

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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EXPLOSION AT THE R.M. PALMER CANDY
FACTORY IN WEST READING,
PENNSYLVANIA, ON MARCH 24, 2023

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Accident No.: PLD23FR002

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Interview of: ELIAS MORALES, Assistant Line Technician
R.M. Palmer Company

West Reading, Pennsylvania

Tuesday,
April 25, 2023

APPEARANCES:

KIM WEST, Investigator-in-Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

SHERYL HARLEY, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

LAWRENCE POLEN, Esq.
On behalf of Elias Morales

DIANA ROMERO
Wife of Elias Morales

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I N T E R V I E W

(12:41 p.m.)

1 MS. WEST: So good afternoon.

2 MR. MORALES: Good afternoon.

3 MS. WEST: Today is April 25th, 2024 (sic). It is now 12:41
4 p.m. My name is Kim West, I'm an investigator with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board, I'm the investigator in charge with
6 the pipeline accident investigation group for this accident.
7 We're at your home in Reading, Pennsylvania. You're in Reading?
8

9 MR. MORALES: Yeah, right.

10 MS. WEST: Okay. This interview will be conducted as part of
11 the investigation into the explosion that occurred on March 24th,
12 2023, in West Reading, Pennsylvania. The NTSB case number for
13 this accident is PLD23LR002. Now, the purpose of the
14 investigation is to increase safety, not to assign fault, blame,
15 or liability. This interview will be recorded and may be
16 transcribed at a later date. A copy of the transcription will be
17 provided to the interviewee for review prior to being entered into
18 the public docket. Mr. Morales, could you please provide the
19 spelling of your name and the company you work for and your job
20 title?
21

22 MR. MORALES: Elias, E-l-i-a-s. I worked at R.M. Palmer, I
23 was assistant line technician.

24 MS. WEST: So you are permitted to have one person present
25 during the interview. This person is of your choice, a

1 supervisor, friend, family member, or nobody at all. Please state
2 for the record who you have selected.

3 MR. MORALES: I have my attorney and then I have -- so I have
4 my attorney present.

5 MS. WEST: Okay. And we'll go around the room and each
6 person will say their name and spelling of their name, title, and
7 the organization that they work for or they're representing. So
8 I'll start with on my left.

9 MS. HARLEY: So my name is Sheryl Harley, first name is
10 spelled S-h-e-r-y-l, last name H-a-r-l-e-y. I'm an investigator
11 with the National Transportation Safety Board.

12 MS. WEST: And on line we have?

13 MR. POLEN: Lawrence Polen (ph.), I represent Elias Morales,
14 I'm his attorney.

15 MS. WEST: Thank you. And since you're in the room.

16 MS. ROMERO: My name is Diana Romero. First name D-i-a-n-a,
17 and I'm Elias' wife.

18 MS. WEST: Thank you.

19 MS. ROMERO: Um-hum.

20 INTERVIEW OF ELIAS MORALES

21 BY MS. WEST:

22 Q. So let's just start off a little bit more about yourself. So
23 tell me more about what you do, what your position title is, what
24 hours you work, how long you've been working with the company.

25 A. I've been working with R.M. Palmer for about 3 years, it's my

1 first job out here from New York. I deal with the forklift, just
2 taking pallets in and out. I also got assistant line technician,
3 I'm an assistant. You basically deal with piping, tempering and
4 all that kind of stuff.

5 Q. And what shift do you work?

6 A. I work second shift, so it's from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

7 Q. And do you work in a specific area or --

8 A. Yeah, we worked only in Building 2.

9 Q. All right. Now, thinking back to the accident, starting your
10 day, tell us in as much detail as you can, walking up through what
11 you did, what you saw, any smells or any observations.

12 A. When I came in at the start of the shift, it was 3:00 p.m.,
13 we came in to a changeover, we were having to change over from
14 eggs to balls, so at the start of the shift everything was already
15 turned off from the previous shift, which is first, everything was
16 turned off, so there was just like no work that had to be done but
17 just cleaning, changing over the machines, so we didn't get to do
18 any of that stuff.

19 Like I said, from 3:00, it was -- nobody smelled any gas,
20 everybody was cleaning, everybody was doing their job. I'd say
21 like around 4:30 one of the workers that worked at the building,
22 he came to me and one of the coworkers that I work with, as well,
23 and he told us that the females that work as packers, that they
24 smell gas. So immediately, we -- we went over to smell where's
25 the gas, because he said they smelled it. Right when we got

1 there, to the spot over there, we did smell gas and my worker, she
2 went, we have a phone that's called the gray phone, we use that to
3 communicate within the buildings, she grabbed the phone and she
4 called one of the big bosses and I didn't go with her to the
5 phone, but you can hear it because of the speakers. So right
6 after she made that call, my head was just like throbbing and my
7 eyes were draining, so I just went out to the front for a
8 breather.

9 Q. Take your time.

10 A. Everybody's still in the building. Then my coworker, she was
11 -- she was just going in and out of the building. The mechanic,
12 he came when -- I guess to see where was like the smell coming
13 from. I was still in the front of the building just watching
14 bosses, like one of the big bosses, she came out from Building 1
15 and she went down to the basement that's in Building 2, she went
16 there with the mechanic.

17 The HR supervisor, she just -- I guess she was happening to
18 leave to go home that day, she just made that stop to go in
19 Building 2 because I guess she smelled it or heard the commotion,
20 so she went inside and the next thing you know, the building just
21 blew up. I was in the air trying to like reach for stuff and I
22 was just -- because I was obviously in the air, I landed real hard
23 on the floor, I had bricks falling all over me. My leg was
24 trapped. Thank God my arms were free. There was still stuff
25 falling from the sky, so I was trying to like get myself up before

1 something real heavy cuts me in my head. (Indiscernible) it was
2 real high, my heart was racing, I couldn't like see anything
3 because I was like in a big dust ball and I was freaking out. My
4 wife works in the building next door from there, so I was
5 wondering if that building had fall down, too, so I just -- I
6 don't know how, but I got to move up from where I was at. I got
7 up, took a couple steps and just fell on the ground and couldn't
8 get up after that. I noticed she was there checking up on me.
9 People were recording me on Facebook live or types of that stuff
10 and fortunately, my workers, we landed together on the same spot
11 on the ground and basically, went to the hospital. And then
12 that's it.

13 Q. Okay, thank you. I just had a couple more questions. Going
14 back to when you were at the -- you were inside the building --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- at the time, it sounds like the machines were shut down
17 and you were doing a changeover?

18 A. Yeah, we were supposed to do a changeover.

19 Q. Okay. And then at that time you didn't smell gas, which was
20 about 3 o'clock, as you came on.

21 A. Yeah, we didn't smell anything, nobody smelled anything.

22 Q. Okay. And then you said one worker --

23 A. His name is Domingo Cruz.

24 Q. Domingo, okay.

25 A. He came up to me and Xiomara Davila (ph.).

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. She's the line technician and I'm her assistant, and he came
3 to us and he said that the females are saying they smell gas and
4 immediately we stopped working and we went over to the females and
5 like I said, we did smell it and it was really strong.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. And she made that call, I stepped out for some air, the
8 mechanic was outside, he went in and he came out and he sat on the
9 ledge and I guess he just waited there and like I told you, one of
10 the big bosses, she came out from the building and she went down
11 to the basement and he just got up with her and he went down to
12 the basement.

