

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

RESIDENTIAL GAS EXPLOSION \*

ON SPRINGDALE LANE, MILLERSVILLE, \*

Accident No.: DCA17FP006

PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 2, 2017 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: KENNETH FITZPATRICK

Blue Rock Fire Hall  
Millersville, Pennsylvania

Tuesday,  
July 25, 2017

## APPEARANCES:

ROGER EVANS, Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

EDWARD KENDALL, Attorney  
National Transportation Safety Board

RICHARD DOWNS, Survival Factors Group Chair  
National Transportation Safety Board

TERRI COOPER SMITH, Fixed Utility Evaluation  
Engineer III  
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission,

GARY MAURER, Manager, Operations Programs  
UGI Utilities

ROBERT KRIEGER, Vice President of Operations  
UGI Utilities  
UGI Utilities

DANE JAQUES, Attorney  
Steptoe & Johnson  
(On behalf of Mr. Fitzpatrick)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Kenneth Fitzpatrick:		
By Mr. Evans		5
By Mr. Downs		13
By Ms. Cooper Smith		24
By Mr. Krieger		27
By Mr. Kendall		29
By Mr. Evans		30
By Mr. Downs		35
By Ms. Cooper Smith		42
By Mr. Krieger		44
By Mr. Kendall		45
By Mr. Evans		46
By Mr. Downs		50
By Ms. Cooper Smith		53
By Mr. Krieger		55

I N T E R V I E W

(1:40 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. EVANS: So good afternoon. Today is July 25. It is now  
4 1:40 in the afternoon. And my name is Roger Evans. I'm an  
5 investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board in  
6 Washington, D.C. We're at the Blue Rock Fire Hall in  
7 Millersville, Pennsylvania. This interview is being conducted as  
8 part of the investigation into the residential gas explosion on  
9 Springdale Lane here in Millersville that occurred on July 2,  
10 2017. The case number for this is NTSB Number -- is DCA17FP006.

11 The purpose of the investigation is to increase safety and  
12 not to assign fault, blame or liability. The NTSB cannot offer  
13 any guarantee of confidentiality or immunity from legal actions.

14 This interview is being record and may be transcribed at a  
15 later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to the  
16 interviewee for review prior to being placed in the public docket.

17 Sean, you are permitted to have any other person to --  
18 another person in the room to represent you. This is a person of  
19 your choice -- attorney, supervisor, friend, family member or  
20 nobody at all. Please state for the record the spelling of your  
21 name and who you have chosen to represent you.

22 MR. FITZPATRICK: Okay. Kenneth Fitzpatrick, K-E-N-N-E-T-H,  
23 Fitzpatrick, F-I-T-Z-P-A-T-R-I-C-K. And I chose Dane.

24 MR. EVANS: And you're --

25 MR. JACQUES: Dane Jaques of Steptoe & Johnson.

1 MR. EVANS: Okay. Let's go now around the room now and make  
2 our introductions.

3 MR. KENDALL: Edward Kendall, K-E-N-D-A-L-L, NTSB attorney.

4 MR. DOWNS: Richard Downs, D-O-W-N-S, NTSB Survival Factors  
5 Technical Working Group Chairperson.

6 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Terri Cooper Smith, Pennsylvania Public  
7 Utility Commission, Fixed Utility Evaluation Engineer III.

8 MR. MAURER: Gary Maurer, M-A-U-R-E-R, Manager of Operations  
9 Programs for UGI Utilities.

10 MR. KRIEGER: Robert Krieger, Vice President of Operations,  
11 UGI Utilities.

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you very much.

13 INTERVIEW OF KENNETH FITZPATRICK

14 BY MR. EVANS:

15 Q. Again, thank you for appearing today. We'd like to start off  
16 with a little bit of background information. If you can give us  
17 your current title and how long you've been in that position?

18 A. I'm an inspector. About 3, 4 years.

19 Q. And prior to that?

20 A. Prior to that, I worked in C&M. Started working at UGI in  
21 2003. Worked from meter reader to C&M department to inspector.

22 Q. Okay. In order to become an inspector, did you have to serve  
23 an apprenticeship of sorts or specialized training?

