

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of: *
*
* Docket No. DCA03MM032
SS NORWAY *
*

Wednesday,
May 28, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

DANIEL BROWN

PRESENT:

ROB JONES, NTSB
JIM WALSH, NTSB

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. WALSH: This is May 28 and we are onboard the SS Norway. It is 09:30. And we are conducting interviews on follow up to the explosion that took place May 25 onboard the Norway.

The first interview is what and would you please state your name and your job description?

MR. BROWN: I am Daniel Brown, I am Hotel, Utility Pest Control on the SS Norway.

MR. WALSH: And can you explain what that job does, what do you do in your job, Daniel?

MR. BROWN: I am control the pests on the ship -- problem roach, flies -- guest, through guest and crew cabins.

MR. WALSH: So, as part of the pest control onboard the ship, you, you go to everything on the guest cabins, to the crew cabins.

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MR. WALSH: And managing plant. Is there a formal type management plan onboard?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MR. WALSH: Your crew number is?

MR. BROWN: My crew number is 2-4-1.

MR. WALSH: And your safety number is?

MR. BROWN: Four, four, four.

1 MR. WALSH: Four, four, four.

2 Okay. How long have you been onboard the
3 Norway now?

4 MR. BROWN: I have four years.

5 MR. WALSH: And on this contract, how long
6 have you been here?

7 MR. BROWN: This is three weeks.

8 MR. WALSH: And four years you have been with
9 Norwegian Cruise Lines, were you on another ship prior
10 to that?

11 MR. BROWN: Yes, another --

12 MR. WALSH: Norwegian ship. So, how long
13 total have you been in the industry?

14 MR. BROWN: Eight years.

15 MR. WALSH: Eight years.

16 Okay. Going back to Sunday, May 25th, can you
17 tell us in your own words where you were and what
18 happened after that, when you first knew that something
19 was going wrong on the ship?

20 MR. BROWN: At that time I was sleeping.

21 MR. WALSH: And you were sleeping in what
22 cabin?

23 MR. BROWN: In 1175.

24 MR. WALSH: Eleven, seventy-five. Okay.

25 MR. BROWN: Biscayne Deck.

1 MR. WALSH: Biscayne Deck.

2 MR. BROWN: I was sleeping and the explosion I
3 hear, wake me. And then I got up, I didn't know what
4 was going on. And then I looked through my window and
5 I saw -- and then I, as I looked, was everybody
6 running, was running -- to the main galley. So, I put
7 on my slippers and I go and look and then they say --
8 There is a fire on Biscayne Deck. And then I, I walk
9 out on, on starboard side, and I take the first gangway
10 and I get out of the ship. I -- and then I step
11 outside and I go --

12 MR. WALSH: When you heard the fire, was there
13 an announcement, is there a special announcement for
14 fire or --

15 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes. They do an announcement
16 first for medical attention, and then they do one for
17 fire.

18 MR. WALSH: What is the announcement for fire
19 that you heard?

20 MR. BROWN: They do --

21 (Pause.)

22 MR. BROWN: I can't --

23 MR. WALSH: There is a code for a fire and
24 then you heard fire as well?

25 MR. BROWN: Yes. Yeah, there was a call for

1 fire.

2 MR. WALSH: Do you remember where they said
3 the fire was?

4 MR. BROWN: It was on Biscayne Deck.

5 MR. WALSH: Biscayne Deck.

6 MR. BROWN: Yes.

7 MR. WALSH: And you live on Biscayne Deck?

8 MR. BROWN: Yes.

9 MR. WALSH: When you came out of your room,
10 did you go right or left?

11 MR. BROWN: Right.

12 MR. WALSH: You came out of your room and went
13 right, and did you smell anything? Did you see
14 anything?

15 MR. BROWN: No, at that time, no.

16 MR. WALSH: Did you see any other crew members
17 in the passageway?

18 MR. BROWN: Yeah -- They go that way.

19 MR. WALSH: So when you say they go that way,
20 they were going forward?

21 MR. BROWN: Yes, they were going forward.

22 MR. WALSH: They were going forward. And did
23 you follow them or did you go in the other direction?

24 MR. BROWN: No, no, I don't follow them. I
25 just go to where the gangway was, the gangway --

1 MR. WALSH: You are going forward from your
2 cabin.

3 MR. BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. WALSH: So, you would go forward several
5 cabins --

6 MR. BROWN: Yes.

7 MR. WALSH: Is this where the --

8 MR. BROWN: The gangway --

9 MR. WALSH: You go forward to the tender
10 station, starboard side and then to the gangway there.

11 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes.

