



DEFENDERS

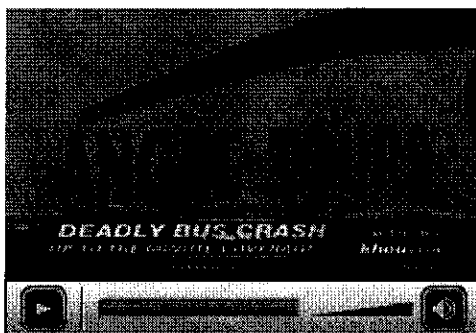
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Bus company racked up safety violations

11:13 AM CDT on Saturday, August 9, 2008

Matt Greenblatt / 11 News

Video



Bus company racked up safety violations

August 8, 2008

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HOUSTON – The bus company involved in [Friday morning's tragic accident](#) just opened this summer, but its owners were not new to the bus industry. In fact, their last company had been at the same Houston location, where their buses and drivers racked up a list of federal safety violations.

Their destination on Friday may have been Missouri. But now, just south of Dallas, 14 people are dead after the bus crashed on a trip the federal government says should never have been on the road. That's because the US Department of Transportation claims the Houston bus company didn't have an interstate license.

Just outside the company's door, you can see the company recently changed its name from Angel Tours to Iguala BusMex. It was when the company was called Angel Tours that 11 News discovered federal records showing the company had received several safety violations, including a bus that had problems with brake linings, insufficient drum/rotor thickness and other unsafe operations. This particular vehicle was put out of service in March.

But in May, the company had more problems. This time the violations had to do with the tires on one bus, failing to require a driver to prepare a vehicle inspection report, and more.

Eventually, the company was slapped with an unsatisfactory safety rating.

Then in June, it closed its doors...only to open up again under a new name.

11 News reporter Matt Greenblatt tried to speak to the company about their past violations, but the owner refused to comment.

“I have no comment, sir.”

When asked about the accident, the company had this to say:

“I feel bad for all these people. I feel bad.”

A spokesperson for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said Iguala BusMex sent in an application to cross state lines in June, but the company had not yet been authorized to do so. One of the reasons was because it did not have the proper insurance.