13 Q. Who was that? I'm sorry.

14 A. Her name is Sue Halvonik.

15 Q. So Sue Halvonik.

16 A. And then the mechanic's name is Michael Breedy.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And they went down to the basement. And then Amy Sandoe was
19 the HR supervisor, human resources, she was -- she also went
20 inside the building.

21 Q. Do you know about when they went down into the building, both
22 Sue and Mike?

23 A. Well, I don't know because -- so the building is actually
24 facing another building in front, but the basement is on the
25 alleyway, so I just seen them going down to the alley. Anything

1 else, them going inside, I couldn't see from outside.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. But I remember them telling -- like saying, like, it looks
4 like it's coming from like under the steps, like the smell, like
5 it was coming from under the steps.

6 Q. The steps, you said that you were sitting on the steps.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Those steps you're talking about?

9 A. Yeah, like around there, yeah, they said that's where they
10 smelled it at.

11 MS. WEST: Okay, let me see. Do we have a picture of the
12 steps, the front?

13 MS. HARLEY: Yeah, I do, electronically.

14 MS. WEST: Yeah.

15 MS. HARLEY: Okay.

16 MS. WEST: Um-hum. Okay. Okay. There you go.

17 MS. HARLEY: Yeah. We're going to call this Exhibit 1.

18 MS. WEST: Yeah, okay.

19 MS. HARLEY: For the transcripts.

20 MS. WEST: Yes.

21 BY MS. WEST:

22 Q. All right. And just for the recording, I'm going to show you
23 an image on my phone. Do you recognize that?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay, what is that?

1 A. That's Building 2, I was sitting right in front where that
2 little bush is, right there. They said they smelled it coming
3 from like right here between these two steps, it's right there,
4 like not too far, that's what they said. The mechanic was sitting
5 right there, that bush right there.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. The supervisor came out that building, then she proceeded to
8 walk down there, he followed up behind her. The HR supervisor,
9 she came out from there, it was like she was on her way home but
10 she just happened to just stop by, she was going off. She ended
11 up going back inside and then everything just went over and I
12 landed basically like right over here. That's where I got thrown
13 from all the way up, right out in the front.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 A. You're welcome.

16 Q. So when they walked over to the front of the building and
17 they saw -- they smelled gas --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- about where you're saying, at the corner of -- right
20 underneath the steps.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. Did they say any more that you could hear?

23 A. Say that again, sorry.

24 Q. Did they say any more that you could -- did they say any more
25 about it, that they observed or --

1 A. No, nothing. The mechanic, he was saying like what type of
2 gas it smelled like, what he thinks it is, I just can't
3 remember --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- like what's the name he said, but I remember he said like
6 he named the type of gas that it probably was, I just can't
7 remember which -- like which one, because there's multiple. So he
8 said one, I just can't remember it, the only thing I remember is
9 basically what they were saying, like where they smelled it from.
10 They didn't go inside like all the way to smell it where like
11 where we smelled it, but they smelled it outside, so that's what
12 they was pointing out, where they smelled it.

13 Q. Okay. I'll just start with that. I know you have more
14 questions, but when you were -- you mentioned that the females had
15 smelled gas --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- inside.

18 A. Um-hum.

19 Q. Do you know where they were located at the time?

20 A. Yeah. I don't know if you guys got pictures, but they were
21 cleaning the belts, they were taking eggs out from the belt that
22 travels around, they were cleaning up because, like, it's called
23 foresight cleaning, you have to remove all the candy out from the
24 belt and then you have to clean it and somebody will come and swab
25 it and make sure it passes.

1 MS. HARLEY: Go ahead.

2 BY MS. WEST:

3 Q. Okay. So for the recording, I'm going to show you an image
4 of -- a drawing of the floor plan of Building Number --

5 A. Two.

6 Q. -- Building Number 2, that first floor, and if you could just
7 kind of indicate where -- where the women were located.

8 A. Oh, this is a really hard picture.

9 Q. Yeah. So this was the production line room and this is the
10 foil room?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And that's the belt, that's what you guys saw, like that's
14 the belt. Then it has the belt where the candy falls onto and it
15 travels. There were two on this side and then two on the other
16 side and Domingo was in the washroom. I don't know where exactly
17 the washroom is located here. I think it's that right there,
18 right?

19 Q. So the washroom is somewhere over here?

20 A. Like this picture's really hard, I can't tell, but he was in
21 the washroom.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. He came out of the washroom and told us that they were
24 cleaning the belt.

25 MS. WEST: Two females were here?

1 MS. HARLEY: Two here and two here.

2 MS. WEST: Okay.

3 MS. HARLEY: Can I ask a question?

4 MS. WEST: And then you go ahead. So I'll stop for right now
5 and let Sheryl.

6 BY MS. HARLEY:

7 Q. Okay. And again, I'm Sheryl Harley. So you were talking
8 about the females that were in the room.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you tell me where they were located by their name? So
11 you said, looking at this image, you said that there were two --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- in the back and two towards --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- the front of the belt. Who was in the back?

16 A. All right, so there was Judith, her last name is Lopez. I
17 can't remember the last name.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And Patricia Borges.

20 Q. So Judith and Patricia were in the back.

21 A. They were cleaning one of the side of the belt.

22 Q. Okay. And in the front, towards the front, was who?

23 A. Like no, so like the front, like when you open the front
24 door --

25 Q. Um-hum.

- 1 A. -- they're about right there, so when you open the door, that
2 was Patricia and Judith.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. On the other side, like if you're going to the foiling
5 room --
- 6 Q. Yes.
- 7 A. -- it was Diana and Xiorky.
- 8 Q. Okay. So if this was heading, looking at this image, if this
9 was heading towards the foiling room, which is here --
- 10 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 11 Q. -- so here was Diana and Xiorky?
- 12 A. Diana and Xiorky was right here, cleaning the belt right
13 there.
- 14 Q. Right here.
- 15 A. And then Judith and Patricia --
- 16 Q. Patricia.
- 17 A. -- was right there.
- 18 Q. Was up front here?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. Diana and Xiorky was here and Judith and Patricia was
21 here. Okay. Okay. And you said that Domingo had come in, come
22 to you and Xiomara --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. -- and to say that the women were complaining.
- 25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Who picked up the gray phone?

2 A. Xiomara.

3 Q. Xiomara did?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Do you know who she was talking to?

6 A. I heard her call Sue on the gray phone, but I wasn't next to
7 her for their -- like what they were talking about. You can only
8 hear who she called off the speaker. Once that person answers the
9 phone, only whoever's on the phone can hear each other.

10 Q. Okay. Did you hear what Xiomara said?

11 A. No, I wasn't next to her.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I just seen her walk to the foiling room, because there's two
14 gray phones.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. One in the foiling room and one towards our desk where the
17 front door is. She grabbed the one that's in the foiling room.

18 Q. Okay, she -- so once again I'm showing you the same image.
19 So this is the foiling room?

20 A. Um-hum.

21 Q. Where would the gray phone be?

22 A. The gray phone would be like right in between the one right
23 here.

24 Q. Right here?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. All right. Okay. So after Xiomara made the call on
2 the -- on the gray phone, what happened next?

