

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of: *
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 *
 ALLISION WITH STATEN ISLAND *
 FERRY TERMINAL MAINTENANCE * DCA-04-MM-001
 PIER AT ST. GEORGE'S, *
 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK BY THE *
 FERRY ANDREW J. BARBERI on *
 OCTOBER 15, 2003 *
 *

Monday
October 20, 2003

Staten Island, NY

INTERVIEW

BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL FEMINELLA
PRESENT:

ROB JONES, NTSB
RICHARD GONZALEZ, USCG
BRIAN CLIFFORD, NYPD
JACK CALDERONE, FDNY

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. JONES: Chief, if you could just take us
3 back to the afternoon of October 15, where you were
4 prior to notification of the incident, just in your own
5 words what happened after that.

6 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Okay. I was in my office
7 doing paperwork and the fire department dispatch
8 computer in the office, it went off with there
9 response, Staten Island Ferry for, the ferry hit dock.
10 So, we just had a normal response, because we go
11 there, not often, but, you know, certain runs that we
12 have, so we just responded normally. And it took us
13 about five minutes to get there.

14 MR. JONES: Okay. What next?

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: When we arrived, we pulled,
16 we down ramp number five, which is on the upper level,
17 and I had reports from Engine 155 and 78 that the pier
18 was struck and the boat was adrift. So, you know, I
19 10/4 them and I went down all the way to the lower
20 level and met up with Engine 152, which responded with
21 me. We are in the same quarters together. We were in
22 an actual ferry slip. It was slip number three. So,
23 we got, a boat was docked there, I think it was --
24 Austin, so I was able to walk all the way through the
25 boat and out towards the water and got a view. And I

1 saw all the original units on, 155, 78, and the 153 and
2 77, went to the crash dock, which was a concrete dock.

3 So, the boat was pretty much in line with
4 that dock. And the tugboat got ahold it and I had
5 ferry people with me, too, and they said they were
6 going to bring it into a normal slip. So, I told these
7 guys, you know, see if there is anybody in the water
8 there, you know, if not, we are got to regroup to this
9 dock where they were going to come in. And then they
10 said they were bringing it to slip three, and then it
11 would be in slip five. So, I wanted to make, you know,
12 by the time they got that boat in, I had all the guys
13 meet on the lower level. And we pretty much had, you
14 know, had a good grouping of fire fighters there as the
15 boat docked in.

16 There was an ambulance backed right into, you
17 know, the little driveway there. And, you know, I did
18 notice when the boat docked, I don't know if they made
19 an announcement on the boat, but all, like non involved
20 people looked like they were on the upper level, ready
21 to self evacuate.

22 MR. JONES: Okay. And did you watch those
23 people evacuate?

24 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Not particularly, you know,
25 we knew, once the boat got closer, we could see the

1 long gash on the lower level, so, we pretty much
2 figured everybody that was going to be hurt was on the
3 lower level. So, you know, I put a call out, not on
4 the department radio, but on my hand, talking to the
5 units on the scene, get all the CFRD equipment, which
6 is medical equipment, heist tools and advance for the
7 trucks, which is extraction equipment and bring them to
8 the scene. And then, you know, I knew everyone was
9 going to work, so, I transmitted a 10/75, which is a
10 working emergency or fire.

11 Then once I got on the boat, I saw we had,
12 you know, I just made an initial size up, I went to the
13 right side, which is where, you know, the boat was
14 docked.

15 MR. JONES: Right.

16 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And entered, that was where
17 the damage side was. So, I called my driver upstairs,
18 and said, transmit a second alarm. Because I knew we
19 needed people. You know, I got a printout from
20 chronologically, how everything gets transmitted.

21 MR. JONES: Yes.

22 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Dispatch. And I don't know
23 if that second went through right away, Jack, but, you
24 know, people on the air heard it, so, I don't know how
25 that time frame came about. And then really I spent

1 most of my time off the boat, you know, my command, my
2 tact chief was, came in -- time, Bobby Mutto, you know,
3 the second chief on the scene, gets to the heart of the
4 problem, and then he directs the guys that are actually
5 doing the work. So, 90 percent of the time after that,
6 I was just kind of, trying to coordinate things on the
7 land side, making sure we had access to get people off
8 the scene, the injured off the scene and try to set up
9 a command post and we could direct units where to go
10 from there.

