

**ATTACHMENT #1**  
**KENNY BROWN INTERVIEW**

**(11 Pages)**



**NTSB**

**National Transportation Safety Board**

490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594-0001  
www.nts.gov

---

## TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

**HWY-05-MH-035 — Wilmer, TX**

**DATE:** Monday, September 26, 2005

**LOCATION:** K&S Tire Towing & Recovery, Inc., 1310 North Business 45,  
Corsicana, Texas

**PRESENT:** Kenny Brown (Owner, K&S; Witness) and Jeff Kuykendall (K&S  
mechanic; Witness); NTSB Investigators Larry Yohe and Paula Sind-  
Prunier; Jim Higginbotham (Insurance Representative for K&S)

MR. BROWN: He did put it in the front bumper?

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: Yes.

MR. BROWN: Because the trooper was asking me, and I told him, I said, you know, that  
man took his own tire—he had it laid out there by the bus for him, and he took his  
old one and he put it up.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Did you take a tire with you, in case he needed—

MR. BROWN: I didn't have one—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: You didn't have one?

MR. BROWN: No. That's what I told him—I don't carry bus tires. They're like  
1200/225s or 315/225s, or 420s—

MR. KUYKENDALL: 420, 45—

MR. BROWN: Most of them has got the big 225s on them—like the 315s, or your 1200s—but I just, I haven't ever—never stocked them, because most people have got spares, and they're not a common seller.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: No, they would be a common—

MR. BROWN: And, they're about \$400 a piece—that's a lot of inventory to keep—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah, a bus tire is going to be about \$400 a piece.

MR. BROWN: But like I said, you know, it's just one of them things.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: When did you realize that—When did you realize that this was the same bus?

MR. BROWN: When I walked in the front door, at 8 o'clock or something. My people said, did you all hear about the bus—the white—the Greyhound bus that exploded with all the elderly people in it—and I said, was it white? And they said, yeah, I think so. I said, No—and I picked up the phone and called Jeff, and I said, that was a white bus this morning, right? And he says, yeah. And I said, it blowed up.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: What made you think—I mean, because there was so many buses out—

MR. BROWN: You don't—no, there ain't that many buses with 45 elderly people with oxygen bottles on it—I mean, you know, this was what the whole big deal was with Webber that morning, when they called me, they said, you need to get up here now—we've got 45 people on this bus with oxygen, you know—and they're in the middle of the road. In other words, it's a bad road hazard—you need to get up here and get them out. So that's what I told Jeff, I said, get up there and get them—get them off the road.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah. So, trying to help out—

MR. BROWN: You don't—haul 45 ninety-to-a-hundred-year-old people in a Greyhound bus.

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: With oxygen—

MR. BROWN: Yeah. I mean, you just—it's not common. And I went—you know, I mean, I'm sorry that it was the same, but—that's the first that that went through my mind.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: You figured it might be the same bus.

MR. BROWN: And I said, what happened? And they said, well, the brakes, or mechanical failure, or something. And I said—yeah—you know, I'm glad the wheel didn't run off, or—you know that's my—that's my fear—lug nuts broke, wheel run off, or—caused them to skid down and it ignited everything. You know what I'm saying? And that's the first thing I asked the trooper, I said, is the wheel still bolted on the bus? And he says, yeah. And I says, okay. I'm cool, you know. Everything's fine. Because I'm—that's my only fear.

[KNOCK AT DOOR]—Come in. Jim. [MR. HIGGINBOTHAM ENTERS]

MR. HIGGINBOTHAM: Yes, sir.

MR. BROWN: I've told these fine people what I know. I'm going to get out, and let Jeff tell them what he knows. And if you all need me, I'll stay—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: You could stay here—

MR. BROWN: —but I got nine people out here. If you all need me, I'll stay, but—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Well, you know, I'd just as soon you know what's said, but—

MR. BROWN: Then I'll stand here by the door—but he needs to hear more of this than I do.

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: If you could, just again, how was it that—what is the arrangement that you have with W.W. Webber—

MR. BROWN: We have a—we have a contract, and my secretary can give you a copy of it—where we go out on any broken down vehicle, they call us.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: That's what I didn't—I can't understand that, I mean, when he said, well, the police called—the guy from Webber, we talked to him yesterday—he says, well the police called us and told us about this vehicle—I couldn't figure out why they'd be calling him—

MR. BROWN: Because it's in their construction—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: It's in their construction?

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: —in the construction zone, and they're required to maintain—

MR. BROWN: Yes, ma'am. You see, Rice—even though it's all Navarro County—that was in Rice. Rice has their own police department, and all this.

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: We met one-third of their police department—

MR. BROWN: TexDOT got with Webber and said, hey, we need somebody for the next 30 months, while this construction is going on, we need somebody that we can call 24/7 that can respond right now—to do anything, you know, whether it's little or big, get it out of the roadway—so they come to me and they ask me, they says, what is the best deal that you can do, for the state. And you give us a bill, and we'll give it to the state, and you'll get a check immediately. And they do—

within ten or fifteen days, whatever we've done, they pay us. And I told them, I said \$45 for anything under a one-ton, and \$100 anything larger than a one-ton. That's just to move them. Well, they know I've got a tire business and they know—so anything that happens—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: You're not going to make a killing at those prices—

MR. BROWN: No—but it ain't bad—it ain't bad. If you come in here, and I tow you off the road, and you say—I tell you, you say—I say, well, you need a transmission. And you say, go ahead and fix it. Or you say, no, take me to Dallas. Or, take me to Houston. They're going to pay that.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah. Okay.

