

Statement of M/V Tahoe Queen fire (August 16, 2016).

I arrived at ZC at 0600 and opened the office to conduct a safety meeting and line out personnel on their tasks for the day. We emphasized fall protection and the open stairwells. I performed admin tasks until 0715 and conversed with John B with regards to the drains and what we needed to do to clear them. We walked outside and spoke to Darryl D. about getting a snake. I asked Darryl to go out to the vessel with me to see if we could just remove the drains and install new. At approximately 0730 I was walking from the office down the pier towards the Tahoe Queen with Darryl Dennis (Aramark), John Bethurum (AMSC) and David Kordonoway (AMSC). John noticed smoke coming from the bow double door on the Texas deck. We proceeded to notify personnel, grab extinguishers and secure any running equipment. I ran to the stern inside the main deck to grab an extinguisher. I climbed the Starboard Stern stairwell with an extinguisher and attempted to fight the fire. I emptied the extinguisher and could see flames near the center circular portion and was forced to evacuate due to smoke. I then moved through the vessel towards the bow to attempt to fight the fire from the steps.

Personnel attempted to fight the fire with extinguishers and a trash pump with little effect. We attempted to utilize the fire hose from the MS Dixie, however the door was locked and there was no way to get inside.

The fire department arrived approximately 20-30 minutes after the first indication of the fire. Upon their arrival we were instructed to stay clear of the area. AMSC crew and myself assisted the fire crews with laying out hoses and clearing the pathway.

After the fire was under control, we assisted ZC with pollution control. I drove up to South Lake to get pool skimmers and returned to assist with that.


Michael Fork

AMSC Foreman