

**POST INCIDENT ANALYSIS**

**VEHCILE COLLISION INVOLVING SCHOOL BUS AND  
MULTIPLE VEHICLES**

**11700 BLOCK CLOPPER ROAD**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2013 AT 13:13**

**BC Doug Hanson  
Battalion 703 A  
Incident 1300-20938**

**Executive Summary:**

**This is a PIA for a vehicle collision that involved a Montgomery County School bus and several other vehicles. A total of 11 patients were transported. Only 1 was a trauma. The bus had 7 special needs children and 2 adults on the bus. Several EMS units, MAB 722 and numerous other fire rescue units were utilized. One Priority 1, category A patient, 1 neck and back patient were transported and 1 other driver evaluated and refused transport. Lessons learned: good use of MAB and due to the location of the incident the bus arrived quickly and students were transferred to the MAB. Good rapid assessment of the trauma patient and quick transport.**

**The report includes a detailed report from OIC of E 708 of his actions and decision making strategies prior to transition of command to BC 703.**

**Factors:**

**Weather: Raining at the time of the incident. Roads were getting slippery during the event.**

**Road Conditions: This section of Clopper Road is notorious for serious accidents. The intersection at the entrance to Seneca Creek State Park is a 2 lane highway, on a curve and there is not much shoulder for vehicles to go around turning vehicles. The vehicle that was stopped and preparing to make the turn into the park was struck from behind pushing the car into the southbound lane and the bus T-boned the drivers side. Another car avoided the crash and stuck a concrete abutment.**

**Dispatch: PE 708 AND M 708B.**

**When Co 8 arrived on scene they were given an update and RS 729, T 731, M 708 and A 753 were added. BC 703 and EMS 700 also responded.**

**Note of interest, On-Star made the initial call when they received a crash indicator from the SUV that struck. On-Star also provided EMD instructions to the first arriving person to the injured person in the car.**

**OPERATIONS:**

**E 708 OIC actions:**

**Incident Event # F130020938**

**Clopper Rd & Game Preserve Rd, Gaithersburg**

**February 22, 2013**

**PE708**

**PE708 and M708B dispatched for PIC, possibly one unconscious. Additional units added by PSCC and/or request from M708B.**

**AOS to find a four vehicle PIC. Initial scene investigation and triage performed;**

**M708 reports a priority one adult driver of a SUV, not entrapped. SUV was struck on passenger side by front of bus. Significant damage to SUV was noted with approximately three foot of intrusion into passenger compartment.**

**PE708 crew report bus with seven special needs/Autistic children, along with an adult driver and an adult attendant.**

**PE708 crew also reports two additional adult drivers as priority three.**

**PE708 established Clopper Rd command and requested alternate channel (7G).**

**Command requested MAB for possible transportation of children. Bus driver and attendant report no apparent injuries of children,**

**and only minor injuries to themselves. Command took into account the nature of special needs children – particularly to keep them together as a group. This was thought to have the least stressful transition, from scene to hospital, for them considering their need to have a regular routine and be around familiar people. It was my intention to have the children transported as a unit, along with the bus driver and attendant, with fire rescue assisting.**

**T731 and RS729 held on incident for manpower.**

**Battalion Chief 703 arrived and took over command.**

**Conference between PE708 and B/C703 determined best strategy for children was to have them transported via MAB. Although children did not appear injured (they were all secured via harness and/or seat belts), the mechanism of the injury along with the inability for these children to communicate their injuries made transportation appropriate.**

**M708 and crew from PE708 increased staffing on the MAB during transport to SGH. M708 made radio contact with Shady Grove and requested to bring children through waiting room to the pediatric emergency room. This was the shortest route of travel and was approved by SGH. Upon arrival SGH, children were taken off the bus and staged in front of waiting room until everyone was off the bus. The children were then taken to the pediatric ER as a unit. Each child had either an F/R attendant and/or a school board representative during this transition.**

**Priority one trauma patient was transported to SGH onboard M708B along with T731 AFRA. The patient had an unstable airway, thus the transport to the local ER. M708B then transported pt from SGH (after airway was established by ER Physician) to Suburban Trauma.**

**A753 transported a priority 3 adult to SGH.**

**An adult refused treat/transport.**

**An off duty police officer was treated at scene by A753 for blood borne exposure that occurred prior to F/R arrival.**

**BC 703 actions: Arrived on scene and met with the OIC of E 708 and did a face-to-face. The OIC of RS 729 had a detailed written report of all injuries and priorities.**

**BC 703 assumed command and provided updates to ECC. EMS 700 arrived and was updated and notified hospitals. At his point the trauma patient was being extricated and loaded into M708 B. The patient was transported to SGH with a compromised airway, stabilized and then transported to Suburban by M 708B. A 753 had a neck and back patient. One other driver in a work van was evaluated and did not want transport.**

**The OIC of E 708 and command decided that based on the fact that the bus had more than moderate damage and was struck by the vehicle with the trauma that the MAB would be used to transport the children on the MAB. Crews from E 708 and M708 also went on the MAB to assist the children.**

**State highway crews were called out to treat the road surface.**

**Good Points: Good on scene assessment and use of resources. Initial dispatch was only an engine and medic unit so crews were busy.**

**Use of the MAB. Called quickly once the OIC of E 708 recognized the need for transport of multiple patients. Good and designed use of the MAB with this incident.**

**The OIC of RS 729 provided command with a detailed list of patients, where they were located and priorities of each.**

**Improvements: With multiple patients (11 possible with this event) an MCI could have been declared. Get the resources on scene and coming in, in the mind set that triage, treatment and transport modes of operation may be utilized. After triage the incident could be downgraded as needed and managed as such. The MCI declaration would have also prompted ECC to dispatch a Battalion Chief and EMS officer. Both of these officers only knew**

**of the severity of the incident once ECC announced a talk group for the incident.**