11 There was like two initial people that came
12 off, well as soon as 78 truck got on, they started
13 giving me some of the confirmed DOAs. So, I put a
14 couple of those over the fire airways, just to let them
15 know that they have confirmed dead. You know, it
16 wasn't a lot of panic or screaming going on, you know
17 what I mean. It was almost like eerie silence, you
18 know, because people realized the severity of
19 everything. I am pretty confident that everyone just
20 went about, you know, getting these people out there.
21 But, I didn't really witness too much of the
22 extractions or anything. I seen people coming off.
23 Initially they put two DOAs on the first bus, and you
24 know, I happened to be standing right there and I asked
25 the guy are these dead? Yes. He took them off and,

1 you know, made sure we used those buses to get to the
2 hospitals, you know.

3 MR. JONES: When you say buses, you mean --

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Ambulances.

5 MR. JONES: Ambulances, okay.

6 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And there was just, it could
7 only handle one or two patients, you know, the size of
8 it. But, I made sure, you know, I also called for a
9 victim tracking sheet, which is, on our job, something
10 when we have a lot of victims, we want someone to take
11 control of that. So, the Brooklyn Battalion was, came
12 over. That was Michael Bryan in the 4/2. And
13 basically, what he did was set up a temporary morgue,
14 with several EMS people. But, as far as tracking
15 people, seen a few of them, you know, as soon as the
16 guys got on them on the stretchers, and got them off,
17 there was an ambulance there ready to go, to take them
18 off.

19 MR. JONES: Now who coordinates where the
20 ambulance goes from there?

21 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Where it comes to on the
22 scene or where it leaves?

23 MR. JONES: We could say that, but let's,
24 let's just take where you were going, the victims or
25 the injured get into the ambulance.

1 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Right.

2 MR. JONES: Then how does it get to the, which
3 hospital?

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: It is completely up to the
5 driver of that ambulance.

6 MR. JONES: Okay.

7 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I am not going to tell them
8 take them to this one or that one, you know.

9 MR. JONES: Normally are they calling the
10 closest hospital?

11 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes, without a doubt.

12 MR. JONES: Okay.

13 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know, there is one right
14 there, St. Vincent's.

15 MR. JONES: St. Vincent's.

16 CHIEF FEMINELLA: But, I mean, from what I
17 understand their people notified all the hospitals in
18 the area that there was going to be a lot of trauma
19 patients, so they notified all three hospitals on
20 Staten Island. I don't know which one specializes in
21 trauma better than the other.

22 MR. JONES: Yes.

23 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know,, maybe Staten
24 Island.

25 MR. JONES: Well, and this might be out of

1 your range, but, I will ask the hospitals this, too,
2 but, at some point if the hospitals are getting over
3 run, do they say take them somewhere else or, you know,
4 do they just, is that between the hospital dispatch and
5 the driver, the ambulance driver?

6 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, I mean, we out of that
7 whole communication loop.

8 MR. JONES: Right, okay.

9 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know.

10 MR. JONES: Just in your --

11 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I mean, what I was concerned
12 with was getting them access in and out of where we
13 were.

14 MR. JONES: Right.

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Because the way we entered
16 the ferry area, the lower level, it is kind of a flow
17 of traffic, which is like a loop, you are coming off
18 the terrace to all my rigs, all the fire department
19 rigs came in that proper way, and then there was no
20 other way for anyone else to get in. So, I made sure,
21 I got a police officer to go up on Richmond Terrace,
22 which is probably say west of where we were, towards
23 the ball fields, the stadium there.

24 MR. JONES: The ramp right by the ball field?

25 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And the EMS taxied down --

1 Because there was no way they were going to go in the
2 other way. And then, that was my main concern at that
3 point, was getting people packaged, and getting them
4 out.

5 MR. JONES: Did you notice a smooth transition
6 of extracting victim, then to the ambulance, then out
7 off the ramp and out --

8 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, there was no, you
9 know, you can usually tell by people saying "move this
10 damn, move it", you know.

11 MR. JONES: Yes.

12 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I didn't see too much of
13 that. But, I mean, I didn't really witness very many
14 people taken away.

