

## Coast Guard Statement

Thomas Yeomans

### At 0600 I clocked in to work

Had a small briefing on what was going on for the day. I was told to fuel the generator and welders. I took the keys for the forklift from Mike, moved it from the containers, and grabbed the fuel from the fuel box.

I transported it down to the pier using a golf cart. I grabbed diesel and Garret grabbed gas from the cart and we walked up to the top deck. I then proceed to fill up everything.

Afterwards, I brought all the fuel cans down, put them in the cart, and brought them back to the container.

I then went back to the office, marked how much fuel we had, and headed down to the boat.

Around 0645 I was on the top deck of the boat. Dave was giving me instructions on what to do for the day. He was going to have me measure and cut steel for the port side wall in the stairwell and instructed me how to do it. I set up my work area which was on the port side close to the stern.

As I measured the steel, the painters came up to me and asked if they can move material from the stern so they can work there. I told them it was ok, and I got back to measuring.

I can't remember the exact time, but I was walking to the tool box to grab a face shield and the slugger for cutting steel and walk back to my work station. At this time, I had my back to the stairs, while I was cleaning out and adjusting the slugger, I got a tap on my shoulder by the female painter. She said there's smoke coming from down below. I went down stairs to check it out and all I saw was black smoke and flames. I screamed "fire" to get everyone's attention. Garret told me to shut off the generators and get everyone off the boat. I met the painters at the bow and assisted them down. I was about to climb down, and I saw Garret at the bottom of the starboard stairwell, coughing. I rushed to the stairwell and got ready to walk down the stairwell to grab him, but right before I did he came running out of the stairwell. I brought him to the bow, and helped him down, then I climbed down.

I went on board the Dixie to assist Johnny with throwing the firehose over

to the queen. We tried to turn the water on, but the water pumps for fighting fires on the dixie were shut off.

I left the lever on in case it took a minute to pump water. When I saw that water wasn't pumping, I asked "why isn't the water on?" Daryl told me that the water system wasn't turned on. I then went onto the dixie and told Daryl to turn the water pump on. I don't know if he did or not because the water still wasn't running. I went back on to the queen on the bow to assist the crew. By the time I made it over there, the crew had set up the "trash pump" to pump water out of the lake onto the fire. Pretty soon the fire department showed up and instructed us to get off of the boat. By the time we made it off of the pier, it was around 0800.

The rest of the day, I helped set up spill containment booms, cleaned up some of the contaminants in the water and assisted anyone who needed help.

I was relieved from work at 1330.