

**NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip**



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*D. Yank*

|   |                           |                               |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>NHTSA #:</b> ES13-002369   | Rec'd Date: 5/31/2013     | Referred By: NPO-011          |
| <b>XREF #:</b>  | Doc Type: S10             | Doc Date: 5/31/2013           |
| Delivery: S10 E-MAIL  | Address To: S1            | <b>Due Date:</b>              |
| S10 #: S10-130531-023   | DOT/I #:                  | RMP #:                        |
| <b>Subject: S10 APPROPRIATE HANDLING- LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM [REDACTED] RE UTILITY TRAILER SAFETY</b> |                           |                               |
| Ack Date:   | Ack By:                   | Signed For:                   |
| Sign Office: ENFORCEMENT  | Signature: AS APPROPRIATE | Cleared For:                  |
| Cleared Date:   | Cleared By:               | <b>Closed Date: 5/31/2013</b> |
| File Loc:   | XREF File:                |                               |
| Added By: CBUTLER x60180  | Modified By: Chris.Butler |                               |
| Most Recent Comment:  |                           |                               |

**Author:**

[REDACTED]

JUN 3 2013

GLEN ALLEN, VA [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: E-mail: [REDACTED]

| Assigned To | Task        | Asgn Date | Deadline | Returned Date |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| NVS-200     | APPROPRIATE | 5/31/2013 |          | 5/31/2013     |
| NVS-010     | INFORMATION | 5/31/2013 |          | 5/31/2013     |

NAM  
6313  
SMD

**Pettiford, Marie (OST)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2013 7:00 AM  
**To:** Webmaster, NHTSA (NHTSA); LaHood, Ray (OST); Karol Donald; peter.knudson@ntsb.gov  
**Subject:** Follow up...Reporter John O'Brien Did a great job...Questions need to be asked. Cortland County crash victims likely had no time to react, investigator says  
**Attachments:** New York Crash 12844374-large.jpg; New York Crash 12844246-mmmmainl.jpg; New York Crash 12844105-large.jpg

[REDACTED]  
Glen Allen, VA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Dear Utility Trailer Safety Advocate:

ALL TRAILERS SHOULD NOT COME loose and should not do this!!!!

We have waredned everybody but the NTSB did not listen!!!

When a big trailer comes loose it is mandaded to have a emergency breaking system....and stop the trailer....it did not work.

We at [REDACTED] have been addressing this critical issue for over 14 years.

We have the evidence.....

[http://\[REDACTED\]Griving Mom The Truth .html](http://[REDACTED]Griving Mom The Truth .html)

LOOK AT THE SAFETY INSPECTIONS FROM COMPUSPECTIONS!!!

Bernie Elder will be able to tell you exactly why the trailer came loose and did not stop.

Questons need to be asked:

Where was the trailer registered? Maine? You can bypass all inspections standards by registering it out of any state that has inspections?

When was the trailer last inspected?

Who Inspected the trailer?

Defective King Pin?

Why didn't the breaks work when the trailer came loose?

THIS TRAILER UNDER FEDERAL LAW SHOULD HAVE HAD A SECONDARD BREAKING SYSTEM THAT WORKED.....

Call our Expert Bernie Elder at 724-553-0215

We presented to the NTSB a report from a Pennsylvanian company that shows how many failed trailers over 10,000 GVWR failed....can New York produce such a report? This company is doing it better than the Federal Government.

Go here and see the six segments

[\[REDACTED\]/Griving Mom The Truth .html](#)

You need to know that while these types of accidents are happening all over the Nation.....and the smaller trailers are just as deadly. Last year over 342 lives gone and over 12,000 injured ONE IN CANTON NEW YORK....

