Report<br>Service Number: 05-100159<br>Prepared by: Ssa. Kevin Feinglas \#323

Re: Interview with Bonnie Estes W/F
Spoke with Ms. Estes concerning her role during the evacuation and subsequent bus fire on 9-23-05. Her title is senior area director of resident care and one of her areas of responsibility is the Bellaire area. She volunteered for this assignment. She does speak some Spanish but is not fluent. She arrived at the "community" at around sam on 9-22-05 and began reviewing the evacuation list. She left the community around 11 am to return a rental car but could not, so she brought it back to the community to leave it there. The bus had driven up as she was leaving at about 11am. She returned at about $12-12: 15 \mathrm{pm}$ and the residents had begun to line up. She did notice that the cargo areas of the bus were open and the loading was beginning of their belongings.

She was asked if she had any conversations with the driver at that point and stated that her only conversation with him then was that he was hungry. She took him inside and got him something to eat. There were 4-5 fireman (she believes from Bellaire) there assisting with the loading of residents. When asked when the bus departed, she believed it was about 2:30 pm.

They took 610E to 59 N and she stated that 59 eventually became gridlocked. Again asked about discussions with the driver she stated that her only discussions with him were about their route to get onto $1-45$. They proceeded out of town and eventually reached Humble at about 7 pm . She stated that she then discussed with the driver that oxygen was out for 1 of the residents so they stopped and brought up 3 canisters and took 3 down.

When asked about her first indication of mechanical problems on the bus, she stated it was the flat outside of Corsican. She heard a "thud" and they reduced their speed from the $40-50 \mathrm{mph}$ range and "limped along for a while". She called 911 but didn't know her location until she saw mile marker 241. When asked why she felt compelled to call 911 , she stated that she felt that would be the quickest way to get help to their location.

When officers responded, she stated that he summoned "up to 3 pickup trucks" at one point to help but she couldn't tell who all they were. She stated that they were on the side of the road for at least an hour.

Ms. Estes became concerned, at some point, about the use of / lack of oxygen to complete the trip so she called her area manager (Kelly Gundlie (sp?)). She was reassured about the oxygen and no additional oxygen was picked up. When Ms. Estes was asked about the flow rate of oxygen for the patients, she believed it to be 3 liters per hour, thus allowing one bottle to last approximately $3-31 / 2$ hours (per witness).

The driver never expressed concerns regarding the bus and the witness never spoke to the driver about the bus until they had the flat tire. When asked about her next indication of problems with the
bus, she stated that it was when they were stopped by the white pickup truck. She said the driver of the pickup told the driver something about the "brake pads" and "flames". She stated that the driver seemed to understand. He pulled over and got out, as did she. She saw the driver trying to put the fire out with his shirt.

The witness got back on the bus and yelled fire and told the other staff members to start getting the residents off of the bus. She began pulling people off of the bus herself. She stated that others began to stop and help. As she got on for the $3^{\text {rd }}$ time, she couldn't see or breathe any longer because of the smoke so she got off.

Several questions were asked of the witness after she finished telling us her recollections:
When asked about other conversations with the driver. She stated that she only spoke to him about fuel. The bus was under half a tank. She asked him to stop and she paid for the fuel. The witness also informed us that she paid for the tire change.

She was asked about the oxygen and its placement / storage. There were initially 1 each per resident in the passenger compartment with 9 in the cargo hold and the additional 6 that she was originally unaware of.

When asked if anyone attempted to open the windows from the inside, the witness stated that she did not know. She then added that she thought that all of the windows were "fixed".

When asked if she saw any warning lights on the dash of the bus, the witness stated that she did not.
When asked who unlatched the fire extinguisher, the witness did not know.
When asked if anyone else on the bus spoke to the driver, the witness stated that "Bernadette" did (Bernadette Nanez).

Asked who loaded the oxygen under the bus, the witness did not know for sure but thought it was maintenance personnel from Brighton Gardens.

Asked who hired the bus company, she thought it was the area manager (Kelly Gundlie (sp?)).
She also stated that she saw the driver with some type of "canister" as she got off of the bus the $2^{\text {nd }}$ time after the fire began but could not tell if it was a fire extinguisher.


[^0]:    Notary Public, Dallas. County, Texas

[^1]:    Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