24 A. Well, it was over time. You just don't, you know -- I guess  
25 the company will look and see how well you do. There are certain

1 tasks you have to do in order to get that position.

2 Q. Okay. And you're told -- when did you start with UGI?

3 A. 2003.

4 Q. The date, actually?

5 A. November. Probably 2nd or 3rd.

6 Q. And in all this time -- how many years were you a meter  
7 reader?

8 A. About 5 years.

9 Q. Okay. And the C&M, that's construction and maintenance?

10 A. Yes. Construction and maintenance right after -- in C&M.

11 Q. Okay. And how many years at that?

12 A. Maybe 5. Maybe another 5.

13 Q. Okay. Not exactly. No problem.

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay, so your role now as an inspector -- is your entire  
16 title of your job, is it just called inspector or is it a certain  
17 type of inspector?

18 A. No, it's inspector.

19 Q. Okay. So can you describe for us your roles and  
20 responsibilities and who you report to?

21 A. Nick Strand is the supervisor.

22 Q. Nick Strand is the supervisor, you say?

23 A. My supervisor, yes. I report to him.

24 Q. And his official title, what group is he? Is he in --

25 A. Supervisor. C&M --

1 Q. Supervisor of inspections or --

2 A. C&M supervisor, I guess.

3 Q. Okay. And the roles and responsibilities of your, of your  
4 job right now, what you do?

5 A. What I do is watch other crews, contractors. And make sure  
6 they're doing the job right, and paperwork.

7 Q. And is this an auditing function where you go out and audit,  
8 or you just observe and report?

9 A. Both. I do -- I audit, you know, I go out and make sure  
10 they're using the right materials, the right tools. Paperwork's  
11 involved. I take care of some of that.

12 Q. And do you have a set of, a number of contractors that you  
13 have to look at every week, or --

14 A. No. It fluctuates.

15 Q. Do they give you an assignment that -- oh, we want you to go  
16 out and look at this contractor this week, this contractor next  
17 week or --

18 A. It fluctuates. Sometimes it could be the start of the job to  
19 the end of the job. Or if you're filling in, if somebody's on  
20 vacation, you would fill in for --

21 Q. I see.

22 A. -- another inspector.

23 Q. And the consequences of a bad actor within your job that  
24 you've inspected and they are doing poorly, what is the, what's  
25 the recourse?

1 A. What do you mean by that, a bad --

2 Q. If you're inspecting someone and they're not performing work  
3 up to the standards, what do you do?

4 A. I could talk to them and make sure they're doing it the right  
5 way. Or if it's a situation that's not -- you know, they're still  
6 sloppy, I will talk to my supervisor and mention it.

7 Q. So do you write them up and write a report and anything like  
8 that?

9 A. I haven't done it yet. I haven't been asked to write a  
10 report. But if there's any issues, I will talk to my supervisor.

11 Q. Okay. And so as inspector on the day of the accident -- you  
12 weren't there as an inspector, I trust.

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. So let's go ahead and have you describe your day from  
15 the moment you heard about this accident until you left the scene.  
16 If you could describe every little detail, full names of people  
17 you saw, what their job titles are, any kind of thing that would  
18 give us a reference to time, like it was shortly after lunch or if  
19 it was, you know, 12:15. Any kind of timestamp you can give us  
20 for anything as you're telling us this story and who you saw, all  
21 that.

22 A. I got up in the morning. I was cutting bushes outside. My  
23 wife came out and said, hey, your phone rang. She brought it to  
24 me. Ricky had called at that time. I think it was 11, 11:30.

25 Q. Last names, please.



1 A. Oh. Ricky Boudier had called me. I called him back. I said,  
2 hey, you know, what's going on? He explained that he thought --  
3 he called dispatch and said Ken was coming out to the job. So he  
4 thought it was me. And I said, no, I don't -- it wasn't me,  
5 Ricky. So I said, let me find out.

6 So I called dispatch. I don't know who I spoke to there.  
7 And asked them, were you trying to get a hold of me to go out and  
8 help Ricky? And they said, no, no, that was Ken O'Neil. As soon  
9 as he's done with his job, he was going to go out and help Ricky.  
10 I said, okay. I got off the phone with dispatch and I called  
11 Jason Trimble. And I asked Jason what was going on, and he said  
12 that we have a -- we have gas. We got 80 gas in the sewer and  
13 that, you know, we got a lot going on here. And I said, do you  
14 need any help? And he said yes. I said, okay.