3 A. Let's see, I went and I told her I was going to step out, my
4 head was like it was hurting and my eyes was hurting, as well. I
5 stepped out, the whole time I just was sitting on the front where
6 the bush was at that I showed you, I was there for like -- like I
7 was there the whole time, I didn't move. Yeah, that was basically
8 where I was at the whole time, I just stood there until everything
9 blew up.

10 Q. Did any of the other women want to step out or were
11 complaining about feeling ill?

12 A. I remember Xio, she -- she came out and she told me that the
13 females said they could -- like if that smell is still there by
14 7:00, they were going to leave because you get half a point if you
15 leave at 7:00.

16 Q. So explain the points to me, please.

17 A. I'm sorry?

18 Q. So explain, you said they get half a point?

19 A. Yeah. So we go by points there, you get 12 points, you get
20 terminated. If you come in -- like if you leave, let's say,
21 anything before 7:00, you get a whole point. If you leave after
22 7:00, I mean, if you leave at 7:00, then you get a half a point.

23 Q. Okay. So you said that -- that Xiomara came out of the
24 building and was talking to you?

25 A. Yes, I was sitting there, she came out and she said -- she

1 told me what I told you about them, if they continue, they were
2 going to leave at 7:00. And then Amy came out the building and
3 she went in Building 2 and Xiomara just followed up right behind
4 her and not even like say a couple of seconds, everything just
5 blew up.

6 Q. So in addition to you and Xiomara, who else was out there?

7 A. Michael Breedy was sitting on the bush on the other side.

8 Q. On the other side?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And then you said that Sue --

11 A. Yeah, Sue.

12 A. -- Halvonik, she came out and what did she do?

13 A. She just went down, like automatically went towards like the
14 basement, that she was going in the basement.

15 Q. So on the side of Building 2 is a meter, did you actually see
16 that meter?

17 A. There's a meter?

18 Q. Have you ever seen the side, have you ever seen the side of
19 Building 2?

20 A. Yeah. Well, we have to go down to the alley, too, because on
21 Fridays, like say around like 6 o'clock, we have to go down to the
22 basement, all line technicians and we have to -- it's called like
23 -- we call it a shoot the bullet, so it's basically like a little
24 foam thing that you load up in the pipes and it just clears any
25 chocolates in the pipes for the weekend so it's not solid, so when

1 the third shift comes in on Sunday, it's easy for them to start
2 up. But we didn't have to do any of that stuff on Friday because,
3 like I said, when we came in, everything was already done from the
4 previous shift, we just had to clean the belt and take the
5 machines out, which we didn't have no time taking the machine out
6 before it happened.

7 Q. All right. Okay.

8 A. But I wasn't aware of a meter.

9 Q. Okay, all right. Okay. So for the recording, we'll say this
10 is Exhibit Number 3. This is a photograph. Do you know what that
11 is?

12 A. No, I don't. I don't know what that is.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. For the three years that I've been there, we only did a fire
15 drill, like we did it one time.

16 Q. So you said also that Mike and Sue went into the basement.
17 Have you ever been in the basement of Building 2?

18 A. Yeah, I've been there.

19 Q. Okay. So explain to me how you would get to the basement of
20 Building 2.

21 A. Well, there's a door you have to get in, like any other door
22 in Palmer's, you need to have the badge to scan your way in.
23 Nobody could just open it and go down. You have to work there and
24 if you're terminated, then it won't work, you have to be working.
25 So you have to scan the badge.

1 Q. Okay. And where is that door located, what side of the
2 building is it on?

3 A. It's right where you showed me the picture, you asked if I
4 knew where that was, on the water meter.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. You just go down, just go -- which is you go down here and
7 when you get to the end, there's a door right there.

8 Q. Okay. So the door is towards the rear of Building 2?

9 A. Yeah, like if you're going to the parking lot.

10 Q. Right, going towards the parking lot. Okay. So once you
11 enter the door, what do you see in front of you?

12 A. All right, so when you first look, when you come in -- when
13 you go into the basement, there's a ramp, then there's like
14 humungous tanks of chocolate, that holds for every line in
15 Building 1 and 2, it's humungous tanks. There's obviously like
16 stuff on the floor that's connected, going around. They have a
17 fuse box on the wall. Just basically a lot of tanks that holds
18 chocolate for both buildings.

19 Q. So if I walked in to that door --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- and there was the ramp and the tanks were there, do I have
22 to pass through another door to get to where --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- the tanks are?

25 A. No, you don't.

1 Q. No, okay. Okay. So have you ever -- let me see this. Okay.
2 So you come down and the tanks are to what side of you when you go
3 down?

4 A. Yeah, so when you first go in, there's one right in front of
5 you.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then there's not a door, you just -- like you could just
8 keep walking and go inside of it, keep walking.

9 Q. Um-hum.

10 A. Now there's two more in front of it and there's one next to
11 it and then when you walk in, there's another room in there with
12 two more tanks, but you don't have to open a door, you just could
13 already walk in.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But each tank is assigned to a specific line, so I will only
16 touch my tank and just for everybody else, we all got our own
17 tank.

18 Q. Okay. So each tank. And what line are you?

19 A. I was Line 6.

20 Q. You were Line 6, okay. All right. And you said that there
21 are two other tanks and they're separated from the other tanks --

22 A. Yeah, they are.

23 Q. -- but you don't have to go in to a door.

24 A. No, you don't have to.

25 Q. Okay. It's just an open space that leads you in?

1 A. You just walk up.

2 MS. HARLEY: Okay. Okay, I'm going to stop right now and I'm
3 going to turn it back to you.

4 BY MS. WEST:

5 Q. All right. You mentioned earlier about -- I think you used
6 the words the big boss?

7 A. Well, like she's the -- she's the boss of my supervisor.
8 Everybody calls her like she's the big boss, like.

9 Q. And who was that?

10 A. Sue Halvonik.

11 Q. That was Sue, okay. And your boss is?

12 A. Donna Newman.

13 Q. Donna Newman, okay. So did you see her that day?

14 A. I did see her that day, in the start of shift, I did see
15 Donna.

16 Q. Okay. About what time was that?

17 A. Like the start of shift, she was there like -- I'd say like
18 before, like before 3:20. Before definitely 3:20 I seen Donna.

19 Q. Now I'm going to switch on you and talk more about your
20 understanding of natural gas. Have you had any experience with
21 natural gas prior to this?

22 A. No, this was my first time --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- witnessing anything like that.

25 Q. Do you have it here in your home?

1 A. What, meters?

2 Q. No, natural gas. Does it serve your building?

3 MS. ROMERO: No.

4 BY MS. WEST:

5 Q. Heat your building?

6 A. No, no, I don't think so.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. You got me worried, I don't know, I'll have to check that.

9 Q. Okay. Where you've lived in the past have you had experience
10 with natural gas?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. So you wouldn't know how it smells or --

13 A. I mean, gases, I don't know the different type of gas, but
14 gas smell the same to me. So if you smell gas, it's all -- to me,
15 it falls in one category.

16 Q. Okay. Have you ever smelled gas before somewhere else?

17 A. Not like that, like that was like really strong, I don't know
18 what type of gas that was.

19 Q. Okay. Because you mentioned not just smelling gas, but you
20 were sick.

21 A. Yeah, that's why I'm saying I don't know what type of gas
22 that was, because my head was just -- all over, my eyes was
23 hurting.

