

PER OLAV HJELSTADT-Crew 014, Safety 017, Chief Firefighter, Cabin 1005 Fjord Deck.

He woke up in the morning and on the way to wash up, the light went off, he got his flashlight from the table, his radio was turned low, but he heard them calling for fire chief, then he heard call for medical, Code Alpha, then he realized that something serious was going on. He was called before the Code Alpha. This was the hotel engineer calling him.

Then he went out the door and then the staff captain asked him to check the sky deck, but he did not do then since it was up and there was no smell of smoke and nothing to see. He looked around the area outside his cabin and everything looked good. He understood that something was going on in the Biscayne Deck because of the conversation on the radio regarding call for medical help. He went directly down the stair to the Biscayne Deck.

When he went down the Biscayne Deck he heard Magnus on the radio, on channel 6. Then he asked Magnus what was going on, was there a fire. He then went directly to Fire Station 2 and put his gear on. Then Magnus was so busy with the radio that he proceeded directly to the scene. He called the bridge to sound the Code Bravo to get the full fire team. He asked Magnus again if there was a fire and he said no fire, but there had been an explosion.

He met Magnus on midships gangway. This was the meeting place for the fire teams. The fire teams had gotten there very quickly. He talked to Magnus and they decided to standby and not go in without more assurance that things were safe. Fire team 2 was first to arrive because they were closest to the scene. After that they came very fast.

The fire team leaders report to Per Olav, they go to Channel 5, and he reports to Magnus. He has to manually switch from Channel 5 to 6, cannot pick up both at the same time.

Channel 5 is for fire teams, it is not a single switch channel. First team arrived there and reported to him, they assembled there waiting for clearance to enter. Somebody had a checklist, not him, to see who arrived from the fire leaders. Shore side FD arrived. They took one ship's firefighter and entered the engine room, about 4 MIA FD. The MIA firefighters came aboard aft gangway, the crew gangway. They went down staircase to the Caribbean deck. Per Olav was in charge of the team, there was good communication between MIA FD and ships fire teams. MIA FD requested a ships firefighter to accompany them into the engine room, and he communicated this to Magnus, who then communicated with the bridge.

The fire teams would have heard the Code Bravo, then a PA announcement about where to meet. If the teams are unable to proceed, they would use the radio to inform Per Olav of any difficulties getting to the scene. The fire teams do not communicate directly with the bridge. The on-scene commander would then made a decision on how to act.

There was a lot of talking on the radio.

Magnus made the decision that it was clear to go into the engine room. He escorted one group of four guys from MIA FD, later on was another group

Has been on the Norway about from 99, 2000. He came directly from the sky. He signed on two weeks before in St. Maartin. He came from the Star where he was the assistant chief firefighter. When he came onboard here it was as a Firefighter. He did not get special training to go from firefighter to Chief firefighter, he has 23 years experience as a firefighter in Norway. He checks the halon equipment monthly. He has to understand the rules, gets training with the fire teams, crew members. Has to determine that equipment is available and in good working order, and that on private island equipment is ok.

He has 3 people full time working with him, their full time jobs are on the fire fighting team. They have been onboard 10 years. He has to follow up and look into things, use, etc. His job, everything changes and he has to keep up with changes and give his team information on changes.

1. A fire in engine room first thing is they need a clearance from the engine department to get in
2. They have to be careful with the use of water and recognize when and how to use
3. How to “read” the fire situation, smoke, color, etc. before going in
4. How to open the door
5. Use of water fog

He knows that the team does not have the experience level that he does.

If there is a fire in the boiler room he would not like to use water, he would like to use steam because then you have the high temperature. If you use too much water you can get an explosion due to the expansion. You would need to get steam from the engine. There are steam hoses in the engine room.

Teams have charged steam hoses before. He enters the area with the team, and would do that in a boiler room fire. In the event that the steam would not work, he would close the doors and use CO2 or Halon, it is better to reduce the O2 inside, close the door.

He would close the door and communicate with Magnus the need to get CO2 or Halon in there, and it would be Magnus’ decision on what to do.

He was dressed out. One team was sent forward to the auxiliary room to search and check, another team sent aft to do the same, and another team to check cabins. He sent teams from the ends of the ship, forward and aft, to move to the center of the ship. He went down the starboard ladder, to go into boiler casing starboard side, but the door was damaged and could not be opened. Then they went in the aft engine room door. He did not see smoke out of the door. He saw a person in Cabin 1157 and they had to “separate” the guy. One guy from shore side with the rest of the team attended to the victim, and they went straight to the starboard entry, after engine room, C-deck. He stayed there and four men, 3 MIA and 1 from the ship went down into the engine room. They searched the area. He did not see smoke in the engine room. Just the smell of diesel fuel, there was no more smoke. The sprinklers were on because the fuse melts at 70C. On the Caribbean deck in the midships passageway, starboard there was a lot of water. He asked to stop the sprinkler because there was no fire.