15 MR. JONES: Yes.

16 CHIEF FEMINELLA: It seemed like an awful lot,
17 but, you know, we kind of staged a little bit away from
18 that area, but, I would take my little, you know, trips
19 back onto the boat, you know, bump into Jack and Chief
20 Leonard when they came on the scene, you know, but, you
21 know, I would go back and forth and just ask guys were
22 they doing secondary searches or is the primary
23 completed, which, you know, that is our initial search,
24 you know, victims and people that we can get to right
25 away.

1 MR. JONES: Yes. Do you have a time in there
2 that you could read, like the last victim was
3 transported or was ambulatory on those logs?

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: No. You know, we didn't, I
5 don't know, even Jack wouldn't even know. I mean, we
6 don't normally say --

7 MR. JONES: Okay.

8 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know, we were just
9 talking about this, too, like we don't converse with
10 the same dispatchers.

11 MR. JONES: Yeah.

12 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Because I just left a
13 meeting before I came here to meet you fellows and
14 there are responses where they are at a scene of a car
15 accident, say, where a person is possibly pinned, and
16 we never get it, you know. But, when our guys get
17 there, that is the top priority, to give that over the
18 airways, so, we know if we need special units to come
19 in.

20 MR. JONES: Okay. How about, now the ferry
21 terminal, itself, are you pretty familiar with it?

22 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes.

23 MR. JONES: They tell you to go number three,
24 you know exactly where to go?

25 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I would say, no, but, I was

1 born and raised on Staten Island, I would know how to
2 get to that main corridor of ramps.

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And then I am sure I would
5 be able to find it from there, but --

6 MR. JONES: But, would identification help you
7 down there?

8 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Oh, below, below.

9 MR. JONES: Yes.

10 CHIEF FEMINELLA: There is no identification
11 at all. I mean, I am used to being a passenger going
12 to Manhattan and on the upper level where you would
13 actually get in as a commuter.

14 MR. JONES: Right.

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: On those levels.

16 MR. JONES: And that is what I am
17 specifically concerned, you know, your ability to get
18 there the quickest. So, maybe if they had better way
19 of labeling everything.

20 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, I mean --

21 MR. JONES: Especially during construction.

22 CHIEF FEMINELLA: There is a lot of confusion
23 down there, construction workers, there was building
24 materials around. We tried to set up, you know, areas
25 just to get some equipment during operation, and just

1 asked some construction workers to help us move some
2 stuff out of the way. I mean, that I don't think you
3 could avoid in a situation like that, but always when
4 you are on that lowest level, it is just like a dark
5 confusing area down there, you know what I mean. And I
6 don't know if they had those slips labeled on down.

7 MR. JONES: Right. And if you did have any
8 problems with traffic, or congestion, your next step is
9 to the PD to try to help you out.

10 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes. I mean, I made sure it
11 was, see like a radio call officer, you know, there was
12 ESU fellows there, too, that were helping us on the
13 boat, you know, I wouldn't ask someone like, but.

14 MR. JONES: Yes.

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: There were the several guys
16 that were, you know, regular uniformed guys, that were,
17 because that is really, when you think about these
18 types of incidents, access and egress is probably the
19 most important thing.

20 MR. JONES: Yes.

21 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Because that is what I was
22 worried about for our guys, I was saying where is our
23 second alarm going to go? Where are we going to stage
24 them? So, when I eventually got another chief in equal
25 to my rank, that he would be a staging chief, you know,

1 he was asking me where we wanted the guys, so, I tried
2 to keep them on the upper level, which is actually
3 street level, that is where they would be coming in
4 anyway.

5 MR. JONES: Yes.

6 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And, you know, dispatch the
7 guys on foot down to the boat.

8 MR. JONES: Now, were you the on scene
9 commander?

10 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Initially --

11 MR. JONES: For the fire department?

12 CHIEF FEMINELLA: For quite awhile, yeah.

13 MR. JONES: Anyone take off from you?

14 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, well, I didn't realize
15 at the time, but the next highest ranking chief is the
16 Deputy Chief, he was in Brooklyn and stuck in traffic.
17 But, you know, in the back of my mind, I am saying to
18 myself, where is the Deputy, where is the Deputy, you
19 know, he just, you know, not that I am looking to, you
20 know, I was looking for assistance basically.