12 MR. WALSH: Were there any other people at
13 that gangway?

14 MR. BROWN: No, I didn't see nobody there.

15 MR. WALSH: And the gangway was out.

16 MR. BROWN: It was open.

17 MR. WALSH: It was open. And there was a
18 gangway from the ship to the pier.

19 MR. BROWN: Yes.

20 MR. WALSH: So, when you saw that, what did
21 you do?

22 MR. BROWN: I --

23 MR. WALSH: And when you went outside, and
24 said you saw a lot of your friends.

25 MR. BROWN: Yes.

1 MR. WALSH: And who did you see on the pier
2 when you got out on the --

3 MR. BROWN: There were --

4 MR. WALSH: And what did they tell you?

5 MR. BROWN: Get out, get away.

6 MR. WALSH: Get out.

7 And how long were you outside before you came
8 back in?

9 MR. BROWN: It was a couple of hours -- six
10 o'clock until after about three to four, about three to
11 four in the afternoon.

12 MR. WALSH: Three to four in the afternoon.
13 And you had your watch on? You were looking at your
14 watch?

15 MR. BROWN: Yes, I had my watch on.

16 MR. WALSH: Daniel, what is your emergency
17 station number, what does that mean, our 4-4-4, what is
18 it?

19 MR. BROWN: It is -- to conduct my team. I
20 tell my station leader, assistant station leader, I
21 tell him -- make it in that station.

22 MR. WALSH: And what is your station?

23 MR. BROWN: (inaudible)

24 MR. WALSH: Did you hear a signal, not an
25 announcement, but any emergency signals?

1 MR. BROWN: At that time? I didn't hear
2 nothing, at that time, no, because when I wake, just
3 what I told you I hear, because I was sleeping.

4 MR. WALSH: Right. So the announcement was
5 made but when, at that time you didn't hear a signal.
6 At what time did you hear a signal?

7 MR. BROWN: Afterwards, when I was out, when I
8 was out and then I heard the signal.

9 MR. WALSH: Do you recall what the signal was?

10 MR. BROWN: One long blast.

11 MR. WALSH: When you were outside with the
12 other crew members, do you recall talking with them or
13 how many people were out there?

14 MR. BROWN: No, I was, I was outside and then
15 we start to see the old friend coming out, was burned
16 and --

17 MR. WALSH: Daniel, thank you, I don't have
18 any more questions.

19 Rob?

20 MR. JONES: You heard the explosion, Daniel,
21 you were --

22 MR. BROWN: It wake me.

23 MR. JONES: It woke you up.

24 MR. BROWN: It wake me.

25 MR. JONES: And about what time did you leave

1 the vessel?

