

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FIRE ON BOARD THE *ISLAND LADY*  
PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA  
JANUARY 14, 2018

\* ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18FM010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: JONATHAN CODLING  
Senior Deckhand

Friday,  
January 19, 2018

## APPEARANCES:

BRIAN YOUNG, Senior Marine Engineer  
National Transportation Safety Board

[REDACTED]  
U.S. Coast Guard (Civilian)

CWO [REDACTED]  
U.S. Coast Guard

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Tropical Breeze Casino

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I N T E R V I E W

(Time)

1  
2  
3 MR. YOUNG: And just before we start, if you don't mind, just  
4 spell your name for the record?

5 MR. CODLING: It's Jonathan, J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n, David,  
6 D-a-v-i-d, Codling, C-o-d-l-i-n-g.

7 MR. YOUNG: Great. Thank you.

8 CWO [REDACTED] And you go by Jon?

9 MR. CODLING: Yeah.

10 CWO [REDACTED] Yeah. All right.

## INTERVIEW OF JONATHAN CODLING

11  
12 BY CWO [REDACTED]

13 Q. Jon, this is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The -- can you explain -- can you  
14 describe your background, your educational background and  
15 employment background?

16 A. I am a high school graduate. I worked in restaurants for  
17 about 4 years. From there I went on to a house cleaning service,  
18 for -- but that business closed down after a few months. Then I  
19 moved down to -- I worked in a warehouse for another 4 years. And  
20 after that I was a sign holder; I hold the signs in front of the  
21 stores for a while. And then few years ago I started working  
22 here. I was here for a while, and then I left about a year and a  
23 half and came back, and I've been back here for the past year.

24 Q. So the previous time you worked for Tropical Breeze, do you  
25 recall the dates?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Roughly?

3 A. Not exactly.

4 Q. Okay. And so you said you've basically reestablished  
5 employment here. When did you start?

6 A. January 15th, 2017.

7 Q. Okay. All right. And what's your position at Tropical  
8 Breeze Casino?

9 A. I'm a senior deckhand.

10 Q. Senior deckhand. And what are the, you know, duties and  
11 responsibilities?

12 A. Clean and maintain the boat, security, you know, doing the  
13 ropes -- like tossing, throwing, untying -- making sure supplies  
14 make it on board every day that each department needs, and making  
15 sure the deckhands do their jobs, for the most part.

16 Q. Okay. And what training did you get to operate as a senior  
17 deck hand?

18 A. One of our seniors worked with me a little bit. He, you  
19 know, told me -- you know, taught me how to handle certain  
20 situations, you know, regarding make sure people know -- or stay  
21 busy or know what they're doing on security, you know. You know,  
22 make sure people know -- you know, you tell them where they need  
23 to go on their drills if they don't know what to do, you know.  
24 And that's pretty much what I can think of at -- right now.

25 Q. Were you provided training, let's say, on what to do in case

1 of an emergency, in case of a fire, flooding, abandon ship?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me when or what that training consisted of?

4 A. Throughout the years, you know, we either, you know, set  
5 down, talk over the steps of each drill, or, you know -- or other  
6 times we would act, you know, like run through -- do like a dry  
7 run, just act out so everybody knew, each position, where to be  
8 when they needed to. And that's pretty much it for that.

9 Q. Do you recall the last training you had or last drill you  
10 conducted that you were a part of?

11 A. That would be middle of December.

12 Q. And who was in attendance and what was the topic of the  
13 training?

14 A. It was me, Captain Mike, and Chad, the other senior mate. We  
15 were running fire drills, actually.

16 Q. So do you recall what the scenario was mid-December?

17 A. Yes. Basically we had a dry run coming in. We had just  
18 taken out a load of passengers so nobody was on the boat, so we  
19 decided let's run a drill. And so waited till a certain point,  
20 and Chad says to the captain there's a fire in the engine room.  
21 So while he's running around shutting off valves and whatever  
22 needs to be done, I stretched out the hose. I grabbed the fire  
23 extinguisher. He opened up the hatches and I followed him down,  
24 and we just found a spot and started -- you know, I did the whole  
25 spray and sweep, and that was that.