21 MR. JONES: Yes.

22 CHIEF FEMINELLA: And there was one other
23 chief equal to my rank, like I said, Chief Mutto in the
24 2/2 and he is basically going to supervise like the on
25 hands stuff, you know. I really wanted to talk to

1 Bobby and I hadn't talked to him yet, you know, how he
2 handled the interior work of the guys, you know,
3 setting up three companies here, three companies here,
4 of that nature. But, you know, I was trying to
5 coordinate the whole aspect of what was going on. Then
6 Chief Casey, Staten Island commander, came on the scene
7 and you know, then when I got to --

8 MR. JONES: You briefed him.

9 CHIEF FEMINELLA: -- make a few calls, yeah.
10 The 10/60 signal was given when he came there, which
11 is the radio signal for us that signifies a major
12 catastrophic. So, you know, if I was having tunnel
13 vision at the time, it didn't even pop into my head to
14 get that signal, you know, I wanted the second alarm
15 out there for the man power, but the 10/60 is something
16 specifically going to give us some, collapsed
17 capabilities, four more battalion chiefs sectoring off
18 areas that we want to have responsibilities -- And
19 luckily, Jack and Chief Leonard were all Staten Island
20 command that afternoon, we had an inoculation exercise.
21 So, when you guys came in, it was more like having
22 those, those sectors already in place, you know. Which
23 helped, because I don't, was Richie Vallick(ph) at the
24 time?

25 MR. CALDERONE: Richie was at the Coney

1 Island.

2 CHIEF FEMINELLA: When you and --

3 MR. CALDERONE: No. He came almost an hour
4 after us.

5 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah. It is a real pleasure
6 when you see guys in Jack's, and an off duty deputy
7 chief also came, Chief Leonard. And, you know, they
8 went right out also, and then started communicating
9 back to me.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. That is all I have right
11 now. Richard?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Yeah. Did any people from the
13 ferry offer any assistance to you, to help coordinate
14 any of the activity outside or help?

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Well, I don't know if you
16 could distinguish, there was no uniformed people, you
17 know what I mean, like maybe deck hands and stuff, but,
18 you know, no one stands out to me that is saying,
19 "Chief, I am, you know, such and such on duty". I
20 mean, there was construction workers like offering help
21 in other ways, you know. I had fork lifts, that needed
22 mechanics, you know, but, specifically, I think it was
23 almost, you know, I don't want to bring up the Trade
24 Center, but like people were honed in on their little,
25 how they were going to handle things, you know what I

1 mean.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: So, there was no organized
3 respond from them. It was mostly --

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I can't really say.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: -- you are there.

6 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Nobody approached me,
7 personally and said, "Am I the fire chief in command"
8 or I am this, can I, you know what I mean, they might
9 have their own set policies where they just went to
10 work as soon as the thing docked. I was unaware of,
11 you know, their presence, you know what I am saying.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. That is all.

13 CHIEF CLIFFORD: Chief Brian Clifford. You
14 saw the vessel coming to the, you were waiting for it.

15 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, we were there.

16 CHIEF CLIFFORD: Now when it came in, did you
17 happen be able to see the pilot house, to see if
18 anybody was in that pilot house?

19 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know, like I said, maybe
20 we have tunnel vision, or whatever, in those
21 situations.

22 CHIEF CLIFFORD: Right.

23 CHIEF FEMINELLA: But, I just glanced up
24 briefly as the boat was actually docking, and I
25 remember seeing a lot of civilians on the ramps.

1 CHIEF CLIFFORD: Okay. One level up from the
2 street.

3 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah. And I never even
4 considered looking up there, you know.

5 CHIEF CLIFFORD: All right. Did you, did you
6 ever notice anybody wearing black pants and white shirt
7 leaving the vessel?

8 CHIEF FEMINELLA: No, I mean, you know, I know
9 what is going on with those fellows, but like I even,
10 the next day or even that evening when I got home, it
11 was like, yeah, I probably should have saw him out, you
12 know, or -- You know, we don't have that much like
13 police background as far as like how to interview
14 people or just --

15 CHIEF CLIFFORD: We learn everyday.

16 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, it is amazing the
17 things, we are such like, I don't know, like this help
18 attitude, we are just like go right to those victims,
19 basically. So, I mean, it would be all speculation on
20 my part.