24 Q. So when did that first start?

25 A. Right when I left and I went to go smell --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- I smelled it immediately like it was there.

3 Q. So when you walked in the building you smelled it?

4 A. No, because I'm in a different -- I was -- I'm in a different
5 side, so like when we're cleaning, we all got assigned -- like you
6 got to all do something, so they're doing their thing and I'm
7 doing my thing because I have the job, too, as well, that I have
8 to get done, as well.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So I'm doing my job and it's like a little further where they
11 are and so we're all in the same building, but where I was at,
12 like you didn't smell anything. So when he came over to me, when
13 he came over and told me, told us, we went to the spot where they
14 say it smelled and right there it was like really strong.

15 Q. That was Domingo?

16 A. Yeah, like right away I smelled it, we all smelled it and
17 right away, it just -- like it hit me, it hit my head and my eyes.

18 Q. Okay, so let me make sure I understand. You're on the first
19 floor.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And so you come in to do your work.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And then once you -- where do you enter from for the first
24 floor?

25 A. So there's only one way in.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And they have an exit, but you can't -- that's only for like
3 emergencies. So there's only basically, in reality, one way in,
4 it's just the front building, the front door I was sitting next to
5 and then when you go up to the second floor, there's just the
6 cafeteria, lockers, and there's another room with like -- there's
7 a big tank up there for alcohol.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Also, you have to go up there if you're a line technician, if
10 something's wrong with the line, you have to go up there and also
11 check. But nobody was up there at all. We all just started
12 shift, put our stuff all away and we went right down to work,
13 nobody went back up, nobody. We all stood down on the first
14 floor.

15 Q. When you first started work, you came up to the first floor
16 by the stairs and entered the first floor.

17 A. No. So when we all come in --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. When you walk in the front door, on your left, there's
20 another door, that's where you get in the work area.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. You have to scan that also to get in.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But then there's the steps right in front, when you open the
25 door, there's steps. That leads you upstairs to the second floor

1 and that's where we put our stuff at.

2 Q. Okay. And then as you come in, did you -- at that point you
3 didn't smell gas?

4 A. No, nobody smelled anything.

5 Q. Okay. At what point through your process did you start to
6 smell the gas?

7 A. Right when Domingo Cruz came over to us and he told us that
8 the females complained and we went to where they was at and that's
9 when I smelled it.

10 Q. Okay, where were you at then?

11 (Crosstalk)

12 BY MS. HARLEY:

13 Q. Yeah. So is this the area where you're calling the foiling
14 room?

15 A. Yeah, that's the foiler.

16 Q. So is that where you and Domingo were?

17 A. No. Me and Xiomara were in a whole other spot. Domingo was
18 in the washroom.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. If you remember, I said he was in the washroom. He had left
21 the washroom to go tell us that the females is complaining about
22 the smell.

23 Q. Okay. So looking at this, where were you and Xiomara when
24 you came -- when he found you?

25 MS. WEST: And this is Exhibit -- this is Exhibit 2.

1 MS. HARLEY: Two, yes.

2 MR. MORALES: All right, so the line, I'm guessing, is right
3 here.

4 MS. HARLEY: Um-hum.

5 MR. MORALES: The candy come up into the belt.

6 MS. HARLEY: Um-hum.

7 MR. MORALES: We were right there, she was helping me with
8 that. So it's like a big container, I was supposed to scrape
9 candy out and these pans (ph.) are like -- like leftover candy, so
10 I was like right there.

11 BY MS. HARLEY:

12 Q. You were right here and basically in this corner over here --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- on this side?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. And --

17 MS. WEST: Can you describe that corner for me, for the
18 record, can you describe that corner?

19 BY MS. HARLEY:

20 Q. So it is going to be -- it's going to be actually the
21 northwest corner and it's going to be at the end of the belt and
22 close to where -- this is the stairwell, is that correct?

23 A. Yeah, that's correct.

24 Q. Does that stairwell go upstairs?

25 A. Yes. And --

1 Q. Does it go downstairs?

2 A. Yeah, you can go up and down, that's going to lead to
3 upstairs, to the second floor.

4 MS. HARLEY: Okay, all right. Okay.

5 MS. WEST: So that's when you first started smelling the gas?

6 MR. MORALES: No, that's not where I smelled the gas. I only
7 smelled the gas when he called me and he said come check it out,
8 that's when I smelled it.

9 BY MS. HARLEY:

10 Q. So you and Xiomara were located here --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- when Domingo got you and then you walked into the --

13 A. No, we didn't go that way. You can go in right there, you go
14 from under that belt, you basically just walk under the belt and
15 then you could go in through that side and that's where I smelled
16 it.

17 Q. So you crawled underneath the belt here?

18 A. Well, not necessarily crawl, you usually like just --

19 MS. WEST: Duck.

20 BY MS. HARLEY:

21 Q. Duck down?

22 A. You duck, yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Because it's like a belt like that you just go under.

25 Q. Okay, all right. And then did you have to walk all the way

1 into the room here --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- to smell it?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Yeah, okay. All right. So you said that Domingo was in the
6 washroom.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Where would that be located if you're looking at this?

9 A. The washroom is right there.

10 Q. Okay, this is the washroom.

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. Okay. So the washroom is actually in the back of what would
13 be the production line room?

14 A. Yeah.

15 MS. HARLEY: Okay, all right.

16 BY MS. WEST:

17 Q. Is it normal to walk underneath the belt?

18 A. Well, yeah, it's normal because, like I said, it's like --
19 all right, so when the candy is coming off on that line --

20 Q. Um-hum.

21 A. -- it's going into like this big -- little like belting and
22 then when it falls in there, the candy falls into a machine, it's
23 called like a -- it's called a sweep (ph.) belt and then this one
24 that's just knocking the candy onto the belt, then it got to pass
25 the metal detector. So yeah, it's normal.

1 Q. Okay. Anything else? All right. So Domingo comes in and
2 says that the females --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- are saying they smell gas.

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. And is he a supervisor?

7 A. No, he's a worker.

8 Q. He's a worker.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So he just knows them and --

11 A. Yeah, we all work together.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. There's only six people that work in that building.

14 Q. Okay. And at that point you started to smell the gas --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- once he notified you?

17 A. Yeah, right when I went over, yeah, then I smelled it.

18 Q. Did you get sick right off the bat or did it take a while for
19 you to --

20 A. Like right --

21 Q. From the time you first smelled it until the time you started
22 getting nauseous or sick.

23 A. Yeah, I went, I smelled it, I'd say a minute came by and I
24 just started feeling like dizzy, my head was hurting, my eyes were
25 hurting, everything, and I just, on my own, just went outside to

1 sit and to get some air.

2 Q. Okay. All right. Did anyone talk to you about leaving?

3 A. Anybody? Nobody, yeah, because there's no supervisors in
4 that building.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. But when I did sit outside, Sue saw me out there, I was
7 hoping, like I was thinking she was going to walk up to me and
8 tell me like what am I doing outside and I would tell her like --
9 but no, she didn't ask.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So I just stood out there to get some air.