1 Q. And do you know if the drill was recorded anywhere? Did they  
2 say, you know, on such and such date we conducted training and,  
3 you know, it's logged somewhere?

4 A. I personally don't know because I don't keep the record of  
5 that.

6 Q. And so your position during the drill -- you know, what was  
7 your position during that drill, if you remember?

8 A. Basically I was, I guess you would say, deckhand 1 or 2, or I  
9 was, you know, I was the one grabbing what needed to be grabbed  
10 and, you know, following, you know, Chad to the scene and handing  
11 him whatever he needed and -- I'm not sure what you would call  
12 that, but --

13 Q. Okay. And do you recall any previous drills to that, that  
14 you can recall?

15 A. Just on the *Tropical Breeze*, and I can't remember when  
16 exactly.

17 Q. Have you ever had any formal training, you know, marine  
18 firefighting or any firefighting training, any marine training?

19 A. That's the only training I've really had.

20 Q. Okay. And -- all right. So can you take us through the day,  
21 which was the 14th of January. So you had worked almost exactly a  
22 year --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- at that point. So the -- take us through that day.

25 A. When I got there that day, you know, I come onto the boat,

1 Captain Mike and Tyler were already down checking the engine room,  
2 you know, doing regular checking oil, checking -- you know, make  
3 sure everything had water, like the motors and generators, and  
4 checking sea strainers. And so, I went down to see if they needed  
5 any help with anything. No, they were just wrapping it up, had it  
6 all taken care of. Then I took a look around for about a minute  
7 or two. I didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

8 When I walked upstairs with them to turn everything on -- you  
9 know, we have a breaker panel at the back of the boat. So I went  
10 and flipped the switches on. The generators fired up just fine.  
11 The captain went upstairs to the bridge. He turned on -- well,  
12 first he turned on the starboard generator. I heard that fire up  
13 fine. When he tried to turn on the port, it sounded like it was  
14 having -- like trying to click, but not really doing anything.  
15 So, I let him know. We went back down there. He checked out  
16 batteries and stuff. I don't know if he may have done something  
17 when I was turned around, but next thing I knew he was heading  
18 back up to the bridge. I followed him upstairs. And then he --  
19 it fired up just find.

20 We moved over to the other dock, and all of that went fine.  
21 Had the passengers on, and it was smooth when we left the dock  
22 with the passengers. Then about halfway out I noticed --

23 MR. [REDACTED] Can I ask you one question?

24 MR. CODLING: Yes.

25 MR. [REDACTED] You said, when you said you got on the boat, you



1 said you flipped the switches on and the generators came on. Did  
2 the captain turn the generators on or did you? Or when you're  
3 referred to the captain turned stuff on, did the captain turn the  
4 engines on?

5 MR. CODLING: No. I turned the generators on. The captain  
6 turns the engines on, on the bridge. It's two different --

7 CWO [REDACTED] The main engines, I think --

8 MR. CODLING: Yes. Yes.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: He mistakenly said gen, but he meant to  
10 say the --

11 MR. [REDACTED] So you turned the generators on?

12 MR. CODLING: Yes. I'm sorry.

13 MR. [REDACTED] And then the captain turned the engines on?

14 MR. CODLING: Right.

15 BY CWO [REDACTED]

16 Q. And do you recall which main engine didn't fire up or didn't  
17 -- you know, clicked?

18 A. I believe it was the port. But --

19 Q. So how much of a delay did that cause? Do you recall?

20 A. I'm not sure. He clicked it a few times, but I wasn't  
21 counting. So, I mean, it only took like a couple minutes and we  
22 had it all fired up and ready to move.

23 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. So, did you have anything else?

24 BY CWO [REDACTED]

25 Q. Okay. Continue.

1 A. So when we left the dock with the passengers, you know,  
2 everything was normal, you know, seemed to be going smooth. You  
3 know, I had Jack as a trainee and I was showing him around the  
4 boat a little bit on the main deck. And we got out to where we  
5 can get in the wake zone, so we picked up speed. Then I noticed  
6 after a couple minutes he slowed down the boat. And I -- which  
7 normally he only does if there's another boat coming in so as not  
8 to cause too much wave or hit him or -- so --

9 Q. Do you mind showing on this chart where you believe that the  
10 captain slowed down? And you see, this is --

11 A. Durney Key.

12 Q. -- Durney Key.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And this is marker 15, mile marker 15. This is where the  
15 vessel is right now.

