



# Truck Driver Charged With Causing Crash That Injured Tracy Morgan

June 7, 2014

By JOSH MARGOLIN, BEN CANDEA and DEAN SCHABNER via GOOD MORNING AMERICA

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A truck driver has been charged with causing the multi-car crash that killed one and left four injured, including comedian Tracy Morgan.

Police had said they believed the driver was dozing and didn't see traffic slowing in front of his 18-wheeler until it was too late, crashing into the vehicle carrying comedian Morgan and his entourage.

Morgan, 45, was in critical condition after the six vehicle crash this morning on the New Jersey Turnpike. Another person on the limo bus was killed and two others were injured, officials said.

"Driver failed to observe slow-moving traffic ahead," New Jersey State Police Sgt. First Class Gregory Williams said. "He observed at the last minute -- just prior to impact -- the limo bus carrying Morgan and his party."

The truck driver, Kevin Roper, 35, of Jonesboro, Ga., was charged with one count of death by auto and four counts of assault by auto after the tractor-trailer he was driving crashed into the van at 1 a.m. today, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office said.

Morgan, who starred in NBC's "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live," was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

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null

"His family is now with him and he is receiving excellent care," read a statement from his rep, Lewis Kay. "We don't anticipate much of a change in his condition today."

James McNair, a passenger on board the limo bus with Morgan, was killed in the crash, police said. He was comedy writer for Morgan.

Morgan's assistant, Jeff Millea, was also in critical condition after he was injured, an official briefed on the investigation said.

The two other victims were identified as Ardie Fuqua and Harris Stanton, another comedian.

Their conditions hadn't been released as of midday.

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The six-vehicle crash happened in the northbound lanes at mile marker 71.5 near New Brunswick about 1 a.m., according to N.J. State Police.

The accident was a chain reaction caused by the first truck, a Peterbilt with Oklahoma plates, Williams said.

When the driver of the truck suddenly became aware of the Mercedes Sprinter limo bus in front of him, he swerved left to avoid it, but struck the limo bus in the rear and then hit another vehicle, Williams said.

The limo bus carrying Morgan lost control and began rotating clockwise and then turned over onto its left side. While it was out of control, the limo bus hit a Buick, which crashed into a Ford F150 pickup truck, and another tractor-trailer.

The truck that caused the accident came to rest on the left shoulder after hitting a guardrail.

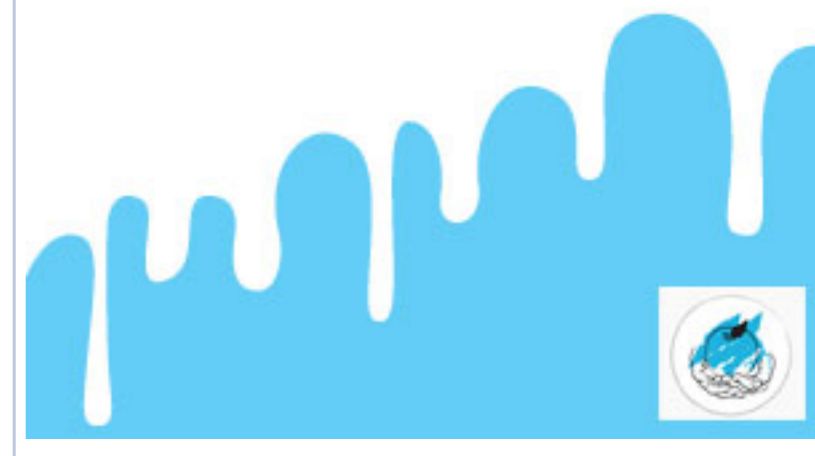
National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway told ABC News that the NTSB is dispatching a team to investigate the accident along with the NJ State Police.

The NTSB is going to focus on the "broad issues concerning commercial traffic safety," and is expected to be on the ground by this evening or Sunday, Holloway said.

Morgan was returning from a performance of his "Turn it Funny" tour in Dover, Del., Friday night.