12 Q. Did anybody else ask you why you were out there?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Let me just switch a little bit for you.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Or on you, I should say. So have you ever been trained on
17 natural gas?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. What type of training do you normally get?

20 A. The only training we get is like if I want to do a different
21 position --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- they'll have somebody train me. But as far as -- like I
24 told you, I've been there for 3 years and only did a fire drill
25 one time on how to evacuate from there.

1 Q. Only one time?

2 A. One time.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. They don't train anything outside of that training. They got
5 like CPR training, but that stuff you have to go and --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- volunteer to do stuff like that, but that's only CPR and
8 that's about it.

9 Q. The CPR is voluntary?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. Have you had any training on emergency response? So
12 in case of an emergency, do you know what you would do and --

13 A. Well, my first things to do, like I would just contact
14 somebody who knows, I don't know how to do none of that stuff, but
15 yeah, I don't have any training on that stuff, they didn't -- we
16 didn't get trained on that at work.

17 Q. Okay. And if you were to have an emergency, what would you
18 -- what would you do?

19 A. If it was an emergency, like when you say --

20 Q. There's a fire or there's --

21 A. Like if it's a fire right away?

22 Q. -- an earthquake or some other event.

23 A. Nine-one-one.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. That's the only thing I could think of.

1 Q. How would you do that, would that be the gray phone or how
2 would you call 911?

3 A. Well, you can't use the gray phone to call anybody outside
4 the job. I will have to get my phone.

5 Q. Okay. Do you have your phone with you?

6 A. Well, they don't want you to have your phone on you.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And people just keep it in their pocket and stuff.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And so the gray phone --

12 A. You can only communicate with people that are in part of the
13 building, 1 and 2.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And usually grab the phone, there's like a little button,
16 just press it down and you say hey, you'd be like -- I'm just
17 saying a name --

18 Q. Um-hum.

19 A. -- like George, gray phone, please. George will come, this
20 is an example, he will come and he will answer and that's about
21 it.

22 Q. Okay. In your example, when you pick up the gray phone --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- and you call George --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- does everybody hear that you're calling George in both
2 buildings?

3 A. Yeah, they can hear it, but they can't hear the conversation.

4 Q. Okay. So the conversation is private on the --

5 A. Yeah, you just answer it and let go of the button and then
6 you can speak. But if you keep holding the button and you're
7 speaking, obviously, people can hear. But once you get them to
8 answer the phone, you let go of that little button, you just
9 communicate.

10 Q. Okay. Is that gray button ever used for emergencies, for
11 example?

12 A. I guess, yeah.

13 Q. Have you experienced that or --

14 A. Yeah, I think I did, yeah.

15 Q. Um-hum. Tell me about it.

16 A. Not nothing like this that happened, but I guess like if
17 somebody's having trouble or something --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- they will call on the gray phone --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- if somebody's having an argument, you pick up the gray
22 phone. But nothing like what went down.

23 Q. So it could also be like for business, if you guys disagreed
24 with what's going on in production, you could pick up the gray
25 phone and --

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- page somebody.
- 3 A. You can page somebody, yeah.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then they can hear throughout both buildings?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Oh, I see, okay. Let's see. Now, if you're -- may have
7 already asked you this. In this case, when you started to get
8 sick, were there others that were feeling sick?
- 9 A. Not that I know of, they didn't tell me anything. I didn't
10 hear them say anything about them feeling sick, they didn't tell
11 me anything about wanting to leave, that they're sick or they felt
12 anything. I didn't hear anything and they didn't tell me
13 anything, so no.
- 14 Q. Okay. People reported that they were smelling gas --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. -- but they didn't report that they were getting sick from
17 the gas.
- 18 A. Yeah, they didn't. They said they had smelled it. Right
19 away, like I said, Xiomara, she made the call to Sue Halvonik --
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. -- and Sue came by.
- 22 Q. And she called on the gray phone?
- 23 A. Xiomara did call Sue Halvonik on the gray phone.
- 24 Q. Okay. So that's something you can hear?
- 25 A. Yeah, that's on a speaker.

1 Q. Okay. And then -- so when you got up, went outside, about
2 what time was that?

3 A. I cannot remember the time, I would say like 4:40 because
4 they're saying everything happened around what, 5:00, that the
5 news was saying that the explosion happened. I don't even know
6 what time it actually exploded. Could say like around 4:40-ish I
7 was outside.

8 Q. Okay. Is there something that you remember about going
9 outside that would estimate the time?

10 A. I mean, it was during the day, still bright outside, so I
11 knew it was early. But as far as that, no, I just -- I can tell
12 it was earlier in the day because the sun was still out.

13 Q. Okay. And your shift ends at --

14 A. Eleven p.m.

15 Q. Eleven p.m. So it's 3:00 to 11:00?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So you're midway between your shift?

18 A. If you say so, yeah.

19 Q. Okay. And has anyone talked to you about your emergency
20 procedures on what you're supposed to do?

21 A. No, that's what I was saying, we didn't get those type of
22 trainings. The only training you have is if you want to know how
23 to -- if you want to have a new position you wanted to learn --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- they will have to put somebody who's doing it, for you to

1 -- for them to train you so you can know how to do it. But as far
2 as like if something was to happen, no, we only had one fire
3 drill.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Were you aware of any procedures anywhere?

7 A. There was -- no, I can only remember that one, that one time
8 we had the -- that little fire drill.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. We all evacuated together and we all went into the parking
11 lot, the main parking lot, and I guess we just -- we waited until
12 they got the say-so to go back and after that, we all went back to
13 work.

14 Q. Okay. Is that only the one shift that did it or --

15 A. I can't speak for the shifts, I only have -- like, I only
16 experienced that on my shift.

17 Q. I see, okay. I think that was it for me. Let me ask you,
18 just clarify this for me. When Mike and Sue went outside, did you
19 see them?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Do you know what they were doing out there?

22 A. Before Sue came, Mike was trying to figure it out and like I
23 said, he sat down on the ledge (indiscernible) just like me, as
24 well. The moment Sue Halvonik came up from Building 1 and she
25 started walking towards like direct to go to the basement, he

1 followed up, as you're aware, he got up and he was just right
2 behind her. And that's about it and then it just blew up.

3 Q. Okay. You said he sat down. Was he sick or tired or did he
4 appear --

5 A. Well, he was -- he was a big guy.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. He had a lot of, like, problems like health-wise and stuff,
8 so I'm pretty sure he was feeling sick, he had the smock on, he
9 had a rag and was just sitting there, so I'm just guessing he
10 needed some air, just as me. And then when the supervisor left,
11 the big boss came, Sue Halvonik, she went to the basement and he
12 followed up with her again.

13 Q. Okay. In looking at other interviews, they said you saw
14 something there. Did you observe if -- I know you were feeling
15 sick, you probably weren't thinking about what he was doing --

16 A. He said --

17 Q. -- but do you remember if he was looking at anything while he
18 was trying to explore?

19 A. He was going like to see what it may be and stuff. I didn't
20 follow him, but I know, I know that guy, he was our mechanic.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Every building and every line has a specific mechanic, not a
23 different one, he's there with us every single day. So he was
24 going around trying to figure it out. I wasn't with him, but I
25 know I seen him going in the building and go checking out stuff.

1 And then he went and got some air tool, I guess, for him trying to
2 figure it out, what was it, he must have got sick, too, and he sat
3 on the ledge.

