

CAPT. HAGOBIAN-Fire station 39 Commander, Miami-Dade Fire Department.

The call came in at about 0645, right at shift change. Upon first arrival on scene they saw steam arising from the funnel, but not smoke. After the fact he saw a television video of the event which featured black smoke, but this must have been taken before he got there.

He was coming on shift, he had already relieved his counterpart, and he left with two on-duty firefighters to the scene. They arrived at the scene, they noted people on the pier, they were taken by the nurse to the infirmary where there were 8 to 10 people with burns.

Their first thought was that the event was terrorist-related. He knew that another unit, Engine No. 32, was behind them, they saw that the ship's fire brigade was dressed out, the ship's staff brought them to the engine control room where they discussed the event with the staff chief engineer.

As they came on board they entered through Biscayne Deck where they found one fatal victim who had been in the cabin. Their radios were breaking up inside the vessel. They had established a form of triad on the shore. Capt. Hagobian assumed the role of on-scene commander. Two of his men were not allowed to go through security by Miami-Dade Police after the initial explosion. A chief arrived who took over the on-scene commander role outside and he took over the role inside.

They marshaled up teams of 7 to 8, with a total of 16, left 8 ashore, and entered the boiler room with one of the crew members. Their SOP is to have 3 inch lines with Ys (splitter) and then smaller lines off of them.

He said that they ship was in charge of the response, the MIA FD was there to assist the ship. The ship is their country and if they ask us to take over, we will. They do go on-board these vessels on a regular basis. He has been on the Norway before, and in fact on most of the cruise ships the enter MIA with the USCG.

He rated Royal Caribbean a 9 of 10 on operational readiness, Carnival a 5 or 6 and NCL a 5 or 6.