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ardiefuqua

Instagram



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"This is what it looks like from the stage to see a standing ovation from 1500 people. Then we traveled back to NYC in style in a luxury Mercedes Sprinter. Road life is a good life! #tracymorgan," Fuqua, who opened for Morgan, posted to Instagram shortly after midnight.

Morgan was scheduled to perform in Charlotte, N.C., tonight but the appearance has been canceled.

Morgan has four children, including a daughter to whom his fiancée Megan Wollover gave birth last July.

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**nitenurse22** · 2 days ago

Tracy just had a kidney transplant a few years ago and is a diabetic. This injury is going to be a tough recovery for him. I hope and pray he does well.

44   · Reply · Share ›



**Elenaosborn34**  nitenurse22 · 2 days ago

I second that sentiment. This is very sad news to hear. I have always been a big fan of Tracy, and I love his work on 30 Rock and on SNL with Brian Fellows. Even if you don't love him you have to feel for him.

Here's to a speedy recovery for him. This makes me nervous for my own family, especially since he wasn't doing anything stupid and the accident wasn't even his fault. As much as I hate giving up control, it does make me look forward to self driving cars from Google.

My husband spends a lot of time on the road for his job, and I don't know what I would do if something happened to him. I am really happy that we both have Life Insurance (\$20 a month from LifeAnt) so at least our family wouldn't be homeless. The troubling this is that we are both excellent drivers, but no matter how good you are anything can happen.

I know that Tracy is a survivor, and I wish him all the best.

11   · Reply · Share ›



**mdb1283**  Elenaosborn34 · 2 days ago

Unless every other car on the road is a self driving car, or your self driving car has the ability to drive other cars, it won't save you. When its your time, its your time. plain and simple.

1   · Reply · Share ›



**Marie**  mdb1283 · a day ago

Self driving car, really? I'm not sure I have 100 percent trust in computers to completely take over driving.

2   · Reply · Share ›



**Marshall Sumner**  Marie · 20 hours ago

I'm not sure I have 100% trust in humans to completely take over driving.

  · Reply · Share ›




**Marie**  Marshall Sumner · 20 hours ago


Driving is more than just the technical skills that you have to learn to be a good driver. You need to have good sight, so if your eyes are failing, see an eye doctor. You need to be very alert and react quickly to changing traffic. I'm not sure depending totally on a computer will cut it. Just continue driving safely, be extra cautious of your surroundings, especially at night and you'll be fine. Get over the idea of a self driving car, because it will never happen.


  · Reply · Share ›



**Marshall Sumner**  Marie · 20 hours ago


 **Marshall Sumner** · Marie · 13 hours ago  
@Marie - open your eyes, self driving cars are already on the road. Google has been hard at work in California and Nevada perfecting them.  
^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **Marie** → Marshall Sumner · 13 hours ago  
I'm not confident that this will go beyond the concept phase.  
^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Marshall Sumner** → Marie · 12 hours ago  
Marie I think you are going to be very surprised. For the very reasons that you stated earlier. Many people with poor eyesight, coordination or other physical problems need personal transportation but cannot drive. Others would prefer to be free to do other things while going about their lives while being able to travel to other locations. The need and market are there and the technology is being rapidly developed. I for one would be very happy to see a considerable number of poor drivers replaced by automated systems.


The recent accident on the NJ turnpike involving a tractor trailer and a limousine could have been avoided if the truck had a currently available automatic collision braking system, which would have alerted the driver to the fact that he was approaching the limousine at a too high rate of speed, and would have activated the brake system to stop the truck. I believe that you will see more and more automatic systems on automobiles eventually leading to fully automatic driver-less cars.


^ | v · Reply · Share ›


 **Marie** → Marshall Sumner · 11 hours ago  
I don't trust it. Google could have created this concept car so their stock will go through the roof, but time will tell.  
^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Marshall Sumner** → Marie · 11 hours ago  
I don't trust most supposedly human drivers.  
  