MR. BROWN: You understand what I'm saying?

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: It's bringing in business.

MR. BROWN: They're going to pay me \$45 to drive out there and get you off the road, but from there, it's your decision. If you hit something and you blow out two tires, you might come in here and say, go ahead and put four of them on while you're at it. So it—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: It brings in business for the garage. Well just—before you leave, I just want to ask you, you know you were talking about, just in your opinion, from the first time you got the call, until he actually arrived on the scene, can you give me your best guess, about how much time that might have been. We're trying to figure out—

MR. BROWN: Forty-five minutes. From the very first call I got until he said, I'm at—passing Lucky Lady, I'll be there in a minute.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Close to 45 minutes.

MR. BROWN: Yeah.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: 45 minutes. We're talking about the whole thing—the bus was there, for at least an hour.

MR. BROWN: Okay. The credit card, it was punched at 4:40 a.m.—do you have a copy of the credit card?

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: I bet we do. I think we have—that was on the credit card?

MR. BROWN: Penny—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: I don't have to have that right now.

MR. BROWN: I'm going to—she can just bring all of the papers in. Can you get me all the papers for Webber?—that caller on the bus? You know, the credit card, the time of the sheriff's department, all of that—I've got everything, from the very first call—the sheriff's office, they brought me the papers down, from the very first call that had come out, until he run the credit card at 4:40—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Did you write it down, or did you just know what time it was, or—

MR. BROWN: Well, I know what time they called me. I get about 40, 50 calls a night. I can tell you pretty much—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: When do you sleep?

MR. BROWN: I don't. I told them to look between three and four, and right here—the very first call that come out—TexDOT—was at 3:36 on the SO-2 channel.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: With regards to this bus?

MR. BROWN: Yes. Okay? TexDOT called at 3:58, that's when they got out there.

And at 3:22, or 4:22, they called and says, where is K&S? Give me an ETA. And 4:26, the wrecker passed and said there's your truck. 4:40, he was already back here at the shop, running the credit card through. So he wasn't there on that bus more than ten minutes. Because it's a ten minute drive up there—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: So that's a fast—he's a fast tire-changer.

MR. BROWN: It's a mounted tire. It's just lug nuts.

MR. KUYKENDALL: It was sitting there—

MR. BROWN: It's already aired up—its already done. That's what we was trying to tell you all. Everything was already done, leaning up against the bus. He walked up there, stuck a jack, he busted ten lug nuts, he stuck it back on, and he put them lug nuts on. It's a three-minute job.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Well, but you had to jack it, right?

MR. KUYKENDALL: Yeah.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: You weren't there more than ten minutes, you don't think?

MR. BROWN: He couldn't have been.

MR. KUYKENDALL: Probably not.

MR. BROWN: He couldn't have been. Because, 4:26 at the very latest—when I had a wrecker coming out of Dallas, and tell the sheriff's office, and said, hey, he's right here. You know what I'm saying? He's within a mile from you. That was at 4:26. And he's at the 242, which is just eight miles up the road, and at 4:40, he's here—at my shop. He's back here at 4:40. So—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: So, we're talking about the whole thing was about—close to an hour, from the time you got the first call.

MR. KUYKENDALL: —The credit card.

MR. BROWN: And you was still done by 4:40.

MR. KUYKENDALL: Yeah. We done moved a mile up the road to get off the interstate at 4:40.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Okay.

MR. BROWN: So you're still talking 14 minutes, that's all.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: So we're talking about the bus being there about an hour—

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: From the time TexDOT called to the time—when you ran the credit card—

MR. BROWN: Well, it's like an hour and four minutes, because, the first call was 3:36.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Is that something we could get a copy of, those times?

MR. BROWN: Yeah. Do you want a copy of this, to find out whose last four numbers of the credit card that is?

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: I don't know—well, it's significant in that it's pretty strange in that the company—

MR. KUYKENDALL: She had a uniform on, like, she would be—

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: That's not normal—that's not normal for the group to be paying for that, do you know what I mean?

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: Was that, maybe, a nurse or something?

MR. BROWN: We charged them a \$65 road call, and \$25 labor. It cost them \$90. And she paid with a credit card.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah. I'd like to get a copy of that because I'll tell you, like I said, that's—

MR. BROWN: Penny—I'm sorry. Do you have a copy of both of our statements?

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah.

MR. BROWN: Jim, do you want a copy of this or did she fax it to you?

MR. HIGGINBOTHAM: Yeah. No, she didn't fax it to me. I got—

MR. BROWN: Make me a copy of every bit of this—make me two copies of this, and that credit card slip. He's got copies of the report, but he doesn't have this or the credit card slip, but I want you to make a copy, for Jim, of everything, and then one copy extra of this.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Alright, we got your name and everything from the police report. Did you re-read your statement that you gave to the police to see if you agree with it? Oh, you wrote it out in your own handwriting. Okay.

MR. BROWN: I don't have to re-read it.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Okay.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, he just give us a piece of paper and we—we done it.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Okay.

MR. BROWN: He didn't write nothing. I think he signed his name as a witness, maybe, but—here's you all a card of mine.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Alright-y, you take care.

—Okay, do you want me to start here?

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: Yes, go head—you can go first.

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Alright, I'll take that. I'll take that with me here. Okay, so  
you got there and—

MR. BROWN: Are you all done with me?

INVESTIGATOR YOHE: Yeah.

MR. BROWN: If you need anything, I'll be right outside, but I've got to go check on  
those guys.

INVESTIGATOR SIND-PRUNIER: Okay, sure. Thank you very much.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

Transcribed by P. Sind-Prunier