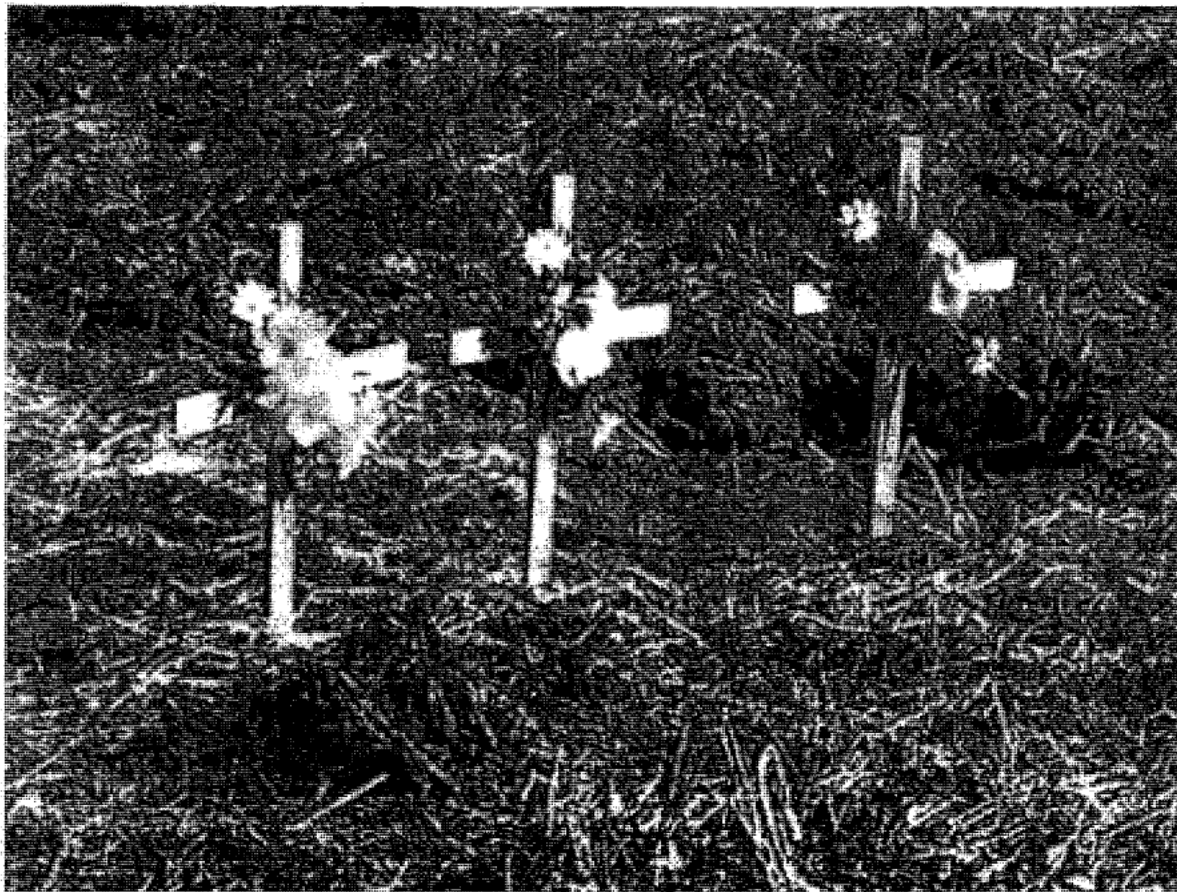
[\[REDACTED\]Who Is \[REDACTED\].html](#)

Petition

[\[REDACTED\]](#)

The death of my daughter [REDACTED] still haunts me to this day. The pain of losing a child never goes away. There are far too many deaths and injuries caused by runaway trailers. We, the undersigned, are asking our state and federal safety officials to get a grasp on this very serious safety hazard. We do not want to lose one more loved one by these tragic accidents.

## **Cortland County crash victims likely had no time to react, investigator says**



Three crosses were erected Thursday May 30, 2013 on Route 13 near Truxton, in Cortland County, at the site of a crash that killed seven people, including four children. Killed were [REDACTED] her two daughters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The minivan they were in was hit head-on by a runaway trailer loaded with crushed cars on Wednesday, May 29, 2013. (John O'Brien | [jobrien@syracuse.com](mailto:jobrien@syracuse.com))

By [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com) | [The Post-Standard](http://The-Post-Standard.com)

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on May 30, 2013 at 7:20 PM, updated May 30, 2013 at 9:56 PM

By John O'Brien  
[jobrien@syracuse.com](mailto:jobrien@syracuse.com)

and Marnie Eisenstadt  
[meisenstadt@syracuse.com](mailto:meisenstadt@syracuse.com)

Truxton, N.Y. -- The driver of a minivan likely had no time to avoid a runaway trailer that killed seven people in a head-on collision on a rural road, a Cortland County deputy said today.

Seven of the eight people in the minivan, including four children ages 7 and under, were killed in the crash.

The 1999 Dodge minivan was nearly ripped in half when it was struck by a trailer loaded with crushed cars that had broken loose from a tractor-trailer heading in the opposite direction on a bend in Route 13, Capt. Mark Helms said.

"It went across the line and there was nowhere to go" for the driver of the minivan, Helms said. "It was one of the worst we've seen. They don't get worse than that."

Investigators found no skid marks in the road that would've indicated the minivan driver had hit the brake before the crash, Helms said.