21 CHIEF CLIFFORD: Thank you, sir.

22 CHIEF FEMINELLA: My pleasure.

23 MR. CALDERONE: Mike, when you took those two
24 DOAs off the first ambulance, where did they go?

25 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Just, you know, the

1 ambulances backed in, like right --

2 MR. CALDERONE: Right next to the, right up to
3 the boat.

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Right up to the boat. I
5 mean, not right up, but like right in that line, okay.

6 And then when you put them, you know, if you are
7 facing the inlands, just to the right. And Mike was on
8 the scene at the time, Mike O'Brien, the one that set
9 up right here. So, those two stayed there I think for
10 a time, and then the ambulances making that, actually
11 on the grading, right between, closer to the boat. So
12 you got off the boat, those alley ways, just right over
13 the side there. And they kept them there until they
14 tried to get somebody from --

15 MR. CALDERONE: All right. And the other
16 question I had was, was there ever a period of time
17 where was victims waiting to be transported and no
18 ambulance there?

19 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I think you tried to bring
20 that up, too, but, I never noticed it, you know. I
21 know there were calls for Stokes, you know, because it
22 is probably a lot easier to get people out, because
23 they have a backboard, you know, but, you know, I was
24 just amazed at the transport, that many people in that
25 amount of time, you know. So, you know, I ended up

1 spending a lot time at the command post, you know, once
2 they started calling for shoring the upper deck, and
3 they said, naw, we have kind of got, put into different
4 areas of responsibilities, you know, for awhile. But,
5 I can't really say I saw anybody complaining or saying
6 they weren't being transported in a timely fashion. So,
7 I mean, it would be interesting to get together with
8 the EMS folks and see how, like, I would like to know
9 how they handled it, you know, as far as, you know, I
10 am saying, how many people do you think we are going to
11 get on, on an ambulance, victims?

12 MR. CALDERONE: I think they are only allowed
13 to transport two.

14 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Two, right. So, you are
15 talking about, you know, 15, 20 ambulances. And I
16 can't say I seen 15, 20 ambulances come in and out, but
17 there must have been. Because we hung into our thing
18 and they know they hung into their thing. But, imagine
19 how things are happening around you and, you know, once
20 you concentrate on a certain thing. Are were going to
21 get an opportunity to, I guess, to see how they acted
22 through this whole thing?

23 MR. CALDERONE: Yes.

24 CHIEF FEMINELLA: That would be interesting to
25 me, because, you know, these things, this is a typical

1 example of, you know, mass injuries and how we could
2 have handled it, you know what I mean. At five, we get
3 five, ten, ten would be a lot, but four or five, and
4 even in this situation, I was saying, I don't think we
5 were in any eminent danger ourselves. You know what I
6 am saying. We got people trapped in the fire
7 situation, we have to have guys, and now our guys are
8 in jeopardy. So, you know, when you have got to get
9 out there and say maybe the deck is going to come down,
10 it is, you do, you smell some flammable gases, kicking
11 up from the engines or whatever.

12 MR. CALDERONE: Yeah, it turns out to be odor
13 of fuel.

14 CHIEF FEMINELLA: But, as I said in this, it
15 is really recovery, but, anyone that is, you know,
16 needs to get the hospital, we were trying to prioritize
17 those folks, you know. But, as far as the land units,
18 like you talk to Lieutenant Nola, those guys, they went
19 to right to business, you know. And that is what we
20 do. So, as far as seeing these other things, I might
21 have missed them.

22 MR. JONES: That is why we are doing this
23 investigation the way we are.

24 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah.

25 MR. JONES: To get everybody's perspective,

1 you know.

2 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, I mean, it is just --

3 MR. JONES: I can't ask Lieutenant Nola what
4 was going on outside, if he is in there, so.

5 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, and like I said, I
6 tried to get in occasionally, you know, just to ask
7 Bobby how the guys are doing, do they need relief, you
8 know, because even Bob, he looked like he was, you
9 know, strained himself, you know, having to take guys
10 in, but, then, you know, before you know it --

11 MR. JONES: I think everybody saw quite a bit
12 that day. I know you guys see a lot for a living, but
13 I think that day was different, too.

14 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Sure.