16 A. Right. I believe, from what I recall, somewhere in here.

17 Q. All right. So it looks like you're pointing to -- you're  
18 pointing in between marker 10 and 12 -- looks like, 10A and 10?  
19 Right in here?

20 A. Let's see, 10 and 12, or 10 and 11. I'm -- on that I'm more  
21 right by the island. I'm not --

22 Q. Okay. This is actually a very short distance.

23 A. Right. Well, I remember it wasn't that much time, but soon  
24 as, you know, I saw -- I noticed we had slowed down, I ran to look  
25 over the bow just to make sure, see if there was a boat. And I

1 didn't see a boat, so I ran up to the bridge real quick. Well, in  
2 that -- at that point he was on the phone, and I wasn't sure with  
3 who. So, I mean, I heard him say something about overheating. So  
4 I looked on the dashboard, and I don't know what all that stuff  
5 is, but I saw a little red light. I don't remember hearing  
6 anything going off or -- but --

7       So then I think at that point he said something about turning  
8 it around. Well, as soon as -- going back to the dock. Well, as  
9 soon as he spun it around to go backwards, he stopped everything,  
10 decided to go down and check it out. I followed him down. He  
11 opened the hatch, went down in to check it out. While I was up  
12 there, had my guys around guarding the hole, and I saw him  
13 checking around. I didn't see anything.

14       UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This was the captain?

15       MR. CODLING: Yes.

16       UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

17       MR. CODLING: Then he came back up. He started going back  
18 in. He got back on the phone. Then he looked over at the --  
19 there's a security camera next to him because he saw something  
20 down there. Or he said there's smoke down there. He's like you  
21 need to tell these people to get to the top deck real quick.

22       I said -- so Tyler was standing right outside the bridge door  
23 at that point. So I grabbed him, had him run down the back, I ran  
24 down the front, and we started having people quickly move to the  
25 back of the boat and go up the stairs to the top deck.

1           So -- and at that point I checked back with him, and he told  
2 me, you know, grab an extinguisher and see where's it at and see  
3 if I can get it out. So I grabbed the extinguisher. No -- I'm  
4 sorry -- I went down there and told the guys, you know, grab the  
5 extinguishers. I opened one hole. One of the guys opened the  
6 other hatch.

7           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you recall which hatch you opened?

8           MR. CODLING: I opened the front one.

9           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10          MR. CODLING: Then, I don't recall who, but one of them  
11 handed me an extinguisher real quick. But, you know, as soon as  
12 we opened the hatches, like white smoke started coming out.

13          So I grabbed it. I was running down there. It looked like  
14 it was coming from the like port, was it the port stern area in  
15 the back. So once I started walking -- like, I quickly started  
16 walking back that way but soon as I got, got there, like halfway,  
17 it just really started -- smoke was really coming at me. And I  
18 got ready to do the sweep and spray, but I -- at that point I  
19 couldn't see where it was coming from. I couldn't -- I could  
20 barely even breathe. Like I was about to pass out.

21          Then instantly I noticed it was starting to get black. So I  
22 yelled up at them, you need to get these people off the boat. And  
23 I -- so at that point I was close enough to the back hatch, I  
24 handed up the extinguisher real quick, because remember Jack was  
25 sitting right there keeping an eye out for me. Like he grabbed

1 it, and soon as I came up, we took off out the back door. I  
2 didn't see any flames at this point, but he looked behind us and  
3 said that he saw flames.

4 BY CWO [REDACTED]

5 Q. Would he have seen them in the engine room or in the  
6 passenger compartment?

7 A. I'm really not sure where he saw them, because, you know, I  
8 didn't even have time to look. I was busy trying to get up there  
9 just to help out with getting people off. Soon as we got -- as  
10 soon as we got up there, you know, I turned to go for the life  
11 jackets. It started shooting so high right next to where the life  
12 jacket area was, I wasn't going to -- I knew I wasn't going to  
13 have time grab anything.

