

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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IN RE: :

:

THE FIRE THAT OCCURRED ON : NTSB Accident No.

THE CARIBBEAN FANTASY THAT : DCA16FM052

OCCURRED ON AUGUST 17, 2016 :

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INTERVIEW OF: DANTE DELROSARIO

Sunday,

August 21, 2016

Conference Room

USCG Sector San Juan

Puerto Rico

BEFORE

MICHAEL KARR, NTSB

CARRIE BELL, NTSB

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] USCG

CARRIE BELL, NTSB

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USCG

ANDRES PICO RAMIREZ, PI Club

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(9:41 a.m.)

1
2
3 MICHAEL KARR: This is Mike Karr of the
4 National Transportation Safety Board. It's 1830 on
5 August 21st, 2016, and we are in the conference room at
6 Sector San Juan, conducting an interview regarding the
7 Caribbean Fantasy fire.

8 I would like to go around the table and have
9 everybody introduce themselves by name and their
10 organization.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] United States Coast
12 Guard.

13 CARRIE BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB.

14 DANTE DELROSARIO: My name is Dante
15 DelRosario, I'm the food manager of the Caribbean
16 Fantasy.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard.

18 MICHAEL KARR: All right. And, sir do you
19 mind if we record the interview?

20 DANTE DELROSARIO: No problem.

21 MICHAEL: Okay. Thank you very much. So if
22 you
23 would, first tell me -- briefly describe your main job
24 onboard the ship, how long you've been with the ship.

25 DANTE DELROSARIO: I joined the ship,

1 Caribbean Fantasy on the 5th of August, so the time
2 when the accident happened, that's my 12th day -- I am
3 12 days on board. And as a food manager I am in charge
4 of the food, the restaurant operation and the
5 provisions, plus the kitchen operations. Although
6 under me we have the sous-chef who is directly, I mean,
7 working with the cooks, and the head waiter, plus the
8 store keeper. So.

9 MICHAEL KARR: All right, thanks. And, can
10 you tell us -- go to the morning of the fire.

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Okay.

12 MICHAEL KARR: Can you tell us about your
13 morning?

14 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes. That morning when,
15 you know, the day-to-day thing is to check because
16 prior to arrival to San Juan where we're always doing
17 general cleaning the night before. So that morning we
18 were doing some sort of inspection for engage with SPH.
19 We'll, you know, and suddenly I heard this Mr. Skylight
20 announcement that was, I think it was 7:30. And we
21 were still busy with the inspection with our sanitation
22 officer, so we just carried on.

23 And then when we reached the restaurant
24 which is close to the reception, the hotel director
25 told me that we have to -- I have to inform the people

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1 to evacuate the restaurant and the crew mess and the
2 dining room, so that's what I did. And then after that
3 I saw many passengers already running upstairs. That
4 was around, maybe, just a few minutes before 8:00.

5 MICHAEL KARR: And continue. Just tell me
6 about your morning.

7 DANTE DELROSARIO: So, I saw the chief
8 purser, she's also running around asking for people to
9 help her carry the crew passports and some cash from
10 her boat, so I helped her and at the same time we are
11 leading the passengers to go to the upper deck, which
12 is the Master Station, the embarkation deck, and that's
13 all. I helped the chief purser getting the passports
14 from Deck 5 to Deck 7. Maybe I carrying two box of
15 crew passports, sir. And that's it. That's all I
16 remember.

17 MICHAEL KARR: Did you stay with the chief
18 purser?

19 DANTE DELROSARIO: No, actually I stayed the whole
20 time because of the money and the crew passports. But
21 we had already on Deck 7.

22 MICHAEL KARR: All right, well tell me when
23 you were with -- until you got to Deck 7, was there any
24 time that you encountered smoke?

25 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, there was. I saw

1 the chimney, I mean, pull up smoke or -- and even on
2 that deck, which is the open deck, which is Deck 7, and
3 smoke was coming out from the chimney, black smoke,
4 white and --

5 MICHAEL KARR: All right. And tell us how
6 you evacuated the vessel.

7 DANTE DELROSARIO: We were the last.
8 Actually, I think there were only 30 or 40 people left
9 when I disembarked, and still I am getting the whole
10 passports and the money with the chief purser.

11 MICHAEL KARR: So did you go down the MES?

12 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, we got on the slide,
13 that side.

14 MICHAEL KARR: Aha.

15 DANTE DELROSARIO: And then from the life raft we were
16 transferred to the Coast Guard boat and then they
17 brought us to the terminal.

18 MICHAEL KARR: All right. During the time that you
19 were on the boat, did you hear or notice anyone getting
20 injured?