4 Q. Okay. Did you see anything while you were out there? Or did
5 you walk in the alley or --

6 A. No, I just -- no, I usually open the door --

7 Q. -- just sitting?

8 A. Yeah, just open the door and just sat right there, so I was
9 just sitting there, I couldn't see, obviously, from my left side,
10 I was -- while I'm watching Mike, Sue, and I seen Amy coming from
11 Building 1 and went into Building 2. And I don't think she made
12 it through the second door or anything, but as soon she opened the
13 door, she took a step in and it blew up.

14 Q. Did you see anything while you looked over your shoulder and
15 saw Mike and Sue leaving?

16 A. Well, I just seen them walk down the alleyway --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- like they was going in the basement and after that, no,
19 you can't see anything because now, for me to see the rest, I will
20 have to get up --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- and turn my head over, but I didn't do any of that stuff.

23 Q. Were you still smelling gas at that point?

24 A. I wasn't. I think I didn't smell any type of gas. They were
25 just saying like oh, it looks like it's coming out here, they had

1 to smell it, but then again, like where I'm sitting --

2 Q. Um-hum.

3 A. -- I guess it was kind of like breezy that day, I didn't -- I
4 didn't smell any type of gas. Not that I remember.

5 Q. Did you see any gas?

6 A. No, I didn't see any gas, but I smelled it when I was inside,
7 it was like really strong.

8 Q. Okay. Do you also work in Building 1?

9 A. I used to, that's where I started off.

10 MS. WEST: Okay. That's all the questions I have right now.

11 BY MS. HARLEY:

12 Q. Okay. And this is Sheryl Harley again. Just a couple of
13 really quick questions. Where was the last time you saw Domingo?

14 A. Right when he told me that the females were like complaining.

15 Q. Where was he?

16 A. He was in the washroom, he was washing the supplies and
17 stuff, like he was washing stuff.

18 Q. Okay. Did he go back in the washroom when Xiomara got on the
19 gray phone?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. When Xiomara got on the gray phone, did she
22 call Sue's name --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- and ask her to pick up the phone? Okay. Okay. And
25 Xiomara had said to you that, because of the penalty, that the

1 decision was made that they were going to wait until after 7:00,
2 if they were going to leave?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Okay. And the last question I have, you said that
5 someone had said it was coming from underneath the steps, who
6 actually said it was coming from the steps?

7 A. Amy.

8 Q. It was Amy?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay. Did she say it or did she point?

11 A. Yeah, she said -- both things, she pointed and said it.

12 Q. She pointed and said it, okay. Okay. So I'm going to ask
13 you, if you're up to it, I'm going -- I would like to show you
14 some photographs and I'd like you to identify some of your
15 coworkers. Okay? All right. So what we'll do, it's a series of
16 seven photographs, so we'll just say this is Exhibit 4, but we'll
17 do each photograph at a time, okay? Can you identify that
18 gentleman for me?

19 A. That's Joe.

20 Q. That's Joe?

21 A. He's the mechanic supervisor.

22 Q. He's the mechanic supervisor?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. Okay, the second picture. Exhibit 5.

25 A. That's Donna Newman.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. That's Donna Newman and -- oh, I can't even pronounce that
3 last name. Yadidaddies (ph.). Her name is Yadidaddies, I don't
4 know the last name. I don't work with her, but I know her name.

5 Q. Can you spell her first name for me?

6 A. I can't even -- I don't even know how to. She's Spanish, so
7 she has like --

8 Q. So say her name one more time for me.

9 A. Yadidaddies. I don't know if I'm saying it wrong or right.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I think her nickname they call her is Yadi (ph.).

12 Q. Yadi?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Okay. Okay, the next picture.

15 MS. WEST: Exhibit 6?

16 MS. HARLEY: Yeah.

17 MR. MORALES: That's Patricia Borges.

18 BY MS. HARLEY:

19 Q. That's Patricia?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. The next picture.

22 MS. WEST: Exhibit 7.

23 MS. HARLEY: Uh-huh. Okay, just a second.

24 (Pause.)

25 MR. MORALES: That's Michael Breedy.

1 MS. HARLEY: Okay, Michael Breedy. Okay. Next picture.

2 MS. WEST: Exhibit 8.

3 MS. HARLEY: Yeah. I know it's a little fuzzy.

4 MR. MORALES: That's me.

5 MS. HARLEY: Um-hum.

6 MR. MORALES: Yeah, that's me and that's the first shift line
7 technician, his name is Daryl Ritchie.

8 BY MS. HARLEY:

9 Q. Daryl Ritchie. And he's the first shift line supervisor?

10 A. No, line technician.

11 Q. Line technician. Okay, we're almost done. Okay, the next
12 picture.

13 MS. WEST: Exhibit 8 -- 9, excuse me.

14 MR. MORALES: That's Xiomara Davila.

15 MS. HARLEY: Okay. Okay.

16 MS. WEST: Take a minute?

17 MS. HARLEY: Yeah. I'm going to pause for a moment.

18 (Pause.)

19 MS. HARLEY: Okay. Ready?

20 MS. WEST: Yes.

21 MS. HARLEY: Okay.

22 MS. WEST: This will be Exhibit 10.

23 MS. HARLEY: All right.

24 MR. MORALES: His name is Corey, I don't know his last name,
25 but he's a cleaning guy.

1 MS. HARLEY: Okay, the next one.

2 MS. WEST: Exhibit 11.

3 MR. MORALES: She's first shift, I don't know her name, I
4 don't even know her personally.

5 BY MS. HARLEY:

6 Q. Okay, she's first shift in Building 2?

7 A. So I guess, on their shift, there's one person that's not
8 permanent, they just change them up.

9 Q. Oh, okay.

10 A. Our shift, we have permanent people, there's no people who go
11 in to help.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. On their shift, it's different.

14 Q. Oh.

15 MS. WEST: She goes through the two buildings?

16 MR. MORALES: Yeah, yeah, she does.

17 MS. WEST: Okay.

18 MR. MORALES: Well, not just necessarily, anybody.

19 MS. WEST: Okay.

20 MR. MORALES: Yeah.

21 MS. HARLEY: Okay. I got one more, okay?

22 MR. MORALES: Okay.

23 MS. WEST: This is 12.

24 MR. MORALES: That's Xiorky. I think her last name is Nunez.
25 That's Diana, and I can't remember her last name.

1 MS. HARLEY: Okay. Thank you. That's all the questions I
2 have.

3 MR. POLEN: Is there anyone else or are we concluded?

4 MS. WEST: I just have one more question.

5 MR. POLEN: Okay.

6 BY MS. WEST:

7 Q. Can I go back over your points?

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. So 12 points leads to termination.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So you develop points over time, how much time are you
12 allowed?

13 A. No, it isn't like -- if you call off, you can call off
14 whenever you want.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. You'll just get the point. If you didn't use a vacation
17 call-off or something, you get a point for calling off, you get a
18 point for coming in late and you get a half a point leaving at
19 7:00. Yeah.

20 Q. Can you reduce those points?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Like do something else?

23 A. No, you can't. So let's say you get a point today, you'll
24 get that point discharged the following year, you have to do the
25 whole year until that day and you get that point taken off.