14 So, I ran -- well, I looked around, noticed we were beached  
15 at that point. I ran towards the front and I noticed, you know,  
16 they were already starting to get people into the water and they  
17 were walking back. So I ran down, started helping people out.  
18 You know, once everybody was off, me and the captain did a quick  
19 sweep. Then I jumped and he jumped, and we started dragging  
20 people to shore.

21 Q. The -- so when you left the engine room, do you recall what  
22 the condition of the engines were in? Were they both running?  
23 Were they secured? Were they at idle? Were they a high idle? Do  
24 you recall?

25 A. I really don't recall. With everything going on, I wasn't --

1 was more worried about the fire than what was actually going on.  
2 I wasn't -- I'm not sure.

3 BY MR. [REDACTED]

4 Q. So you said you went into the first hatch?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then went through and popped open the second hatch?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At the time that you went and left that space, did anybody  
9 replace those hatch covers?

10 A. Not that I'm aware of. Because it was, it was getting pretty  
11 smoky.

12 Q. Were any other of the doors open on the side of the interior  
13 of boat there?

14 A. I believe the back doors were.

15 Q. Were they left --

16 A. Main deck.

17 Q. Were they left open? Did anyone say to open those doors or  
18 anything?

19 A. No.

20 BY CWO [REDACTED]

21 Q. All right. So I'm going to back up a little bit. On the way  
22 out, did -- was there a safety brief conducted?

23 A. Yes. I believe Tyler did go up in the bridge and -- because  
24 we have a sheet kept in the bridge. And we get on a mike with the  
25 speaker system and read off, you know, what the safety regulations

1 of everything were.

2 Q. Have you conducted that brief before?

3 A. Yes. Many times.

4 Q. Is it in a notebook? Can you -- do you just memorize it?

5 A. It was taped up to the wall.

6 Q. Okay. All right. Did you ever hear a fire alarm go off?

7 Was there ever a fire alarm? Was there -- I know you said you saw  
8 a red engine -- or red alarm on the bridge. But did you ever hear  
9 anything audible?

10 A. Not that I recall.

11 Q. Did the captain ever make an announcement? Did he say -- did  
12 he give you instructions over the PA on what to do or how to --  
13 you know, any actions to take or direction to the crew -- or crew  
14 or passengers?

15 A. I just remember him telling me go down there with an  
16 extinguisher and find it and put it out is all I remember.

17 Q. And do you know who he was talking to on the telephone?

18 A. I have no idea.

19 Q. Okay. So when you say phone, you mean cell phone?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. Did you ever hear the captain talk over the radio?

22 A. I did not. I didn't have mine on me at that point, to be  
23 honest.

24 Q. Okay. So, yeah, so you have a handheld radio?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. Was it used that evening?

2 A. That evening, no. It actually was on the boat when I had it.

3 Q. Did anyone use a handheld radio for communication?

4 A. No.

5 Q. No? When the captain went down to investigate, was there  
6 anyone else on the bridge? Did anyone stay on the bridge,  
7 pilothouse?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did you say, Jon?

10 MR. CODLING: Huh?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was the answer to that?

12 MR. CODLING: Said not that I recall.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I still didn't hear you.

14 MR. CODLING: I said not that I recall.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

16 BY CWO [REDACTED]

17 Q. Was there ever -- did you, do you take any action to secure  
18 fuel or use any of the, you know, firefighting equipment on board?

19 A. I didn't. I mean, everything happened so fast. I was, you  
20 know, I was, at the time, focused on just trying to get it  
21 extinguished. Like I said, I couldn't even see where it was.

22 Q. And can you just run me through all the firefighting  
23 equipment on board?

24 A. I know we had two fire extinguishers, I think the -- I can't  
25 remember how many of the, what is it, the -- no, I'm sorry. We



1 had two fire hoses. I can't remember how many extinguishers. The  
2 water pump to start the hose was in the fire -- the engine room.  
3 And then we had the breakers and the breaker panel where I was at.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you ever energize that system?

5 MR. CODLING: No. I was -- wasn't sure.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anybody take the hoses out?

7 MR. CODLING: (No audible response.)

8 BY CWO [REDACTED]

9 Q. Like in your year of employment on there, how often, you  
10 know, the fire pump, had you guys tested it or had you ever had it  
11 even running?