I doubt that Google invested millions, hundreds of millions, or even a billion dollars in order to make their stock 'go through the roof'. Their stock will not move very much until they are actually putting production cars on the road. And by the way you might be surprised by the number of automatic safety features that are already being installed in cars by the automobile manufacturers.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Marie** → Marshall Sumner · 11 hours ago  
Ok, if this thing happens, you can say I told you so. If it doesn't happen I can say I told you so. Time will tell.  
^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Rick Cooley** → nitenurse22 · 2 days ago  
Yep! Diabetics have a harder time recovering from such an accident. I am hoping for a miraculous and speedy recovery!  
9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Louis J. Marciano** · 2 days ago  
I certainly feel bad for Morgan and wish him a full recovery however the news anchor expressed her thoughts only to Morgan and didn't include the man who has perished or the others injured in this accident.  
28 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**MidwestKris** → Louis J. Marciano · 2 days ago

Morgan is known to many. Those with him are known to their families and friends. While I am sorry an individual died, and sorry others are injured - I have no connection with them. I've enjoyed Mogan's performances, and will miss them if he does not recover.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Labreesa Murphy** → MidwestKris · 2 days ago

You don't have to have a connection to have condolences for the other people and their families. And you also have to realize that those are Tracy Morgan's people as well, and he would feel offended if he saw your comment.

34 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**BiggerFatterPolitics** → Labreesa Murphy · a day ago

People die everyday in car wrecks but more die due to medical errors. 34,000 died last year in car wrecks while over 1 million died at the hands of the medical industry.

Tracy survived the crash. Let's hope he survives the hospital.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**MidwestKris** → Labreesa Murphy · a day ago

Agreed. But there are thousands of people worthy of condolences. Only a few were in this accident. SHowd they list all of the people killed/hurt in an auto accident every day?

Yes, it would have been appropriate to acknowledge the others. BUT that they were less interested in the names they don't know is not surprising and is not awful.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**The Almighty** → MidwestKris · 2 days ago

Who cares if you have a connection to anyone. You do not matter.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**MidwestKris** → The Almighty · a day ago

No, I don't matter - except I am a "customer" of this webpage, and who their customers care about matters to them.

And "Allmighty"? Really? LOL. Not.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Yvonne Ramirez** · 2 days ago

Praying for Tracy Morgan.

35 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ioretta Hickman** · 2 days ago

Prayer for Tracy and all involved!

31 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Bestaudioguy** · 2 days ago

Get well fast funny man! This kind of thing just happened to my best friend from high schools wife. She was traveling home on Rt. 9 south in Oldbridge and saw the traffic light ahead of her turning red. As she was coming to a stop, a tractor trailer never stopped and hit her, killing her on impact. He was sleeping.

There are devices on the market that will alert you when you are driving tired. The attach to the dash and monitor your eye blinks and head motions. They should be mandatory for all truck drivers!

16 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dan Leidal** → Bestaudioguy · a day ago

Any technology like this can be defeated... The real solution is to change the culture that required a tired driver to keep driving, and make that delivery despite being sleepy... WalMart's freight delivery time was apparently more important than public safety...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Cinnamon** · 2 days ago

That is so sad. That truck must have been flying to do such damage to a bus like that. That is awful. Speedy recovery to the injured and condolences to the lost. Drive careful everyone.

12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**ann** → Cinnamon · 2 days ago

That's why we need to ship goods by rail! We need to build them instead of spending money on solar companies 13 of them that FAILED. When is this country going to get smart instead of DUMB. Anybody?

13 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**inverse137** → ann · 2 days ago

So, just thinking out loud....how do you get the product from the railyard to the store? A fleet of Miata's?

25 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**ann** → inverse137 · 2 days ago

The trucks pick the goods up and deliver it BUT they re off our highways.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jenspauld** → ann · 2 days ago

Yes but then people get killed crossing rail road tracks. Great idea but just not realistic.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Deborah L** → ann · 2 days ago

Actually the highways were put in for military and truck transportation, not necessarily cars.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → Deborah L · 2 days ago

Or Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**flnycus** → ann · 2 days ago

..it's getting dumber and dumber as each day goes by... hence the support for wacky tea party candidates and alike. keep the population dumb and stay in power basically.