1 Q. So your points you erase at the beginning of the year, you
2 start again?

3 A. No, no, no.

4 Q. You build?

5 A. Yeah. Well, yeah, you will keep going until the following
6 year.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. That day that you got that point, that's when you get it
9 taken away.

10 Q. That one day --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- okay, that you had.

13 A. So if I called off today and tomorrow, next year, on 2024, on
14 what is it, April, I will have those two points taken away.

15 Q. Okay. Is it typical to have a lot of points or less?

16 A. Well, you want to have under eight because if you get eight,
17 you lose your seniority --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- meaning privileges, like if we all sign up for the same
20 position, I got less points than you, I'm going to get it before
21 you. If we want to work overtime, a guy got more points than me,
22 I mean if I got -- yeah, yeah, if a guy got more points than me, I
23 get it. The other one won't get the overtime.

24 Q. Okay. Do you get additional points for overtime?

25 A. If you call off on overtime you get --

- 1 Q. Or less.
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Have points taken off, that's what I want to say.
- 4 A. No, no.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. You just get more hours, let's say.
- 7 Q. Use of the hours. All right, more money.
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. Okay. Is the same true for supervisors, do they work on a
10 point system or only line staff and --
- 11 A. Yeah, they got the point system. Everybody got points.
- 12 Q. Okay. Okay. Have you known anybody who was terminated?
13 Based on points.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Okay. And are there other -- other than lateness, is there
16 any other assessment for the -- for the points? Fighting or --
- 17 A. No, that's automatically termination.
- 18 Q. Okay. Anything else such as cursing, I can't think of any
19 examples, but --
- 20 A. Not that I'm aware. I think for cursing you probably have a
21 meeting, that's about it, but I don't know if like -- if there was
22 anything like threatening-wise or somebody just decides to fight,
23 that's automatically termination.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Yeah.

1 MS. WEST: Okay. Okay. All right, actually, thank you very
2 much, Elias.

3 MR. MORALES: You're welcome.

4 MS. WEST: Extremely informative. I know this is very
5 difficult, it's a hard time after such a traumatic experience and
6 we really appreciate that you were willing to meet with us and
7 kind of tell the story, because this will help us tremendously in
8 understanding what happened and how to prevent it in the future.

9 MR. MORALES: Yeah.

10 MS. WEST: This should not happen to somebody in the future.

11 MR. MORALES: No, nobody.

12 MS. HARLEY: Do you have any questions for us?

13 MR. MORALES: I mean, I was just confused with the whole
14 meter thing, I didn't know that was there, so I didn't know what
15 that was. That was the only thing, I was like wow. Now I know
16 what it is, so --

17 MS. WEST: Okay.

18 MR. MORALES: -- I'm more fine with the questions.

19 MS. WEST: All right.

20 MS. HARLEY: Okay. Is there anything else? Is there
21 anything that you think we should've asked you and didn't ask you?

22 MR. MORALES: No, I think that -- I don't know, I just ask
23 like -- I just ask myself questions, like -- like why wasn't
24 anybody like told to get out and stuff, just stuff like that.

25 MS. HARLEY: Well, thank you, sir, appreciate it.

1 MR. MORALES: Yeah.

2 MS. HARLEY: All right.

3 MR. MORALES: Appreciate you guys.

4 MS. HARLEY: Thank you.

5 MS. WEST: All right, I'm going to go off record. It is now

6 1:45 p.m.

7 (Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., the interview concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: EXPLOSION AT THE R.M. PALMER CANDY
 FACTORY IN WEST READING,
 PENNSYLVANIA ON MARCH 24, 2023
 Interview of Elias Morales