15 MR. JONES: Just, what was brought up before,
16 do you do, do you as a matter of course, do critique
17 your, your work with the EMS units?

18 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes.

19 MR. JONES: After --

20 MR. CALDERONE: No, generally --

21 CHIEF FEMINELLA: That is rare.

22 MR. CALDERONE: Generally not.

23 MR. JONES: So the City doesn't do anything
24 like that either, right, and they are really the
25 oversight.

1 After you go to any type of emergency
2 situation, building, boat like this, if, well, let's
3 take a building, because it has happened in the past,
4 if there is something there that sticks out or you
5 think of something that might help you the next time,
6 if you were in that building, do you have an avenue
7 where you could pursue that, that building needs more
8 of this or --

9 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Oh, yeah. Sure.

10 MR. JONES: How do you take up the ladder
11 here, so to speak?

12 CHIEF FEMINELLA: I would say 90 percent of it
13 goes up to my level or maybe the next level, which is
14 the Deputy Chief, but, I don't know if you mean like,
15 go to the building owner and ask him to do certain
16 things.

17 MR. JONES: Well, no, the buildings have a
18 code and again, I am reaching here because --

19 CHIEF FEMINELLA: No, that is okay.

20 MR. JONES: -- I don't know much about the
21 fire codes for buildings, but if there is something
22 there that you see that would aid you, if you ever had
23 to come back, whether it be something with the
24 elevators or extracting people or, you know, even fire
25 hydrants on different floors.

1 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Right.

2 MR. JONES: Is there a way that you can
3 approach building management or your superiors and tell
4 them, hey, I really think this building ought to have
5 this, you know, what can we do to get the ball rolling
6 on that?

7 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yeah, we do a lot of that.
8 You know, with the guys do building inspections twice a
9 week, regardless, you know, and the whole idea of that
10 is to see if there is anything that is going to
11 endanger us, you know, because we work in potentials,
12 you know what I mean.

13 MR. JONES: Yes.

14 CHIEF FEMINELLA: So, we try to drill on the
15 buildings, like we have Sun Chemicals down here on Bay
16 Street, which is pretty close to my fire house, and you
17 know, twice a year, they invite us in and we go over,
18 you know, what is stored here. We have a map of the
19 premises. So, anything that, and we put it into our
20 computer system also, like if an address comes up, it
21 is going to tell you right off the bat, this is a
22 chemical plant, this is this and this. So a lot of
23 that we accomplish during our building inspection. And
24 God forbade we have a fire in a place that is new to
25 our, or had we had known about, we pretty much keep

1 tabs, like on the battalion level, all my companies,
2 anything in this neighborhood, let the guys know, too.

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 CHIEF FEMINELLA: They will know about it.
5 But, we try to put it on the computer anyway, so it is
6 all triggered by addresses. But, as far as like, a
7 lot, we can send a lot of stuff to our fire prevention
8 bureau, too, which is a pretty efficient organization,
9 that works out of Headquarters. That would be done
10 with a letterhead report, where we would ask them,
11 because they have specific units, too. It is a
12 restaurant, they will have a big, take care of the
13 arrangements. There is a sprinkler deficiency, so we
14 could do that by letterheads. And we do a lot of that
15 in this rank.

16 MR. JONES: So, something that was, that
17 occurred the other night, with the ferry boat, if there
18 is something that you saw that you think would help you
19 out if this was to ever happen again, there is a way
20 your could pursue those changes?

21 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes, sure.

22 MR. JONES: Or at least try to.

23 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Yes, it would all be done
24 with -- But, it would go through the channels. I would
25 initiate the document, send it to the Deputy Chief,

1 leave him enough space to comment on it or give his
2 recommendations. It would go to Jack, and then go
3 through the private sector or like, especially without
4 through the agencies. You know, we don't, we wouldn't
5 even give violation orders to city agencies. We would
6 write letterheads to fire prevention and let them go
7 and handle it.

8 MR. JONES: Okay.

9 CHIEF FEMINELLA: You know, so.

10 MR. JONES: I am not keeping you from a fire,
11 am I?

12 CHIEF FEMINELLA: Well, it is a run, but.

13 MR. JONES: Okay. Feel free to check that out
14 first, I don't want to be accused of that.

15 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)