21 DANTE DELROSARIO: Actually, I saw one crew
22 member. I think he's a security officer.

23 MICHAEL KARR: All right.

24 DANTE DELROSARIO: Because once they reach
25 the life raft, the life raft was shaking and the Coast

1 Guard's trying to help them move to several vessels and
2 move from the life raft to their vessels. So, but I
3 saw one, I think one of the security of the ship.

4 MICHAEL KARR: Yes. Can you describe how
5 you got from the platform onto the Coast Guard boat?

6 DANTE DELROSARIO: I mean, you know, we used
7 the slide and then reaching the life raft of the ship
8 and the Coast Guard is trying to go near the life raft
9 so we were -- so that way. And the life raft, to Coast
10 Guard.

11 MICHAEL KARR: Were you able to step --

12 DANTE DELROSARIO: We jumped from --

13 MICHAEL KARR: You jumped?

14 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, from the side of -- I
15 mean from the corner of the life raft to the Coast
16 Guard boat.

17 MICHAEL KARR: Was the Coast Guard boat
18 higher than the life raft?

19 DANTE DELROSARIO: A bit higher than the
20 life raft -- I believe it's big, a bit higher.

21 MICHAEL KARR: Okay.

22 DANTE DELROSARIO: And I think that's it.
23 We went to the terminal. We were four in that Coast
24 Guard boat.

25 MICHAEL KARR: Pardon me?

1 DANTE DELROSARIO: We were four people -- I
2 mean, there are four crew.

3 MICHAEL KARR: Okay, four crew. Were there
4 passengers on the Coast Guard boat?

5 DANTE DELROSARIO: No, no, no passengers because
6 the time we disembarked there were no passengers aboard
7 the --

8 MICHAEL KARR: All right. And the Coast
9 Guard boat that brought you ashore, was it the same one
10 that picked you up off the platform, the raft?

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

12 MICHAEL KARR: Okay.

13 DANTE DELROSARIO: Actually, I think they
14 were planning to transfer us to a bigger boat. But
15 then later on they said, no we are able to take you
16 directly to the terminal.

17 MICHAEL KARR: All right.

18 DANTE DELROSARIO: And I saw some crew
19 transferred to bigger boats, from that boat to the
20 bigger boat, but not us. We went directly from the
21 life raft, to Coast Guard boat and directly to the
22 terminal.

23 MICHAEL KARR: Yes. And how did -- what did
24 -- did you notice any -- well, describe to me the
25 behavior of the passengers while they were waiting to

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1 be evacuated.

2 DANTE DELROSARIO: I think because the slide
3 is very steep, some of them, the ones who remained to
4 use the slide is even they were a bit panicked, but
5 there was no shouting. The staff captain came and
6 disembarked them, you know, because of the steep slide.
7 And it's dangerous to -- I mean, if you look at the the
8 slide, you know, it's standing like -- so it takes some
9 time for the remaining passengers to disembark or to go
10 to the slide to slide down.

11 MICHAEL KARR: Yes. How did you get the --
12 how does one get this injury from the --

13 DANTE DELROSARIO: From the, you know, the
14 slide you have to hold and --

15 MICHAEL KARR: So you're holding it like
16 this?

17 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

18 MICHAEL KARR: Okay.

19 DANTE DELROSARIO: Especially like carrying
20 the crew passport, it's heavy, you're talking 100
21 something passports and seaman's book in plastic bags.
22 So I have to hold that. Otherwise I will stumble and -
23 -

24 MICHAEL KARR: All right.

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] United States Coast

1

2 Guard. First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on a
3 successful evacuation of the ship.

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, thank you.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That's a very large undertaking. So
6 your job is essentially to evacuate all the areas on
7 the vessel where people would eat? Restaurants --

8 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, actually per my
9 safety card, my duty is in the crew mess area -- to
10 evacuate the crew, people from the crew mess area to
11 the Master's Station, to disembarkation. But that day,
12 since I was in the kitchen and restaurant doing the
13 inspection, I was asked by the hotel director that I
14 have to evacuate -- I mean, actually I have to clear
15 the passengers and to show them the way to the
16 reception to go out to the Master Station.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And the hotel director directed
18 you to do that?

19 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, with the rest of the
20 restaurant guys. I mean, I was with the restaurant
21 guys. The rest of the Group A was still open at that
22 time. We opened the Group A at 6:00 and it will run
23 until 10:00. So there were a few passengers having
24 breakfast. Not many, but approximately 15, 20
25 passengers.

1 ██████████ ██████████ Okay. So if you were under the
2 direction of the hotel director, evacuating the
3 passengers from -- where again? I apologize.

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: The restaurant.

5 ██████████ ██████████ The restaurant and assisting
6 the chief purser with passports, who who was evacuating
7 the crew mess area?