2 MR. BROWN: About 15 to seven, about 6:45.

3 MR. JONES: About, approximately 15 minutes or
4 so after the explosion, after the noise woke you up.

5 MR. BROWN: Yes, about like that, yes.

6 MR. JONES: Okay. You did say when you looked
7 out, you looked out your window, your porthole.

8 MR. BROWN: Yes.

9 MR. JONES: And you saw police vehicles
10 already.

11 MR. BROWN: Yes, they was coming.

12 MR. JONES: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: There were so many cars there.

14 MR. JONES: And again, the, the, you heard a
15 code while you were onboard. You heard a PA
16 announcement.

17 MR. BROWN: No, I heard them call Alpha, and
18 then they call for fire.

19 MR. JONES: Okay. And when you made your way
20 down to the gangway, who, why did you go ashore?

21 MR. BROWN: I go to the gangway, and I got
22 out.

23 MR. JONES: Okay. But, did you say someone
24 was on the dock?

25 MR. BROWN: -- went out and --

1 MR. JONES: Yes.

2 MR. BROWN: -- was outside.

3 MR. JONES: Yeah. I think you mentioned that
4 some security said to get out.

5 MR. BROWN: Yes, to get out, yes.

6 MR. JONES: Which security was that?

7 MR. BROWN: One of --

8 MR. JONES: Someone from the vessel or someone
9 from --

10 MR. BROWN: No, no, no. Not from the vessel,
11 from the Port.

12 MR. JONES: From the Port. Okay.

13 And you were out there you say until about
14 three o'clock in the afternoon. You were out there in
15 the afternoon.

16 MR. BROWN: Three to four.

17 MR. JONES: Okay. Okay. At any time did you
18 try to come back onboard or --

19 MR. BROWN: No.

20 MR. JONES: -- or did you --

21 MR. BROWN: No.

22 MR. JONES: What kept you from coming onboard?

23 MR. BROWN: No, you cannot come onboard
24 because you, your ship was in, was on fire. They not
25 allow -- You cannot come back.

1 MR. JONES: Okay. All right, thanks, Daniel.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (inaudible) an
3 emergency similar to this in the past?

4 MR. BROWN: No. This is the first one.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First one.

6 MR. BROWN: First one.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How, how organized was
8 the disembarkment of the -- from your location -- Did
9 you try to get around people, was someone giving your
10 instructions, officers, security?

11 MR. BROWN: Nothing, no, I know disembarkment
12 because I, I get out, I get out to the closest gangway.
13 I don't do nothing like that because I don't get out,
14 and I was out already.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were there other people
16 getting out right with you? Were you running?

17 MR. BROWN: No, just me alone.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You were by yourself.

19 MR. BROWN: But, there was only me, I come up
20 from my cabin, and I get out. There I saw security
21 outside and they tell me to get out.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it dark standing
23 out, do you remember what --

24 MR. BROWN: No, never dark.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

1 MR. JONES: Leonard?

2 MR. ESQUEA: You went out from the gangway to
3 the pier and you saw some people at the pier.

4 MR. BROWN: Yes.

5 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. And then you were talking
6 to the Port outside on the port?

7 MR. BROWN: Yes. To go outside, yes, outside
8 on the pier.

9 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. By the time, before you got
10 out of your cabin, you said you heard a code being
11 called.

12 MR. BROWN: Yeah, called Alpha first, and Code
13 Bravo --

14 MR. ESQUEA: Okay.

15 MR. BROWN: They call Bravo.

16 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. What is your safety number?

17 MR. BROWN: My safety number is 4-4-4.

18 MR. ESQUEA: Four, four, four. Okay. What are
19 your emergency instructions when you --

20 MR. BROWN: -- go to my station.

21 MR. ESQUEA: Can you show me where is your
22 station? Is it on this deck?

23 MR. BROWN: Biscayne Deck.

24 MR. ESQUEA: What? Biscayne?

25 MR. BROWN: Yes.

1 MR. ESQUEA: Yes.

2 MR. BROWN: Eleven, seventy five.

3 MR. ESQUEA: No, this is your cabin.

4 MR. BROWN: Yes, this is --

5 MR. ESQUEA: Where is your emergency station?

6 MR. BROWN: Up on here, I will go to --

7 MR. JONES: Daniel is indicating that his
8 emergency station is all the way on the forward end of
9 the ship.

10 MR. BROWN: Yes.

11 MR. JONES: -- nine feet away from his cabin
12 on the same deck.

13 (Pause.)

14 MR. ESQUEA: Do you know any place close to
15 your station --

16 MR. BROWN: Here.

17 MR. ESQUEA: This is your station.

18 MR. BROWN: Yes.

19 MR. JONES: Daniel is indicating that his
20 emergency station is approximately 800 feet away from
21 his cabin, Biscayne Deck, midship, or center line of
22 the ship.

23 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. This is your emergency
24 station.

25 MR. BROWN: Yes.

1 MR. ESQUEA: When do you go to your emergency
2 station?

3 MR. BROWN: When we have, when we do, when we
4 do drills --

5 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. What stage of the drill do
6 you go to your station, when?

7 MR. BROWN: When the emergency signal is
8 given.

9 MR. ESQUEA: Okay.

10 MR. BROWN: Seven shorts and one long blast.

11 MR. ESQUEA: Okay, seven short and one long,
12 okay.

13 Was there any reason why you didn't go to
14 your emergency station that day?

15 MR. BROWN: When I went -- No, I tried to go
16 to there, but I couldn't reach it because it was -- it
17 was like when I look -- so I didn't, I didn't go there.