12 A. I know I ran it on there that one time last month. But like  
13 I said, most of my stuff's been on the *Breeze*. I just knew where  
14 different stuff was just from walking around the boat, just  
15 checking out this and that.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what was the reason for you to run  
17 the fire pump last month?

18 MR. CODLING: We just wanted to test it out, see how -- you  
19 know, make sure everything was working and up to date.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And how long did you run it?

21 MR. CODLING: Probably a good 5 minutes.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was any water exercised through the  
23 hoses?

24 MR. CODLING: Yeah.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Both hoses?

1 MR. CODLING: Yeah.

2 BY CWO [REDACTED]

3 Q. If you had a problem on board, who would you take it to? A  
4 piece of equipment didn't work, who would you contact?

5 A. Normally I would go -- I would take, gone to the captain with  
6 anything.

7 Q. And, you know, which captain or captains would you go to?

8 A. There's usually Captain Mike or Captain Mark.

9 Q. Captain Mike or Captain Mark, are those -- throughout the  
10 year, are those the only two captains you've worked with?

11 A. Well, I've also worked with Captain Will and Captain Jersey.

12 Q. Okay. And have you -- has there ever been an issue,  
13 especially with like the equipment down in the engine room, where  
14 you had to go to the captain and say, hey, this needs to be  
15 repaired or this isn't running right?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No? Ever had to cancel a trip because of, you know,  
18 mechanical problems?

19 A. Not that I remember.

20 Q. Ever -- so in your year, those engines, all the equipment on  
21 board has ran fine?

22 A. Well, from what I remember, yes.

23 Q. Okay. Any routine maintenance or, you know, maintenance ever  
24 conducted while you were on board? Tune-ups, you know, equipment  
25 changes, anything like that?

1 A. There were a few times the engineers would go down there and,  
2 you know, work on some stuff, but I'm not sure what they did. I  
3 wasn't down there.

4 Q. Okay. And who are the engineers?

5 A. There is William and Josh.

6 Q. Any -- did you ever seen any outside engineers making  
7 repairs? So this would be someone in a service truck with a  
8 uniform or, you know, outside repair people with more expertise?

9 A. Not personally. I mean, I don't know if it happened on my  
10 day off, but --

11 Q. Okay. And systems -- were you ever trained in, let's say,  
12 the fixed firefighting system on board?

13 A. I was.

14 Q. Can you tell me what that training consists of?

15 A. Yes. I know you, when you see or smell the smoke, instantly,  
16 you know, radio the captain and let him know, you know, there's  
17 smoke in this area. You know, while you're going down to check it  
18 out, extinguisher or whatever, I know there was supposed to be a  
19 deckhand stretching out the hose. You know, there's a -- I do  
20 know about the fuel shutoff.

21 Q. What do you know about that?

22 A. Trying to remember. I honestly can't recall right offhand.  
23 It was usually the other guy that did it.

24 Q. Do you remember where it's located?

25 A. I do remember where it was located, yes.

1 Q. Where is that?

2 A. On that boat, it was right in -- almost right in front of the  
3 first hatch or -- yeah, the first hatch to the engine room,  
4 towards the front. Pull up a -- like I said, I do know you pull  
5 up a panel and there's -- the switch is right down in there.

6 Q. And what do you do with those?

7 A. You just flip them over, and it just shuts the whole thing  
8 off.

9 Q. Is it marked or -- do you recall?

10 A. I don't recall, honest.

11 Q. And when would you pull those or when would you secure those?

12 A. This is actually what I'm trying to think of. I'm thinking  
13 after you see something burning or -- like I said, it's been a  
14 couple -- it's been about a month before I -- since I've gone over  
15 this.

16 Q. And are there -- is there a fixed fire extinguishing system  
17 on the boat?

18 A. Yeah. Yeah, there is.

19 Q. And can you describe the system?

20 A. You know, like how we run through everything or --

21 Q. Yeah. Like -- well, if you know any of the components of it  
22 or when you would use it, you know, in case of, you know -- yeah,  
23 just when would you use it, how do you use it?