8 DANTE DELROSARIO: I was. Still actually
9 the smoke was coming from the crew area, going inside
10 the galley, then through the restaurant, so at that
11 time we cleared already the whole mess area.

12 There was nobody there because I think the
13 engine room -- I am not sure because I told you I am
14 only 12 days. But the smoke was coming from that area,
15 so -- and crew mess was closed already, there is no
16 operation. It's closed because we are already in the
17 Pilot's Station and breakfast is served only until
18 7:30, so we were closed. So only that was --

19 ██████████ ██████████ So what areas were filled with
20 smoke?

21 DANTE DELROSARIO: Come again?

22 ██████████ ██████████ Did I understand you correctly
23 when you said the crew mess -- there was smoke in the
24 crew mess?

25 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, while we were doing

1 the
2 inspection inside the galley because crew mess is
3 connected to the main galley and the main galley is
4 connected to the restaurant, so the smoke was coming
5 from that area, from the crew mess area, going inside
6 the galley. And, again, from the galley inside the
7 restaurant, so, because they are all connected.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right.

9 DANTE DELROSARIO: They are on one floor,
10 one floor connected there.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So smoke was going from the
12 crew mess --

13 DANTE DELSARIO: At the beginning it was
14 just --

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- into the main galley --

16 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And then from the main galley
18 into the -- is there only one main restaurant?

19 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, there is only one.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] What is the size of the
21 restaurant?

22 DANTE DELROSARIO: A small one. At that time
23 there were less than 20 people. Again, I don't know
24 exactly how many, but I know less than 20 people are
25 having breakfast.

1 ██████████ ██████████ Okay. When you arrived on
2 shore after the Coast Guard boat dropped you off ashore
3 --

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

5 ██████████ ██████████ -- how did the shore side
6 personnel account for you?

7 DANTE DELROSARIO: On arrival? I arrived
8 by, we stepped on the, on the boat. Yes.

9 ██████████ ██████████ So you step from the boat,
10 on the pier and from the first step from the
11 boat on the pier. And --

12 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, somebody is helping them,
13 removing their life jacket, removing the life jacket --

14 ██████████ ██████████ So from your first step on the
15 pier, walk me through that process.

16 DANTE DELROSARIO: So they asked us to
17 remove the life jacket, the life vest, so and ask if
18 are you all right or do you feel something like --
19 because one of the guys with me was taken by the
20 doctors -- I don't know, he was taken by the doctor
21 because he was feeling sick.

22 So from there we were asked to board the bus
23 and we were taken to the terminal building. At the
24 terminal building the chief purser, I was with her, and
25 she has one crew list and started to do some roll call.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Who met you on the dock?

2 DANTE DELROSARIO: Some -- I don't --

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Was it Coast Guard?

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: I don't remember, Coast
5 Guard or medics. There were many people there
6 actually.

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When you first got off the
8 Coast Guard boat --

9 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, there were many --

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- before you got on the bus.

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, there were many.

12 And they lined up and asking if you are all right, but
13 I don't know. There were wearing blue, white and some
14 medics. Some typical water --

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So you don't know if they were company
16 representatives, they were crew from the ship?

17 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes some company
18 representatives also, but I don't remember and since I
19 am new I don't remember. I know they were wearing red
20 shirt -- red shirts. Some people were giving out
21 water. So I boarded the bus, we were taken to the
22 terminal building and from there they started
23 distributing drinks and water and --

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, how were you accounted
25 for at the terminal besides, you said the chief purser

1 had a list and she was -- she was taking roll of the
2 people that were coming off the bus?

3 DANTE DELROSARIO: As people were driving
4 up, yes.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

6 DANTE DELROSARIO: As they were coming
7 inside the terminal.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. And once the chief
9 purser accounted for you, you went inside the terminal
10 building?

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Actually, we were already
12 sitting in the terminal building when she started
13 checking the names.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, so you went off the bus
15 and directly into the terminal building, there was no
16 accountability between the bus and the terminal
17 building?

18 DANTE DELROSARIO: No, yes, that's correct.

19 CARRIE BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. I just have
20 a couple of questions. Since you didn't start -- you
21 didn't join the ship until 12 days before so did you
22 have any kind of familiarization training?

23 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, I started my ship
24 board career in 1989, so I have some experience
25 onboard. I used to work on a passenger ship. I've

1 been on Albatross (inaudible) --

2 CARRIE BELL: Yes.

3 DANTE DELROSARIO: -- Ocean Cruise Lines as
4 food and beverage mangers, as chief purser, as food
5 controller.

6 CARRIE BELL: So you had several years of
7 experience?

8 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes ma'am.

9 CARRIE BELL: But this is the first time
10 you've been on this ship, correct? And so did you have
11 --

12 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, this is the first
13 control.

