

FR-OfficerID: dstegeman, Investigative Narrative 01/28/2020

On 01/28/2020 at approximately 1259 hours, Officer Lehman and I responded to 500 Missouri Boulevard, reference a trapped construction worker. Upon arrival, officers made contact with Schrimpf Landscaping employees, who advised that an employee, identified as Jacob Schrimpf, was trapped under a rock and was unable to get out.

Officers were advised that Schrimpf Landscaping was building a rock wall and Jacob was standing near the wall when part of the wall collapsed, trapping him. Employees were unable to reach him or remove the rock with the equipment they were using. The Jefferson City Fire Department was on scene and was working to secure the wall.

EMS arrived on scene and was unable to find a pulse on Jacob. EMS determined Jacob was deceased, but rescue efforts continued. Detectives were advised of the death and requested to respond.

The death investigation was turned over to Jefferson City Police Department Detectives for further investigation.

FR-OfficerID: jambler, Death Investigation 01-28-2020

On 01-28-2020, I was asked to respond to the construction site in the 500 block of Missouri Blvd. This is the site of a hotel being built on the grounds that were previously known as St. Mary's Hospital. I had overheard radio traffic indicating that there was a subject trapped and a wall had collapsed at the scene.

Upon my arrival I made contact with several fire and police personnel who were already on scene and I was tasked with taking photographs of the scene as well as rescue efforts to remove the man trapped. As fire officials were working on removing boulders from an area of a retaining wall I stood back and allowed them to work while documenting through photographs.

After some time had elapsed I was told that it appeared the subject pinned by the boulders was deceased. Fire Captain Casey Hughes was in close proximity to the subject and told me his findings. I asked that EMS officials run a strip of activity to ensure the findings of Captain Hughes. Candace Wright with EMS was present and the heart activity machine was hooked to the victim and showed no signs of activity. At approximately 1351 hours, contact was made with Dr. Carl Doerhoff, Cole County Medical Examiner, and an autopsy was ordered.

Prior to making the phone call to his office, I learned that a brother of the victim was also working at the site. Other investigators were speaking with him but I also learned that the subject who was trapped was Jacob Schrimpf. After speaking with Dr. Doerhoff, I called Dori Burke with the Boone County Medical Examiner's Office and made her aware of the death and that an autopsy was being ordered. She indicated that in addition to being ordered it was also mandatory since it was a workplace death and OSHA requirement.

The decision was made until it was known by the family what funeral home they wanted to utilize, Schrimpf would not be moved. Given the amount of attention this incident was drawing from the media, other construction workers seeing this take place and the muddy conditions of the site due to snow I chose not to move Schrimpf from his position until he could be extricated directly to the custody of the funeral home.

I proceeded to take photographs of both the height of the wall where Schrimpf was and the highest point of the wall that I saw in the vicinity where we were

. The measurement of the wall where Schrimpf was at was approximately 48 inches. This measurement was to the concrete footing. This measurement also did not factor in the height of the wall before it fell. The other measurement that was taken of the wall was at the highest point and it appeared to be about 118 inches from the top of the wall to the concrete footing.

I learned that Houser Millard Funeral Home was being requested by family and they were contacted to come to the scene. At approximately 1430 hours, Reid Millard, Jeff Hilke and Dave Clark with the funeral home arrived on scene. They were briefed of the incident and fire officials began removal of Schrimpf from the collapse. After Schrimpf was removed, I spoke with Reid Millard and he was told that I needed to take additional photos.

The decision was made to follow him to the funeral home and I would be able to take additional photos there. I then left the scene and followed the vehicle that Schrimpf was transported in to the funeral home.

I took several additional photos of Schrimpf. Rigor mortis was beginning to form and it was noted in his arms that were bent. Lividity was beginning to also form. As I continued taking photos there was petechial hemorrhage present in his eye region. It appeared to be more predominant in his right eye versus the left. I located the victim's cell phone and wallet on his person. The wallet contained 5.00 in US currency as well as his driver's license and other personal documents. These items were photographed and left in

the custody of the funeral home to give to family. Additional photographs were taken and significant bruising on his back was documented and the bruising appeared to be large enough that it covered a large amount of his back.

An autopsy was scheduled for 01-30-2020. The photos that were taken were burned to disc and placed into evidence along with the heart activity strip printout from EMS. I also obtained a copy of the photos that the fire department took and those were also placed into evidence. For further please see additional reports from the fire department and other investigators on scene.

FR-OfficerID: dervine, Witness Statements 01/28/2020

Det. Ervine - 58

On 1/28/2020 at approximately 1257 hours, JCPD officers along with the Jefferson City Fire Department and Cole County EMS all responded to the 500 block of Missouri Blvd. for a report of a jobsite accident. The original caller, construction worker David A. Brunk III, advised that there had been a wall collapse at the site and a worker was trapped. Brunk told the 911 operator that they could hear the trapped worker and that he was still alive.

Officers and fire personnel were on-scene within two minutes of being dispatched and began rendering aid to the trapped worker, later identified as Jacob Schrimpf of Schrimpf Landscaping, Inc. During the recovery effort, it became apparent that Schrimpf had succumbed to his injuries and detectives were asked to respond. For further information on the scene response, see the original case report, Det. Ambler's follow-up report, and Jefferson City Fire Department report # 2020-00390.

The jobsite is an active construction site located on the southwest corner of Missouri Blvd. and US Highway 50/63. The wall that was under construction prior to the collapse is a landscaped retaining wall that faces both the 500 block of Missouri Blvd. and the highway. This location is the former site of the original St. Mary's Hospital and the future site of a Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. The property is currently owned by F & F Development, a subsidiary of Farmer Holding Company.