15 So I went in the house, took a quick shower, got my stuff  
16 together, you know, my car -- truck and everything, and I ran down  
17 there. Called Jason just to make sure I had the address. He  
18 said, I don't know, 202 Springdale Lane. I said, okay, be right  
19 there.

20 Once I pulled into development and pulled up behind -- I  
21 think there were two fire trucks in my way. And I believe that  
22 one -- I think it was probably right around here. As soon as I  
23 pulled in right behind the truck, put it in park, that's when the  
24 house blew up.

25 Got out of the car, grabbed my helmet, started running down

1 there calling out their names. Ran around the whole property.  
2 Came up. When I came up, I saw Rob. Rob was under all the  
3 material.

4 MR. DOWNS: Last name.

5 MR. FITZPATRICK: Rob Lopez was under all the material.

6 I helped get him up and bring him across the street. I'm not  
7 sure which house it was. It was just -- no. No, sir. It had a  
8 tree, and it was real high. It could have been -- maybe it was  
9 this one, 193.

10 Then I went back, and as I was going back, a fireman said,  
11 hey, here's another one. Went to help him up, and that was Jason  
12 Trimble. I helped get him up and bring him to the tree where Rob  
13 Lopez was. And at that time, I ran back down and ran around the  
14 house again, and it wasn't until the fire department found Ricky.

15 Now I just remembered something, if it helps. Once I got out  
16 of the car and started running down, the LASA guy, sewer company  
17 -- I don't know his name -- had kind of stumbled out, and I made  
18 sure that fire department had gotten -- taken care of him first.  
19 Then I ran down there and got Rob and -- Rob Lopez and Jason  
20 Trimble.

21 BY MR. EVANS:

22 Q. Okay. So in the conversations you had with Jason when you  
23 were talking about, hey, do you need a hand, and he says, yeah, I  
24 could use a hand. So with -- you're an inspector, but are you  
25 also qualified as a -- because you worked in the C&M before, you

1 could do all the other tasks, like leaks and --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- pinching lines and all that stuff?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That would have been second nature to you?

6 A. Sure. Yes.

7 Q. And he knew your background, so he wouldn't have any problem  
8 at all having someone with your qualifications to come up and --

9 A. And help. Yes.

10 Q. -- help out. Okay. So the -- any idea of the time you  
11 pulled into that parking spot?

12 A. I want to say around 11:30. No, sorry. Well, maybe 12. A  
13 quarter after 12, 12:30.

14 Q. Okay. And as far as the -- when you -- I don't know if you  
15 had time or not, but when you pulled into the spot, did you smell  
16 gas at that time?

17 A. No. I had the air conditioner on in the truck.

18 Q. So when you opened the door, when -- did you open the door  
19 after the explosion or --

20 A. No. Just as -- put it right in park. That's when the house  
21 went up.

22 Q. So you were completely in your car when the house --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- when the house went up? Okay. And for you to be called  
25 that day or for you to call, is the situation for you to be in the

1 -- you weren't one of the guys that were being paid for call-up at  
2 that day?

3 A. No. No.

4 Q. Now how did you -- how did they get to you? I mean --

5 A. It was more, it was more where Ricky -- I'm not sure how, but  
6 Ricky had mentioned -- had said to me, are you coming out here? I  
7 guess he would have called dispatch to get some help. So they  
8 probably said -- because it's Ken O'Neil, they probably said, oh,  
9 we'll send Ken out there. And Ricky's thinking it's Ken -- me,  
10 Ken Fitzpatrick.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. That's why he probably called me.

13 Q. Okay. So when you arrived on scene, did you find it odd that  
14 there was just the three people there, of UGI?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You didn't?

17 A. I didn't know what was going on anyway, you know, what was  
18 happening besides the 80 gas in the sewer. That's it.