14 CARRIE BELL: Okay, and so did you have any
15 kind of specific training to this ship when you got on
16 it?

17 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, when I first came on
18 board I did familiarization with the safety officer,
19 that's the time where she gave me the safety card, what
20 is your specific duty in case of an emergency. And
21 during the familiarization she took me around to show
22 me where is the embarkation, the life raft and all
23 these things.

24 CARRIE BELL: And did you feel comfortable
25 with that training in the emergency situation?

1 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, because that's the
2 first thing I think the crew needs to know, where is
3 your -- what is your duty in case of an emergency,
4 where is the Master Station, the embarkation, boat
5 embarkation.

6 CARRIE BELL: Okay.

7 DANTE DELROSARIO: And the exits, that's the
8 most important.

9 CARRIE BELL: Yes. Thank you. That's all I
10 have.

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Okay.

12 MICHAEL KARR: All right. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] Nothing, please.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I have one more follow up
15 question.

16 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Did you receive any specific
18 training by the safety office or anyone else on how --
19 let me go back one second. What is your title on your
20 safety card? You are the --

21 DANTE DELROSARIO: I am the assistant life
22 raft --

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, for general emergency.

24 DANTE DELROSARIO: My station is in the crew
25 mess --

1 ████████ ██████ So you are the crew mess
2 evacuation leader?

3 DANTE DELROSARIO: Actually I am not the
4 leader of the crew mess.

5 ████████ ██████ No, you are the crew mess
6 evacuation deputy leader?

7 DANTE DELROSARIO: Something like that --

8 ████████ ██████ What's your safety number?

9 DANTE DELROSARIO: 52.

10 ████████ ██████ 52, okay. So --

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: I have to double check
12 first.

13 ████████ ██████ It's okay. Did you receive any
14 specific training --

15 DANTE DELROSARIO: 51, sorry.

16 ████████ ██████ 51? Do you mind if I take a
17 picture of that?

18 CARRIE BELL: Is that your safety card? Can
19 I take a look please?

20 ████████ ██████ Did you receive any specific
21 training? Let the recorder show that Dante is showing
22 us his safety card at the table right now, so we can
23 see what it looks like.

24 DANTE DELROSARIO: I just wanted to check.

25 MICHAEL KARR: Oh, want to take a picture,

1 or Xerox.

2 DANTE DELROSARIO: I don't know because this
3 is -- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Is that okay with you.

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: No, this is the safety
5 card that I -- emergency safety card that I had
6 received onboard, so --

7 CARRIE BELL: Is this what all crew members
8 receive?

9 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

10 CARRIE BELL: All the safety cards look like
11 that?

12 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, but with, in IB
13 jacket and the standard release, although I remove mine
14 from --

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right, keep it safe. So my
16 follow up question would be based on that. Did you
17 receive by the safety officer or anyone else onboard
18 prior to being given that card, any training on how to
19 do that job?

20 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes, I told you the above
21 familiarization.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, the familiarization tells
23 you, you know --

24 DANTE DELROSARIO: -- Which station --

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- what kind of fire

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1 extinguishers you have, what to do in a man overboard,
2 those kinds of things. Did you receive specific
3 training on how to be a crew mess evacuation team
4 member, or whatever safety number 51 is entailed?

5 DANTE DELROSARIO: During the
6 familiarization, she showed me where I should be during
7 emergency. I mean, my specific duty.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So she physically took you down
9 to the crew mess and said this is where you go and then
10 she explained to you this is how you evacuate the area?

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you very much. How
13 long do you think the entire familiarization lasted on
14 your first day, with everything that the --

15 DANTE DELROSARIO: Actually we are 15 and we
16 took 2 and a half hours. There were 15 of us, including
17 she collected the certificates because that was during
18 our first day. She collected all training
19 certificates. I mean, we are 12, so it took at least 2
20 and a half hours to complete the familiarization.

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So you did the familiarization
22 with up to 12 other crew members all at the same time?

23 DANTE DELROSARIO: All at the same time.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And did the safety officer give
25 each of the 12 people specific training to their safety

1 card?

2 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The way she did yours?

4 DANTE DELROSARIO: Yes.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] In that group setting. And
6 that's why it took so long.

7 DANTE DELROASRIO: It took some time.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That's all I have.

9 MICHAEL KARR: Anyone else? Any last
10 comments form you Dante?

11 DANTE DELROSARIO: No, no.

12 MICHAEL KARR: Well, it is 18:49 and I will
13 stop the recording.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
15 off the record at 18:49)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Fire Aboard Caribbean Fantasy
August 17, 2016
Accident No. DCA16FM052
Interview of Dante Delrosario

DATE: 08-21-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 21 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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