I arrived at the jobsite at approximately 1509 hours and contacted the incident commanders. After being briefed on the incident, I contacted each of the workers with Schrimpf Landscaping, Inc. who were working with Schrimpf when the wall collapsed.

I first contacted the vice president of Schrimpf Landscaping, Inc., Steven Schrimpf, who was not at the jobsite when the accident occurred. Steven said that he received the call from an on-site worker while he was at the shop located on Valley Hi Rd. but he immediately responded to the jobsite. Steven told me that Schrimpf Landscaping was subcontracted by F & F Development and hired to build the large decorative retaining wall along the edge of the property. Steven explained that this was his company's third week on this job, which consisted of stacking large prefabricated stone blocks and back-filling with gravel and rock. Steven believes that his nephew Jacob Schrimpf's job today was "pushing rock" and back-filling gravel between the stone wall and the bluff.

The stone blocks used on this job are flat on the back-side with a metal loop integrated into the stone. The stones are placed in staggered stacks that create a straight row. As each row of stones is set, they are set back approximately 1" from the row below and not in a straight vertical stack. There is a large gap between the back of the manufactured retaining wall stones and the original rock bluff. Metal pipes are anchored into the face of the rock bluff and run parallel to the rows of manufactured stones. A strap is attached to the metal pipes on the bluff and the metal loops in the back of the stones in order to anchor the stones in place prior to backfilling.

Next, I spoke with laborer Ethan Wilson. Wilson was working with several others at the "far end of the wall" near the US Highway 50/63 side of the site. Wilson's job was "strapping" the stones to the steel pipes ahead of Schrimpf's crew who were backfilling gravel in the gap between the new wall and the rock bluff. Wilson told me that he and the other workers heard the section of wall fall behind them and saw where Schrimpf was trapped between the fabricated stones and the bluff. Wilson described the section where Schrimpf was working as approximately 3'-4' in height. Wilson has worked for Schrimpf Landscaping for approximately 8 years.

Next, I spoke with Mikel (Mike) Belt who was working next to Schrimpf when the wall fell. Belt stated that he and Schrimpf were positioned between the wall and the bluff and were in charge of spreading and backfilling the rocks and gravel dumped by the "Lull" (a Gehl DL-6H "Dynalift" Telehandler). Belt told me that Schrimpf was working ahead of him where the telehandler driver had dumped a load of gravel. Belt said that he saw the wall start to fall inward toward the bluff where Schrimpf was working. Belt said that he yelled out for Schrimpf but it was "too late." Belt said that he did not see or hear the telehandler hit the wall prior to the collapse. He told me that Kyle Rimel, the telehandler operator, was far from the wall when it collapsed and was scooping another load of rock from a gravel pile. He estimated approximately 30-45 seconds had passed between the last telehandler load being dumped and the wall collapsing on Schrimpf. Belt has worked for Schrimpf Landscaping for approximately 17-18 years.

Next, I spoke with David A. Brunk III, the original 911 caller. Brunk stated that he, Wilson, and Hunter Dahl were all working together at the north end of the wall near Highway 50/63 away from Schrimpf and Belt. Brunk said that he was strapping stones to the metal pipes with Wilson and Dahl when they heard the wall collapse. Brunk said that he heard Schrimpf screaming when the wall collapsed on him and he quickly made the 911 call as others attempted to render aid.

I then spoke with Hunter Dahl. He confirmed that he was working with Brunk and Wilson “up around the corner” applying straps when the wall section collapsed on Schrimpf. Dahl said that he did not see or hear the telehandler strike the wall prior to the collapse. Brunk has worked for Schrimpf Landscaping for approximately 6 months as a laborer.

Lastly, I spoke with the Gehl telehandler operator and jobsite foreman, Kyle T. Rimel. Rimel said that he was operating the telehandler when the collapse occurred. Rimel said that his job today consisted of scooping gravel from a pile that was approximately 20' - 30' away from the retaining wall and then pouring it between the wall and bluff where Schrimpf and Belt were working. Rimel said that he was gathering another scoop of gravel for the next pour when the wall collapsed. Rimel told me that he made his last gravel pour over the wall approximately 60-90 seconds before it collapsed. He said that his last pour was made just south of where the wall collapsed on Schrimpf (likely between where Schrimpf and Belt were working). Rimel has worked for Schrimpf Landscaping for approximately 17.5 years and was the acting foreman on today's job.

After speaking with each of the witnesses and employees, I observed while JCFD Firefighters recovered Schrimpf's body from behind the wall. I later responded with Det. Ambler to the funeral home where additional photos were taken.

For further, see any follow-up reports.

END OF NARRATIVE

FR-OfficerID: jambler, Fire photos 01-30-2020

On 01-30-2020, I obtained the photos that the fire department took during this investigation. The fireman that was taking the photos was Phil McKee. Once the photos were obtained they were placed into evidence. I also provided the fire department with a copy of the photos that I took in this investigation.

Investigation continues.

FR-OfficerID: jambler, Autopsy 01-30-2020

On 01-30-2020, I contacted the Boone County Medical Examiner's Office and inquired about the autopsy findings of Schrimpf. I was told that the report was not final and would not be available until toxicology came back after being sent to the lab. I was also told that preliminary indications show that Schrimpf's death was attributed to compression asphyxiation. I was also told that it appeared he had cracked ribs as a result of his injuries.

Once the final report is available it will be added to the case.

Nothing further at this time.