25 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mullet Self Cuts System** → ann · 2 days ago

Europe is kicking the crap out of us with wind and solar energy. The companies here failed because of incompetent leadership. Not because the technology is not solid. There is a reason GM had to be bailed out and Honda is doing well. We need better leadership in American companies. We still have a bunch of C-level parasites who run companies into the ground and get rescued with golden parachutes.

11 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**BiggerFatterPolitics** → Mullet Self Cuts System · a day ago

Ron Paul called it corporatism and Jimmy Carter says we are no longer a functioning Democracy. I call the corporatists criminal elite gangsters and the politicians their errand boys.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›





**PdxClimber** → Mullet Self Cuts System · a day ago

What a crock! Solar is being bought by the Chinese government. The cost per unit is being artificially brought down to a point that NOBODY is making money. Not the Chinese not anybody. When China lets this battle go, those in play will all make money. This is fact checkable.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mullet Self Cuts System** → PdxClimber · a day ago

You've clearly done no honest research and simply parrot whatever your political cult leaders tell you to say.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → Mullet Self Cuts System · a day ago

I live and work in that industry dummy. You can throw all the stupid you want at me but it will not make a difference. The Chinese government suppression of solar is world wide news.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jeremy Alexander** → ann · 2 days ago

Solar is not a failure. That people are too dumb to convert when it is as cheap as it is happens to be the failure. Still need fossil fuels to operate those trains. You sound simple.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → ann · 2 days ago

BTW- ANN! read the posts below mine if want more proof that your post s#\$ks. It derailed comments about Tracy Morgan and sent them down your political BS highway.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → ann · 2 days ago

First, Ann please stop with the politics for just one second, OK? Second, these is only one reason solar is bankrupting in the US. Chinese government is pushing the price per unit down below the cost of manufacture. NOBODY is making money on those things but the installers right now.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mullet Self Cuts System** → PdxClimber · a day ago

LOL Chinese companies manufacture everything at a lower cost because the workers don't get paid much. No conspiracy theory bud.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → Mullet Self Cuts System · a day ago

There is low cost entrepreneurial. There is focused effort by the Chinese government to take over an entire industry with the huge wealth they have, Clueless.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mullet Self Cuts System** → PdxClimber · a day ago

Oh no the Chinese are buying something with their money. How dare they. Foolishly investing and selling green technologies that won't completely destroy the planet and a fuel source that will not run out for a few billion years. Let's ban them from spending their money and keep pumping CO2 in the atmosphere so are great grandkids can drown.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → Mullet Self Cuts System · 21 hours ago

This form of take over, Dominion, capitalism is foolish and

This is not a take over, Darwinian, capitalism is foolish and wrong. It is wrong for the Chinese and it is wrong in America, fool. When private equity comes through your company, for no reason other than to skim the cream off the top and leave you with nothing. Try being a cheerleader then.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mullet Self Cuts System** → PdxClimber · 16 hours ago

The science and stats behind solar energy make it the smart move. The parasites sucking the life out of the working man is another topic. If the 1% were truly talented people adding real value to the economy I would praise them. But the bulk majority are nothing more than parasites looking to make a quick buck by laying people off (for a short term bonus check then they leave with a 8 figure severance package while the companies collapse) or they are simply gambling in a rigged casino only for the 1%. Many of them are extremely incompetent.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PdxClimber** → Mullet Self Cuts System · 12 hours ago

Now were getting somewhere! I don't exactly know how we turned that corner but, I am board with you on that.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Cinnamon** → ann · 2 days ago

Huh!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dan Leidal** → ann · a day ago

Shipping all goods by rail is not even possible!!! The rail system is almost maxed out, and only carries about one or two percent of the freight, then only between ports and rail hubs... The rail infrastructure is simple inadequate... The railroads can not deliver large quantities of freight in the "just in time" format demanded by modern companies who have limited storage space... The trucks will be required to deliver the goods to the retailers from the rail hubs anyway... This crash would have happened anyway, as WalMart is a retailer, who would have been recieving the load from your rail hub instead of their distribution center...

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Whoaa!** · 2 days ago

I'm praying for ya Tracy , Please get well soon!

11 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Martha Bartha** · 2 days ago

I loved him on 30 Rock.

11 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

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