



## TOP STORIES

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# 1 Person Killed in Bus and Truck Crash on Thruway

By: YNN Staff

SENECA COUNTY, N.Y. -- One person was killed and at least 30 people injured in a crash on the New York State Thruway in Seneca County. New York State Police said a tractor trailer crashed into a passenger bus in the eastbound lanes between exits 41 and 42. The bus and tractor trailer caught fire after the crash.

State Police report that the driver of the tractor trailer was Timothy Hume, 59, of Dryden, Michigan. Hume was killed in the crash. Hume was a driver for Matrix trucking company from Flint, Michigan. His truck was carrying 14,000 pounds of automotive ball bearings.

The tour bus is owned by Farr Coach from Dunville, Ontario. The driver, Rene Bisson is charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. State Police Major Mark Koss said Bisson was driving on a suspended license.

Police say witnesses to the crash were instrumental in helping those victims. During this morning's state police news conference a sergeant at Fort Drum was specifically praised for assisting passengers off of the bus.

NYS Police Troop E commander Major Mark Koss said, "One notable witness is a sergeant from Fort Drum. His name is Jacob Perkins. As I said he's a sergeant, he's an E-5, he's in the 189th Cavalry stationed at Fort Drum. He was able to get a few of the passengers off that bus safely."

Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash. They will look at the data recorded in the boxes on board both commercial vehicles as part of their investigation.

Those injured in the crash were transported to many area hospitals.

Strong Memorial Hospital reports it received seven patients total. One was flown by Mercy Flight, five others by ground ambulance, and one patient was transferred from Newark Wayne Community Hospital. Two patients are under evaluation, two are in satisfactory condition, and three were treated and released.

Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse received five patients, one of them by air transport the other four by ground ambulance. Four patients are under evaluation and the fifth is listed in fair condition.

Geneva General Hospital received 12 patients. Eleven of the people were treated and released and one person declined treatment.

Newark Wayne Community Hospital reports they have seven patients under evaluation. A spokesperson says some of the injuries are considered serious, others minor.

Auburn Memorial Hospital says there are four patients from the accident under evaluation in the emergency room.



## TRAFFIC INFO

The eastbound lane of the Thruway has reopened to all traffic after being closed for hours while crews cleaned up the scene of the accident.

## Police press conference

[7/22/2011 Trauma Unit  
Evaluates Crash Victims'  
Needs](#)

[7/22/2011 Thruway crash  
police press conference](#)

## CRASH VICTIMS THANK FT. DRUM SOLDIER

One family involved in the crash reached out to someone they call a "true hero."

Sandy Blair of Ontario, Canada says Sgt. Jacob Perkins, a Fort Drum soldier, drove Blair and her daughter to Strong Hospital in Rochester, where it was believed that Blair's husband had been transported.

After they arrived, they learned that her husband had been airlifted to Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. Sgt. Perkins then drove Blair and her daughter to Syracuse and stayed until the family was reunited.

Blair released statement saying, "We want to personally thank the Ft. Drum soldier, Sgt. Jacob Perkins, who stopped and helped us to safety....Sgt. Perkins is a true hero to us in every way. We thank him for reunited our family."

## STATE POLICE HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

*YNN's Seth Voorhees reports from New York State Police barracks in Farmington following the press conference.*

## EMERGENCY RESPONDERS RECALL CRASH RESPONSE

*YNN's Katie Gibas reports from Geneva General Hospital where several of the crash victims were taken this morning. She spoke with emergency responders who recall the crash response.*

## CRASH DISRUPTS MORNING COMMUTE

*The eastbound lanes of the New York State Thruway were closed for hours while collision reconstruction crews try and piece together the cause of the fatal crash. YNN's Leah George reports from Interchange 42 in Geneva with a look at how the morning commute was affected.*

GENEVA, N.Y. -- Exit 42 here in Geneva is where all eastbound thruway drivers were forced off and rerouted after the overnight crash. That includes truck drivers who were on the thruway and close to the crash when it happened.

Elba truck driver John Rachow tells YNN, "I was driven down all of a sudden the traffic was stopped I seen the flames and everything and I sat there until 5:30 this morning when a trooper knocked and said you wanna back it up to the first turn around and head west."

Rachow says as they sat there watching emergency crews rush by and helicopters fly overhead.

Drivers closer to the crash than Rachow talked about what they were seeing over CB radios. Rachow recalls what he heard over the CB radio, he said, "there was an army guy from wherever he was pulling the people out of the bus or there would have been more tragedies."

It wasn't long before Rachow learned the only man killed in the crash was a fellow truck driver.

"Scary, what was he thinking? Why didn't he move over you know...kinda hard to say," questions Rachow.

While a half-dozen trucks waited at a nearby rest stops for the Thruway to reopen, frustrated morning commuters pulled over to fill up on gas and coffee.

Rochester resident Chuck Leone says there is, "No explanation from anybody, no signage no nothing. There was a sign an electronic sign on the Thruway that said there was an accident and that was it."

Leone and friends were headed to Saratoga for opening day of the races.

"For me it's an easy day, some of these people have work to do. Some of its important work," Leone said.

### NEWS RELEASE:

22 July 2011

State Police investigate fatal tour bus - tractor-trailer fatal accident

On July 22, 2011, at approximately 1:20 A.M., the New York State Police responded to a fatal tractor-trailer- tour bus accident, on I-90 eastbound in the Town of Junius, Seneca County, NY.

From our investigation and witnesses accounts, the tour bus had stopped for an unknown reason and was attempting to re-enter the eastbound lanes when it was struck from behind by the tractor-trailer. Both vehicles started on fire and were soon totally engulfed in flames.

Passengers on the bus were able to exit the bus with the assistance of witnesses. One of those assisting the passengers was United States Army Sgt. Jacob Perkins form Fort Drum. 46 passengers were taken to 7 different local hospitals, where 30 of those were treated for injuries. 2 of the most serious injured were taken by Mercy-Flight to Strong Hospital in Rochester.

The tour bus is owned by Farr Coach from Dunville, Ontario and had picked up the passengers in Hamilton, Ontario heading to New York City for a tour when the accident occurred.

The operator of the tractor-trailer, Timothy Hume, age 59, from Dryden, Michigan, was pronounced dead at the scene. Mr. Hume was employed by Matrix Expedited Services in Flint Michigan.

The New York State Thruway's eastbound lanes are closed and should re-open later this afternoon.

Assisting the State Police in the investigation were the following ambulance companies:

Rose, Port Gibson, North Seneca, South Seneca, Finger Lakes, Jordan South Butler, Savannah, Victor/Farmington, North Rose, Clyde, Rural Metro, Lyons, Newark and Phelps.

Assisting with the fire were the following fire departments:

Magee, Clyde, Waterloo, Oaks Corners, Junius, Seneca Falls, Border City and Geneva.

The investigation is ongoing at this time. A press conference is scheduled at 11:30 A.M. today at SP Canandaigua.

### **THIRD TRAGIC BUS CRASHES IN A WEEK**

This is third multiple injury crash involving more than a dozen people in less than a week. A tour bus carrying tourists from India blew tire Sunday in Avoca Steuben County killing two women injuring 35 others. On Tuesday in Benton, Yates County a passenger van carrying 13 Amish farmers crashed with a car and tractor killing five people injuring several others.

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