



PRELIMINARY REPORT HIGHWAY HWY16MH011

The information in this report is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected during the course of the investigation.

About 11:21 a.m. central daylight time on Saturday, May 14, 2016, a 1998 Van Hool motorcoach, operated by OGA Charters LLC, and occupied by a 29-year-old driver and 51 passengers, was traveling northbound on US Highway 83 (US-83) near Laredo, in Webb County, Texas. The motorcoach, which had departed from Brownsville at 5:45 a.m., was en route to the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass, a trip of 330 miles.

The weather at the time of the crash was cloudy with light rain, and the road surface was wet. The posted speed limit on US-83 in the area of the crash was 75 mph. The driver lost control of the motorcoach as he was negotiating the vehicle through a curve. The motorcoach departed the roadway to the right and rolled over onto its left side. As a result of the crash, nine of the passengers were ejected and died; the driver and the remaining passengers received injuries of varying degrees.



Figure 1. The photograph on the left shows an aerial view of US-83 showing the crash location and the horizontal alignment of the roadway. The photograph on the right shows the final rest position of the motorcoach on its left side.

The motorcoach was equipped with lap belts; at the driver's seat, the jump seat, and the first row of seats on both sides of the bus, (6 lap belts).

Using three-dimensional laser scanning technology, NTSB investigators documented the crash location and the exterior of the bus (shown in figures 2 and 3) for further analysis.



Figure 2, 3D scanned image of the right side damage to the 1998 Van Hool motorcoach.



Figure 3, 3D scanned image of the left side damage to the 1998 Van Hool motorcoach.

No mechanical defects were identified in the initial inspection of the bus. The driver's preliminary toxicology test results were negative for alcohol and illicit drugs. NTSB investigators will continue to collect and analyze data including all pertinent information in the areas of human performance, highway, vehicle, survival, and motor carrier factors.