"It appears it was instantaneous," he said. The county coroner concluded that all the victims died on impact, Helms said. He didn't know yet whether everyone was wearing a seat belt.

██████████ and sister ██████████ were two of the seven people killed in a crash Wednesday May 29, 2013 on Route 13 near Truxton in Cortland County. Killed were ██████████ her two daughters ██████████ and ██████████; ██████████ and ██████████. The minivan they were in was hit head-on by a runaway trailer loaded with crushed cars on Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Photo provided by Gordon Carpenter

"It was such a horrendous crash, I don't think it would've mattered," he said.

Investigators are still determining for certain who was driving the minivan, Helms said. The lone survivor from that vehicle, ██████████ was hospitalized with injuries. He spoke to a reporter by phone today, but said he didn't want to talk about the crash.

Killed were ██████████; her two daughters ██████████, and ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ and ██████████

██████████ was ██████████ girlfriend, Helms said. ██████████ were related -- apparently cousins, he said. ██████████ were engaged to be married, Helms said.

He did not know where the people in the minivan were going or coming from.

██████████ and her children grew up across East Keeney Road in Truxton from ██████████ who has pictures of the children in his living room.

"They were little hellions, but so very adorable," ██████████ said. He said he was devastated by the news of the crash.

The ██████████ trailer on Thursday was surrounded by the trappings of a family with lots of young children. A trampoline was in the front yard, with two baby strollers, a wooden swing set and two children's ride-in cars nearby. At least six dogs were at the home.

All of the victims were Cortland County residents except ██████████, who was from Fayetteville.

The tractor-trailer was driven by ██████████ of Manlius, Helms said. ██████████ was a passenger in the truck. Neither was injured.

No one was ticketed, but that could change in the next few days, depending on the outcome of the investigation, Helms said.



Cortland County Sheriff's Department officials inspect on Thursday May 30, 2013, the scene of a fatal crash on Route 13 near Truxton that killed seven people, including four children. Officials had the site bulldozed early Thursday afternoon, the day after the accident. A runaway trailer from a tractor-trailer collided head-on with a minivan, killing seven of the van's eight occupants. Ellen M. Blalock / [eblalock@syracuse.com](mailto:eblalock@syracuse.com)

Cortland County District Attorney Mark Suben has been briefed on the crash, but there doesn't appear to be any criminal conduct, Helms said.

The tractor-trailer was hauling crushed cars for a Madison County salvage company.

Ken Stone, first assistant fire chief of Truxton, was one of about 20 firefighters who responded to the crash. He said the van's driver saw the trailer coming and drove off the road trying to avoid it.

"They tried to miss it, but he ran out of time," Stone said. "All of a sudden, a trailer is coming at you and there's no truck on it."

"Tore it right apart," he said. "It was humbling, especially young kids. It tears you up."

Stone said a couple of victims were under the trailer, which had to be jacked up to get them out.

"It was all instant, no doubt," he said.

Stone said responders were deeply affected by the crash.

"My god! What did we just go through?" he said of the firefighters' reaction. "What did we just see? Did that just really happen? You get all that training and you're not ready for it. You can't be if you're human."

Newton Salvage Co., which owns the trailer that came unhinged, had six safety violations during a March inspection of another one of its trucks, according to federal and state records. Two of those violations had to do with hauling too much weight.

The company's truck was inspected March 8 at the side of a road in New York, according to a record from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. That inspection found that the truck tractor, the part that pulls the trailer, was carrying at least 2,500 pounds more than it should have been.

The truck was also missing its highway-use tax decal, it didn't have a complete USDOT sticker, the fire extinguisher was not secured and the reflective tape was missing from the mudflaps, according to Beau Duffy of the state Department of Transportation.

None of those violations was enough to pull the vehicle off the road and no fines were issued, according to the records.

That tractor-trailer was not the same one that was involved in Wednesday's crash, state officials said.

Duffy said state DOT is assisting with the investigation. A spokesman with the federal DOT said his agency has not yet been asked to assist.

██████████, the truck's driver, was involved in two accidents in three months in 2011, according to records from the state Department of Motor Vehicles. One was in September in Onondaga County and one was in November in Seneca County. In the Onondaga County accident, someone was injured, according to the state DMV records.

██████████ could not be reached for comment. It's unclear from the records whether he was at fault.

██████████ has had a license to drive commercial trucks since 2008, according to the records.

██████████ rolled his car over on Oran-Delphi Road in the town of Pompey on Sept. 9, 2011, according to dispatch records from the Onondaga County 911 center.