19 Q. Had you had previous experience with gas explosions?

20 A. No. No, I -- afterwards, but -- you know, doing locates for  
21 after something. Millersville.

22 Q. Okay. Had you -- you're trained with regard to evacuating  
23 people?

24 A. Um-hum.

25 Q. Describe for us the process of when you need to evacuate.

1 A. If I'm coming up to a job and there's gas, I'm smelling gas,  
2 blowing gas, I'll do my investigation. I'll get to a point where  
3 I come up to a house foundation. If I'm getting LEL readings at  
4 the house foundation, I'll try to get in the house to see what I'm  
5 getting in the house. If it's over 20 percent LEL, then I got to  
6 get everybody out. But I'm monitoring that, you know, situation  
7 to make sure that it doesn't get to that 20% LEL in the house.

8 Q. What about the -- what is the -- what's your training with  
9 regard to power, turning the power off?

10 A. Well, I -- with me, if there's gas in the house and I can't  
11 -- you know, if it's 10 and it goes up to maybe 12, 15, I'll call  
12 dispatch and have them call to have the power shut off.

13 Q. Is that your own personal preference, or is that the training  
14 you received?

15 A. That's part of the training.

16 MR. EVANS: Okay. Thank you. I don't have any questions  
17 right now, but I'm sure I will later. Ed?

18 MR. DOWNS: Downs, NTSB.

19 BY MR. DOWNS:

20 Q. Sean, thank you so much for joining us today. I'm going to  
21 walk through a little bit again of what you've already described,  
22 just to make sure I'm following it. You indicated that you had  
23 come up in your truck. Is it a company truck?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is it a company, like, a utility truck or pick-up truck or --

1 A. UGI. It's an F250.

2 Q. F250. Okay. And you came up the road heading west on  
3 Springdale --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and you indicated there were two fire trucks on the road -  
6 -

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- in front of you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You stopped behind the second one, the one that was close --

11 A. The last one, yes.

12 Q. -- the last one that was there? And it blocked the road  
13 completely. You couldn't get past the fire truck?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And no sooner you had stopped the vehicle, put it in  
16 park, you said, and then that's when the explosion --

17 A. The house -- yes.

18 Q. You indicated that you saw the LASA person?

19 A. He had walked out, yes.

20 Q. He had walked out. You helped that person to a tree or  
21 something?

22 A. He was on the tree. No, I'm sorry. On the street. He came,  
23 he came in the street in a daze, walking down this way.

24 Q. So he was walking eastbound just east of the circle, kind of  
25 in a daze?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. He hadn't quite reached the fire trucks, which were where  
3 about roughly?

4 A. Well, let's see. If I'm parked over here, the trucks were  
5 about here. They were more like --

6 Q. Say, in front of the 190 and 198 --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- 194 driveway? Would that be a good description? And you  
9 saw him walking up here and you recognized that he was obviously  
10 hurt?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you helped him to --

13 A. I called for one of the firemen, and at that point, somebody  
14 came over. Where he came out of, I don't know. I'm sure he came  
15 down the street, and he helped him.

16 Q. Helped him. And you handed that person off --

17 A. Off to him, yes, to --

18 Q. Him, and then you continued in this direction?

19 A. That's when I continued -- I ran down the street calling  
20 their names.

21 Q. The two employees that you --

22 A. Three. Yes.

23 Q. Three employees that you knew were there. Okay.

24 A. I went around the house --

25 Q. So you went around to the west side of the house. Okay, and

1 you worked your way around?

2 A. All the way around.

3 Q. All the way around. Did you go up between the 202, 206 house  
4 or --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So you worked your way up through here.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay, between the two. And what happened when you --

9 A. Rob Lopez was here.

10 Q. He was right by the curb line at the 206 house?

11 A. Yes. I helped him across the street to the tree line.

12 Q. To the tree. Okay. You went back --

13 A. And then I came back. And a fireman said he found someone  
14 else at the driver's side door, and that was Jason Trimble.

15 Q. That was Jason. And you helped Jason?

16 A. I helped Jason over to tree. And then I ran around the house  
17 again calling for Ricky and was --

18 Q. Same path you had followed --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- around to the west, and looking for Ricky?

21 A. Right, and didn't find him.

22 Q. Didn't find him. Okay. How was -- when you're working your  
23 way around the house, how was the path working your way around the  
24 house? Was there obstructions and everything?