24 A. I know with the firehose, you know, you stretch it out, you  
25 know, just hold it like this, and then, you know, you can -- it

1 has the adjustable nozzles so you can -- like if it's a big spray  
2 of smoke, you know, you just spread it. And then once you find  
3 that, get it -- narrow it down to the one area, you just get it in  
4 a straight, like a straight stream.

5 Fire extinguishers, you can go through, do the whole -- you  
6 know, pull the pin. Then once you see where the fire's at, do the  
7 whole spray and sweep. And that's about what I recall.

8 Q. Okay. No system where you just turn it on and it floods the  
9 engine room, that you recall?

10 A. I know there is one. I just only know where it is on the  
11 other boat.

12 Q. Okay. Fair enough.

13 MR. YOUNG: Sorry. I was thinking.

14 BY MR. YOUNG:

15 Q. Thanks, Jon. This is Brian Young. I'm with the NTSB. Just  
16 a few other questions after Mr. [REDACTED] questions.

17 To follow up, when you did enter the engine room, did you  
18 enter through the forward hatch and exit out the after hatch?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So you went through the engine room?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Go between the two engines?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Right kind of centerline, if you will?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Were you able to determine if one side may have had more  
2 smoke than the other as you were going through?

3 A. I believe the side I was on had more smoke. The -- I went  
4 down the port side.

5 Q. Port side?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did you recognize any sort of smell of the smoke while  
8 you were down there, that maybe you had smelled that smell before?

9 A. I honestly wasn't even thinking about it. I was too  
10 concerned about trying to, you know, find the spot and get it out.

11 Q. But you didn't see anything that was shooting out flames,  
12 right?

13 A. No. Not at that point, no.

14 Q. Were you able to see straight through the engine room or was  
15 the smoke too thick to see?

16 A. The smoke was too thick. I had to -- I mean, once I got  
17 about halfway, about, there was a work bench in between. By the  
18 time I got in so far, I pretty much had to feel my way to the end  
19 to know exactly where I even was.

20 Q. Could you see the light from the other hatch to get up and  
21 out?

22 A. Yeah. That's the only way I made it out.

23 Q. Had you been in the engine room much prior to that, that you  
24 were able to navigate your way through without seeing?

25 A. Yes. I had been down there and checked out the engines

1 before myself. And I, to my knowledge, I never seen any issues.

2 Q. One of the other deckhands we talked to had said that he  
3 thought either maybe you or another deckhand may have recognized  
4 the smell of the smoke because a few months or weeks ago there had  
5 been an issue where there was some smoke out of the engine room.  
6 And I don't know if that was you or not. I don't know -- I can't  
7 remember the name of which deckhand he was talking about. But are  
8 you familiar with an incident that may have had smoke in the  
9 engine room previously?

10 A. I'm not familiar with it. But I think I might have heard an  
11 issue, but I wasn't exactly sure what. I believe I was on the  
12 other boat that day.

13 Q. Okay. But it wasn't you that had been in there before?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I know there was probably a lot going through your mind as  
16 you're coming through the engine room. But did you hear the  
17 engines speed up, slow down, wind up, shut down? Could you have  
18 noticed any changes in the speed or sound of the engines when you  
19 were down there?

20 A. I really don't remember, to be honest. Because, like I said,  
21 I had a lot of adrenaline. My focus was on the one thing.

22 Q. Was it difficult to breathe down there?

23 A. Oh, yeah.

24 Q. And did you have any sort of mask or anything over your nose  
25 to try to help breathe better?

1 A. I did find a bandana in my back pocket. I tied that around  
2 my face. But even with that, it really wasn't enough.

3 Q. Could you tell by sound that both engines were running when  
4 you were down there? Could you hear both of them? Could you  
5 distinguish that?

6 A. I honestly don't recall, to be honest.

7 Q. Prior to the day of the accident and in the, say, year and a  
8 half prior to, are you ever involved with fueling, taking on fuel?

9 A. I'm not, no.

10 Q. You're not. And do you ever check the fuel levels in the  
11 tanks?

12 A. Yeah, I have. Yes.

13 Q. How do you do that?

14 A. We go down -- there's another hatch in the front. We go down  
15 there. There's two -- I know there's two large tanks that we can  
16 see the fuel level. There's -- where there's like pipes that'll,  
17 or like hoses that'll show you the fuel line. You turn a valve,  
18 and I know the fuel line will like drop down like exactly which  
19 level it is. Then when that's done, you just close it up. And  
20 that's what they told me you actually have.