Records show that in that crash, ██████████ called 911 at 6:45 a.m. after his car rolled over and the vehicle ended up in a wooded area on the side of the road. ██████████ told the dispatcher that he hit his face on the steering wheel, but didn't think he was injured.

██████████ told the dispatcher that he looked up and saw a deer in the middle of the road and swerved to avoid the deer.

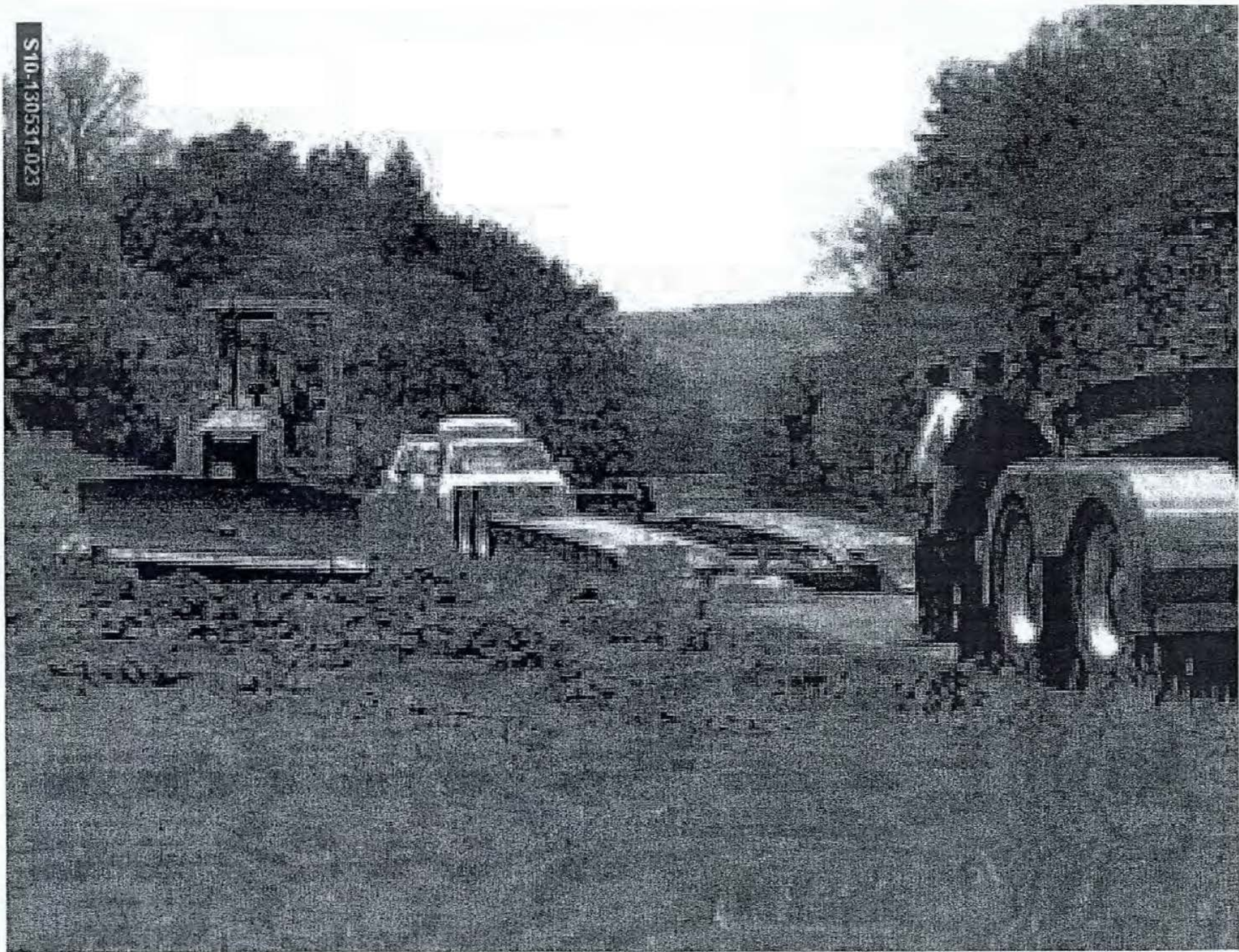
*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

Contact John O'Brien at [jobrien@syracuse.com](mailto:jobrien@syracuse.com) or 315-470-2187.



S10-130531-023

S10-130531-023







**Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
Executive Secretariat**

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**Author(s):** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Utility Trailer Safety

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**Comments:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Action</b>                              | <b>Action by</b> |
|-------------|--|------------------|
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