25 A. Oh, I was running on everything.



1 Q. So you were able to make your way through, but it was a  
2 little bit of an effort?

3 A. I did. It was tough. Yes.

4 Q. Did you get hurt in any manner or --

5 A. I did step on a nail.

6 Q. Stepped on a nail. Okay.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you were back in here, and then a firefighter said they  
9 found Ricky; is that what happened?

10 A. Well, that was about an hour later.

11 Q. About an hour later.

12 A. At that point --

13 Q. In other words, after you made the second go-around, what did  
14 you do for about the next hour or so?

15 A. I'm sorry about this.

16 Q. No, that's okay. Just want to reconstruct.

17 A. When I got out of the truck, when the house already blew up,  
18 I got on the phone. I'm sorry.

19 Q. That's okay.

20 A. I called dispatch, told them we need to get people down here  
21 now. We had an explosion.

22 Q. Did you describe the explosion? Okay.

23 A. I got off the phone with dispatch, then I called Jose  
24 Figueroa. He didn't immediately get the phone. So I waited, and  
25 then Jose called me again.

1 Q. Called you back.

2 A. And he said he was on his way at that point, and then I went  
3 around and picked up Rob Lopez and Jason Trimble.

4 Q. You worked your way around and picked up Rob and Jason.

5 A. Yes. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And then what happened right after that? You made the  
7 second go-around. You didn't see anybody.

8 A. I didn't see anybody. I went to check Rob Lopez and Jason  
9 Trimble. Ken Henry was helping them out.

10 Q. Okay. He's a UGI employee or --

11 A. Yes. Yes. And at that point, I think Jose showed up on the  
12 job. Jose was trying to find out what was going on here and --  
13 I'm trying to remember if -- no, I didn't go back.

14 At that point I guess Jose must -- he was on the phone making  
15 phone calls. And then I said to Jose, we need to shut down the  
16 main. So Kenny and I went up the street, and at that point, he  
17 was making sure that it was the valve number, which I looked on  
18 the computer in my car and made sure of the valve number. With  
19 that, he said, hold on. We had the tools down the street.

20 Q. Tools were in your truck or --

21 A. Yes, from my truck.

22 Q. So you had to back your truck up or --

23 A. No. No, I carried them down.

24 Q. You go to your truck, and then hand-carry the tools to the  
25 valve?

1 A. Yes, Kenny Henry and I brought the tools down here. Chet  
2 Wentz (ph.) called, are you sure that that's the valve number? I  
3 said yes. And then he said, make sure that's the valve number.  
4 And I said, it's a one-way feed; it's the only valve here. And he  
5 said, you could turn it off. So I turned the gas off.

6 Q. And is that standard procedure per your SOP for UGI?

7 A. To turn -- yes.

8 Q. And your computer would have a map in there in terms of  
9 showing the gas main --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- the valve numbers and all that good stuff?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Very good. Before you did that, did you have any discussion  
14 with any of the firefighters about the gas flow?

15 A. No, not at that point. They were -- later on, they had asked  
16 me if it was possible to go down here. At that time I told them  
17 they would have to wait because I didn't know if there was  
18 pressure in here. I went to this house here, 201.

19 Q. Okay. We might be getting ahead of ourselves a little bit.  
20 So let's go back for a second. You and the other fellow closed  
21 the valve.

22 A. Closed the valve off.

23 Q. Okay. Let's start at that point, and walk me through step by  
24 step as best you can remember. I realize I'm taxing your  
25 recollection.

1 A. I came back down after we shut it off, after talking to Chet,  
2 making sure that that was the valve number. I think I just came  
3 back and just kind of looked around, tried to figure out did they  
4 find Ricky or not. And then I think at that point, it was that  
5 time later that Jose identified Ricky and was pretty distraught  
6 about it. And I brought up to Jose, we should shut off the valves  
7 at the houses. By the time I got here, it was off. Finding out  
8 that Ken Henry had already --

9 Q. Had already -- somebody --

10 A. -- shut off.

11 Q. -- had shut it off. Okay.

12 A. But I wanted -- because the fire department, they wanted to  
13 get there as soon as they could, I went over here and opened the  
14 valve and there was no pressure at the end of the line.