18 I take the first gangway I see and I get out of the
19 ship. When I look outside, all my friends were
20 outside.

21 MR. ESQUEA: Oh, there were some crew members
22 outside.

23 MR. BROWN: Yeah, yeah. There were so many,
24 about, maybe 100 crew members outside.

25 MR. ESQUEA: Okay.

1 MR. BROWN: When I go to the gangway, they say
2 get out of the ship, get off the ship, get out the
3 ship. And I go.

4 MR. ESQUEA: Okay. At any time, any point
5 while you were outside the ship, did you hear the
6 emergency signal being sounded?

7 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes. One long blast.

8 MR. ESQUEA: You heard one long blast.

9 MR. BROWN: One long blast, yes.

10 MR. ESQUEA: I have no more questions.

11 MR. LASALLE: Okay. I am sorry, where were you
12 when you heard the emergency, the one long blast being
13 sounded?

14 MR. BROWN: Outside.

15 MR. LASALLE: You were outside. About how
16 long after you had gone outside, did you hear the
17 emergency signal?

18 MR. BROWN: After 15 minutes.

19 MR. LASALLE: Fifteen or five, zero?

20 MR. BROWN: Fifteen.

21 MR. LASALLE: And I am sorry, I didn't hear
22 what you were saying, you said you tried to go to
23 forward on the deck to your emergency station. Well,
24 what was ahead of you on the deck?

25 MR. BROWN: Nothing, nothing was in front of

1 me.

2 MR. LASALLE: Okay. And then why didn't you go
3 to your emergency station? What was your reason for not
4 going to your emergency station that was ahead of you
5 on the deck?

6 MR. BROWN: Because the fire, the explosion
7 was ahead, mid ship.

8 MR. LASALLE: Oh, okay.

9 MR. BROWN: So, I didn't go there. I couldn't
10 pass there because here is where the fire was.

11 MR. LASALLE: What did you see?

12 MR. BROWN: I couldn't see nothing because
13 that is so far. I saw nothing.

14 MR. LASALLE: But, how did you know that the
15 explosion was over there?

16 MR. BROWN: Because I hear it.

17 MR. LASALLE: You heard it coming from that
18 direction.

19 MR. BROWN: No, I didn't hear, I didn't hear
20 it from any kind of direction. I was sleeping and it
21 wake me.

22 MR. LASALLE: Okay. Then what information told
23 you that the explosion was forward of, of your position
24 on the deck?

25 MR. BROWN: Right, I, one guy was in front of

1 my cabin with a radio, and I could hear it, what they
2 say, fire in mid ship, and then I, then I get up and
3 then Bravo, and they called Alpha first, medical
4 attention in the galley, and then they called Bravo.

5 MR. LASALLE: Okay. I don't have any more
6 questions.

7 MR. WALSH: Go ahead, Rob.

8 MR. JONES: What are your duties when you hear
9 a Code Bravo? What do you do upon hearing a Code
10 Bravo?

11 MR. BROWN: Normal duties, and I go to my
12 station, my muster station, and here I will call all
13 the, I would call my team and check the numbers. After
14 I check the number and then when the, the station
15 leader comes, I would tell him how many guy are
16 missing, how many guy is here and also I would send
17 everybody to that station.

18 MR. JONES: And your muster station is?

19 MR. BROWN: It is crew stair eight.

20 MR. JONES: Crew stair eight. Where you
21 indicated before?

22 MR. BROWN: Yes.

23 MR. JONES: Okay. So upon hearing a Code
24 Bravo, your duty is to go to that --

25 MR. BROWN: Yes.

1 MR. JONES: That was the emergency station.
2 And as indicated, you said you didn't go there because
3 what you perceived was the fire and the explosion and
4 the danger was in front of you and you couldn't get
5 there.

6 MR. BROWN: Yes.

7 MR. JONES: All right, that clears that up.
8 All right, thank you.

9 MR. WALSH: Daniel, how many roommates do you
10 have?

11 MR. BROWN: Two.

12 MR. WALSH: Two. Were the roommates also in
13 the cabin with you?

14 MR. BROWN: No.

15 MR. WALSH: No.

16 MR. BROWN: No, no, no --

17 MR. WALSH: Daniel, thank you very much.
18 That was great.

19 MR. JONES: Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)