21 Q. So it's like a clear tube that has the fuel running through?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And did you happen to check it all in the day of the  
24 accident?

25 A. That, I didn't. It usually gets checked at night. And I



1 hadn't been on there in a couple weeks.

2 Q. So if you have been working for the last year and a half,  
3 were you working on the other boat?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And would you ride the casino boat out to its site and ride  
6 the casino boat back typically, or would you take the shuttle?

7 A. Either one. You know, it depend on what time I was working  
8 that day.

9 Q. And do you have a normal set schedule or does it change a  
10 lot?

11 A. Not really. It changes.

12 Q. How long have you worked with Captain Mike?

13 A. Just for the past year.

14 Q. During your previous time when you worked here before was he  
15 a captain?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Was anything in the smoke, with the smell of it, that you  
18 could identify? Whether it was wood burning or plastic or fuel?  
19 Is there anything that stuck out to you in maybe what you may have  
20 sensed might have been burning?

21 A. Honestly, no. I wasn't even thinking about it.

22 Q. And do you ever add any water to the engines? Is that part  
23 of your duties?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how about adding oil?

1 A. Adding -- that, I've never done. That's -- I usually leave  
2 to the engineers.

3 Q. And do the engineers ride the boat back and forth? Are they  
4 typically stationed ashore?

5 A. Typically they're stationed -- well, one of them -- every  
6 couple days, but, yeah, typically.

7 Q. Typically?

8 A. Typically they're stationed. Except, well, one always is out  
9 on the water. We got the two boats, but --

10 Q. And do they typically ride as a deckhand or they typically  
11 work in the engine room; do you know?

12 A. They do both.

13 Q. And do you see them coming out with a lot of parts and tool  
14 bags and equipment or are they more monitoring?

15 A. It's more monitoring. They usually keep tools -- you know,  
16 we have racks down there where they keep, you know, the  
17 essentials. And if something really needed to be done, you know,  
18 once you get back to the dock, then they'll just work on it there.

19 Q. They would work on it at nights, then, when the vessel is  
20 docked for the night; is that when the work would get done?

21 A. A lot of the time. But I've seen them work on it during the  
22 day, too. I just wasn't there for that part.

23 Q. Just changing gears a little bit. The fire detection alarm,  
24 apparently there is an alarm that would sense fire. Have you ever  
25 heard it in testing? Would you know what it sounded like?

1 A. In testing I have. I just don't recall it right then,  
2 because I was focused on the captain and seeing what the issue  
3 was.

4 Q. So if you heard it, it would ring --

5 A. It would ring a bell.

6 Q. Ring a bell. And it would remind you that you've heard it  
7 before, and what to do?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And there's a difference between the general alarm and also  
10 the fire detection system alarm, are there two separate alarms?  
11 Like is there a system that would sense a fire, and would it have  
12 an alarm?

13 A. Actually, yeah, I do remember that from -- not from that day,  
14 but in the past, I do remember us checking something, just -- or  
15 checking that out just to make sure, you know.

16 Q. Do you think -- do you remember, you can hear it throughout  
17 the entire vessel or just from the bridge?

18 A. I remember hearing something on the bridge or -- when, you  
19 know, when we were doing drills and whatnot, because, you know, we  
20 check out alarms and stuff first. But other than that, I don't  
21 remember hearing anything.

22 Q. And are you taking any prescription medication?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Or were you at the time of the accident?

25 A. No.

1 Q. No. Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. YOUNG: That's all I got. Thank you.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All set.

4 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thanks. We'll stop the recording.

5 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

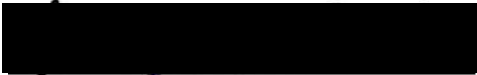
IN THE MATTER OF:            FIRE ON BOARD THE *ISLAND LADY*  
                                  PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA  
                                  JANUARY 14, 2018  
                                  Interview of Jonathan Codling

ACCIDENT NO.:                DCA18FM010

PLACE:

DATE:                         January 19, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Brooks  
Transcriber