15 Q. And the purpose of opening the valve would be to allow it to  
16 vent off?

17 A. To vent off, but also to make sure there's no pressure in the  
18 line if somebody else is going to work.

19 Q. I see.

20 A. And I didn't get anything out of here. So I didn't hear  
21 anything, didn't feel anything.

22 Q. And that told you that the line, at least the main between  
23 here and back here at the valve, was neutral?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Without pressure.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And that -- is that process per your SOP of UGI to  
3 shut valves off at the individual houses near a site?

4 A. We would shut it off.

5 Q. Okay. But you only shut this one off. You didn't go to the  
6 others or --

7 A. I checked the others and they were off also. And Ken --

8 Q. So somebody else had already --

9 A. Somebody else was in before me to shut off the valves.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know who that was or --

11 A. Well, I know Ken Henry was helping. There were other people  
12 from Utilities that had showed up that were also helping, making  
13 sure all the, all the risers were shut.

14 Q. Okay. Okay, so you went back and you found there was no  
15 pressure at the 201 house, right? What did you do next?

16 A. Well, here, here. I started going down the street. And then  
17 fire department wanted to come over to go, and I -- there was no  
18 pressure in anything, no build-up. So then they went and did  
19 their -- I let them in to do their work. I don't know what  
20 exactly. I guess to get to 206.

21 Q. Okay. When you first arrived and the explosion occurred and  
22 there were two fire trucks in front of you, do you remember where  
23 the firefighters were to those two trucks?

24 A. When the explosion happened, I think there were firefighters  
25 down here. But I'm not 100%.

1 Q. Between 206 and 202.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You're not sure. You didn't see them.

4 A. I think I did. So much going on, I'm not 100%.

5 Q. Okay. And when you worked your way down to do a search  
6 around the property, around the 206 property, did you see -- when  
7 you got down to the cul-de-sac, did you see any firefighters in  
8 the cul-de-sac?

9 A. No, I can't recall.

10 Q. You don't recall?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Very good. And the second time you worked your way  
13 around the 206 house, do you remember if you saw any firefighters?

14 A. At that point, when I had Rob brought over here, somebody --  
15 one of the firefighters said, there's somebody over here. That  
16 was Jason Trimble.

17 Q. That was Jason. Okay. Was there any fire suppression going  
18 on? Were they putting water on anything? Do you remember?

19 A. That's when I thought I saw maybe some firemen down here at  
20 the time, squirting this area. Now I don't know if it was on the  
21 house. I mean --

22 Q. Right.

23 A. -- I just showed up, so it was gone.

24 Q. Very good. Okay. So fast-forward a little bit. You've done  
25 your two sweeps and you've checked on your buddies and everything,

1 and you're back in this area. You'd already checked the shut-off  
2 valves of several of these places along the northern side of  
3 Springdale, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you check any on the southern side of Springdale?

6 A. No, the other crew --

7 Q. It was a different crew that was working that side?

8 A. That was -- yes.

9 Q. Very good. Okay. How far up did you go? Do you remember?  
10 That's 193, 187 --

11 A. I think 187 is where I stopped and somebody else had already  
12 swept this way.

13 Q. And as far as you found, all the valves were closed.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Very good. Okay. Then what happened after that?

16 A. Then I pretty much stayed to myself. Finding out -- Jose  
17 found out that Ricky was here, and he was gone. So I kind of just  
18 roamed around, I mean, not knowing what else to do and --

19 Q. Was UGI management arriving at that point, or supervisors or  
20 anything like that?

21 A. Well, Jose was there.

22 Q. Jose was there.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. He was the only supervisor that you were aware of?

25 A. Yeah. I'm sure there were others that showed up later. I

1 wouldn't know.

2 Q. Okay. All right, very good. Let me ask you this. In, kind  
3 of, retrospect, Sean, knowing what you know now, okay? Having all  
4 the different information right out in front of you, would you  
5 have done anything differently in terms of your arrival at the  
6 site or responding to the call?

7 A. No, I probably would have done the same as I (indiscernible).

8 Q. Same. Very good. Sometimes you think, you know, in your  
9 mind later, oh geez, I should have come around this way instead of  
10 that way and that kind of thing. But nothing that you would have  
11 done differently.