Alex reported via radio that one person was found in the boiler room, on the port side. They came back but did not retrieve the victim. They reported finding only this guy, no others were in the boiler room. One team started the search of all the cabins.

During an emergency he speaks only English. He is very careful. There was much talking on the radio, with the medical emergency. Normally no problem with the radios on Channel 5 and Channel 6. No one had a hose when they went into the engine room. There was no fire and there were stations all over the ship if needed to fight the fire in the engine room.

He has responded to in an explosion on shore side. It was in a building. If you get a confirmation that there is no fire and no smoke, you don't need a hose. If not, you go in with a hose. In this case on ship, they entered after 10 minutes everything was still. He looked and saw no indication of a remaining fire. When MIA fire d. came on board he followed the order.

He worked first in a city with a chemical industry, then was in another city fire department, started as a fire reliever when he was 18, biggest city was had 100,000. He worked in port cities. Never fought a fires on small boats.

Biggest fire he worked on in a plumbing store, lots of plastic, PVC, another fire in a paper mill in the machinery, there was a lot of smoke, much obstructions. In the plumbing store the building started to collapse, plus with the plastic it was melting.

This event, was no fire, just an explosion. For him there was no sign of fire, just an explosion. He has not met with MIA fire departments. When on another ship he coordinated with the Newport FD. The important thing with shore side FD is to communicate.

With the FD MIA communication was excellent, they worked very well together. They understood each other very well. They did not talk much at the beginning but they understood each other. He followed the direction of the MIA FD. It worked very well, he was happy with that. All of his steam experience has been on the Norway.

He selects someone to serve on fire team. When he needs fire team members he contacts Safety Team manager to see who has had fire training. He would like them to have had some training. If he wants to have a team leader, he will have to have served on the team as a member, then smoke diver, then assistant team leader, then team leader.

Team members should have basic safety training, then he would like them to have served on a fire team. He would like them to have advanced fire fighting. They must come on board with basic training. Then he trains them on board. Has them breathe through the apparatus. Important that they are training well in that.

He teaches them theory about how to enter a room. They don the full gear with the apparatus, they prepare the fire hose, use a simulated fire. They will practice in a portion of the ship where they can use a hose.

The fire team trains regularly every Fri and Sat, and there is a weekly drill. AT least one separate training each month, and four drills, together with other groups. They put on the equipment every drill, 4 a month, and for most of the training.

One person is assigned to be an assistant team leader, they must take command if the team leader does not show up. They must be prepared to act as team leader. Team leader should be able to give commands. He looks at people to see who has this skills.

They normally wait a little, but not too long at the assembly, like a minute. They will tell someone at the meeting place that the leader has not shown up. He will vary where the drills meet, it can be pool decks. They change the location of the drill every week. The drill is normally the same time.

On Sunday it went very well, everything went very well, commands were good, it looked very professional. He saw the fire teams and everyone followed the orders, one order was given and they followed it. No shouting.

The search can go fast if you have light, it would take half an hour and one hour to complete the search. They have searching with all of the fire drills. They have to search all cabins. They don't time it. It should take 30 minutes to an hour.

His radio is always on. His men do not wear radios after their work day. They have radios in their cabin. Fire team leaders may have radios with them, depending on their jobs. Each fire team leader has a radio at the fire station.

He would expect the firefighters to report to the meeting place in 3 to 5 minutes after the code Bravo. Drills are conducted around 1000. From the Bravo call people started to show up very early. He has teams with cooks, but he does look at where they work, he would like engine people, but not all engine people are firefighters. He likes to send engine people to fight an engine fire because they know the engines.

Team 7 and Team 11 can fight engine fire. There are many engine people here so there can be more people on fire teams who are familiar with engines.

Fire team leaders are not in their cabins at all times. They have radios at the stations, where ever they come from they can get radio at the station. This is the best way because otherwise they can forget the radio.

He would expect a team to report to the on-scene commander if they see crew in a cabin or passageway. This should be reported to the on-scene commander. He sent one team to search on the B deck forward. One team sent out to search the passenger deck. Not all team leaders were present. All team members have the same training.

All teams need backup, he would not go up along without backup. They use some kind of signal on the door to indicate that a cabin has been searched. When completed the search the report this back to the on-scene commander.