ACCIDENT NO.: PLD23FR002

PLACE: Reading, Pennsylvania

DATE: April 25, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



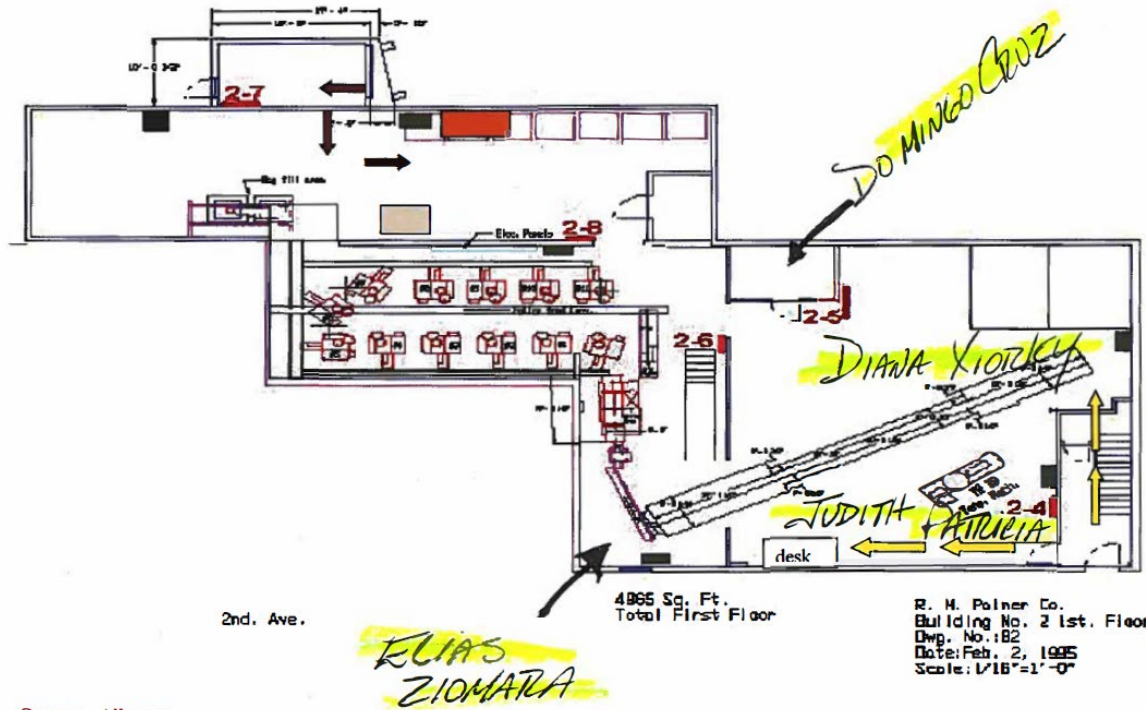
David A. Martini
Transcriber

Elias Morales Interview Exhibits

EXHIBIT #1



EXHIBIT #2



RM PALMER - OSHA000215

EXHIBIT #3

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EXHIBIT #4



EXHIBIT #5



EXHIBIT #6

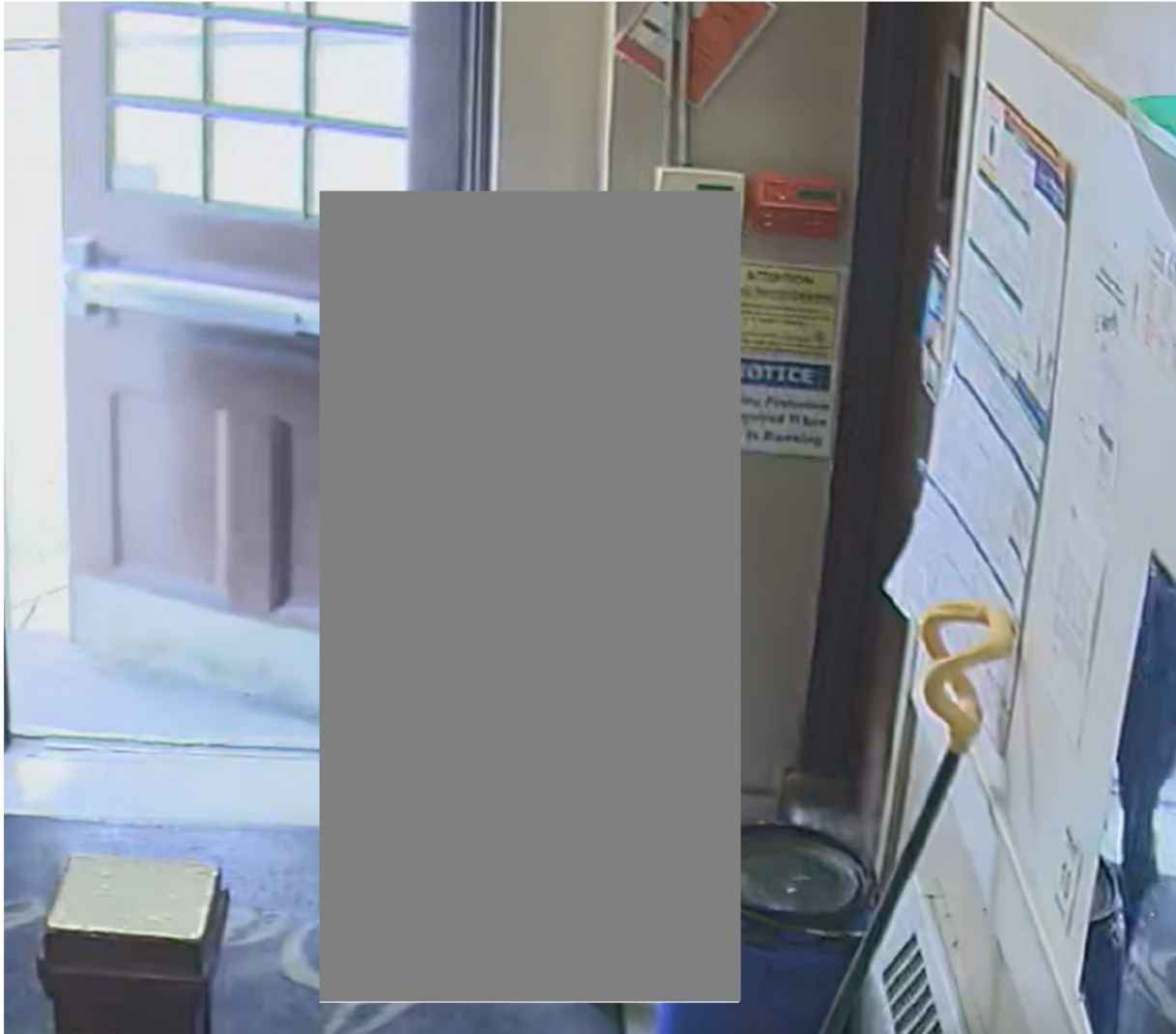


EXHIBIT #7



EXHIBIT #8



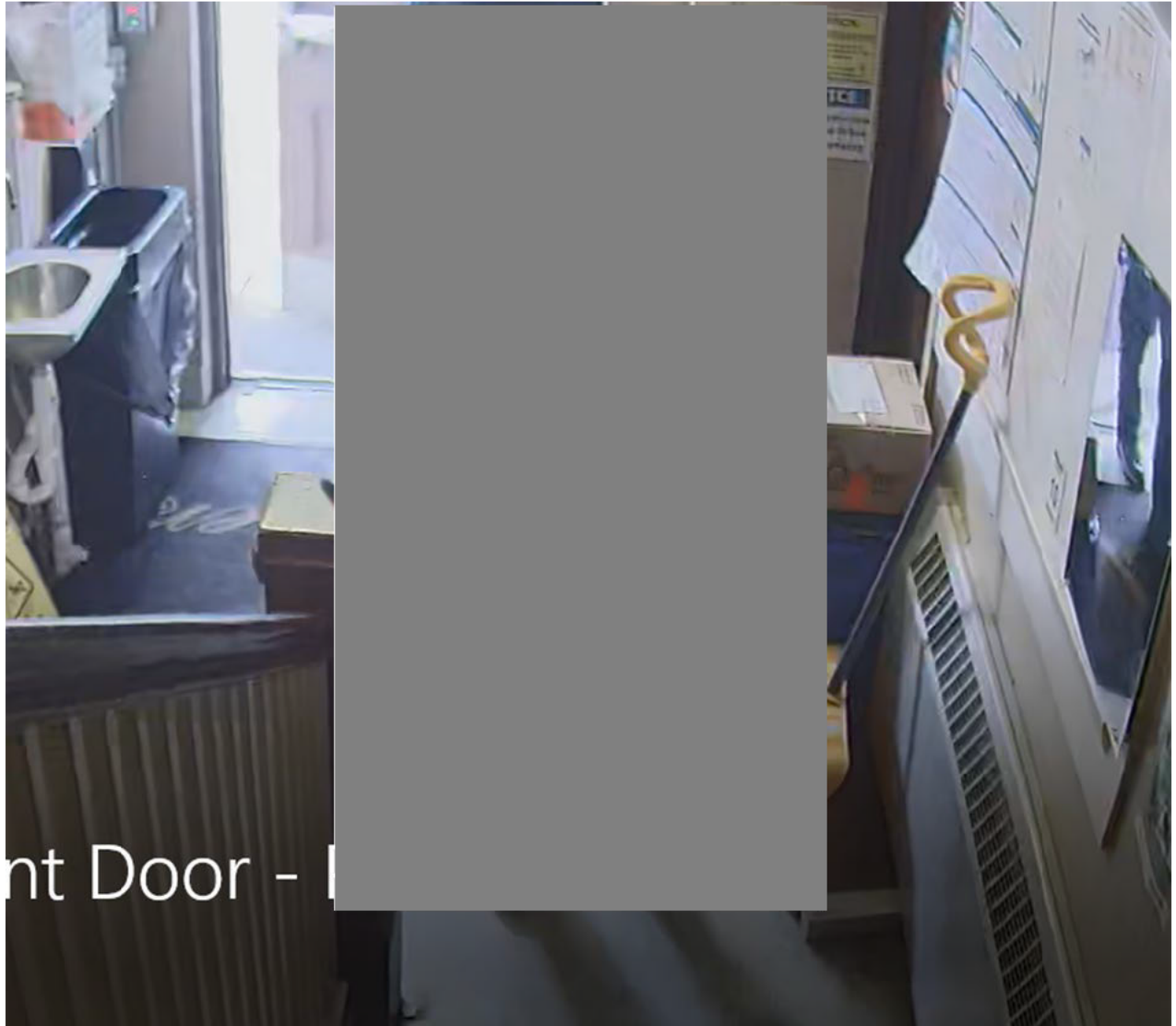
EXHIBIT #9



EXHIBIT #10



EXHIBIT #11



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EXHIBIT #12