12 A. No.

13 Q. Very good.

14 MR. DOWNS: All right, that concludes my questions for the  
15 moment.

16 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Terri Cooper Smith, PA PUC.

17 BY MS. COOPER-SMITH:

18 Q. You mentioned earlier that Rick was under the impression that  
19 a Ken was coming. He thought it was you, but it actually -- I  
20 thought you said Ken O'Neil.

21 A. Ken O'Neil. Ken O'Neil.

22 Q. Was Ken O'Neil actually dispatched to --

23 A. No. Ken, I believe, was on -- he was doing something else,  
24 and then he was heading over to help Ricky.

25 Q. Oh, okay. But then another Ken was on-site. That was Ken



1 Henry?

2 A. Ken Henry. And Ken Henry came after me, because he brought  
3 the backhoe.

4 Q. Okay. So did Ken Henry come before Ken O'Neil?

5 A. That I don't know.

6 Q. You don't know? Okay.

7 A. Excuse me.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. No. I'm sorry. Ken Henry did, I believe, show up before Ken  
10 O'Neil, only because he was helping me with Rob Lopez and Jason  
11 Trimble.

12 Q. Right. Okay. And is -- this isn't your first time  
13 responding to a UGI emergency; am I correct?

14 A. I'd been on emergencies, but not like this, no.

15 Q. Not like this. Okay. What type of training have you  
16 received in terms of emergency response?

17 A. As to?

18 Q. As to what to do, you know, in a situation, you know, a major  
19 leak?

20 A. Well, I mean, I'm not sure what exactly was going on there  
21 and what they were doing. I mean, if it, if it's a -- if Ricky  
22 was getting 80 gas in the sewer, I would probably bore a hole  
23 along the main and the service and hit the foundation of the  
24 house, just to see what I was getting.

25 Q. Okay. And have you ever had any training through UGI that

1 was part of a drill, an emergency drill, where a scenario was  
2 given to you and, I guess, along with other emergency responders,  
3 to see how to respond in an emergency situation?

4 A. We have OQ training that we go through, but you know, we  
5 don't have something like that to --

6 MR. EVANS: Nothing with the fire department?

7 MR. FITZPATRICK: Right.

8 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Okay.

9 BY MS. COOPER-SMITH:

10 Q. And not just, like, a mock drill through UGI where, you know,  
11 you, maybe along with other responders, would be in a scenario  
12 where they say, okay, here's what you have; you have a house that  
13 has, you know, 30 gas -- and it doesn't necessarily have to be  
14 this type of situation. But anywhere where it's, like, a roleplay  
15 type of situation --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- where you know how to -- okay. You said that you spoke  
18 directly to Chet Wentz?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you recall when that would have been?

21 A. Timewise, no.

22 Q. Okay. But Chet Wentz gave his approval to shut off that  
23 valve at Burr Oak --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and Springdale, right? Okay. And lastly, you went around

1 -- you circled the house, the perimeter of 206 twice. There was  
2 debris everywhere. Were you able to get around it without that  
3 much -- I mean, I know you said you got a nail? I think you --

4 A. I stepped on a nail.

5 Q. You stepped on a nail. Were you able to get around that  
6 house without much of a impedance?

7 A. It was, it was difficult. But, you know, at that point,  
8 three men -- I'm going to move.

9 Q. Were you, were you moving debris as you --

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay, so you were just --

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. -- stepping over debris and -- okay.

14 A. Right, and watching -- trying to watch where I'm walking.

15 Q. Okay. Okay.

16 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Okay, that is all. Thank you.

17 MR. FITZPATRICK: Okay.

18 MR. MAURER: Nothing right now.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Name?

20 MR. KRIEGER: I have a few questions.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Name.

22 MR. KRIEGER: Robert Krieger. Let me just make sure -- some  
23 of it's just very simple.

24 BY MR. KRIEGER:

25 Q. When you parked -- and I know you said this, but where was

1 the fire truck again, that you pulled behind? What was the  
2 address?

3 A. So I was here, say, in front of 186. The address. They were  
4 here. Like here, and I believe maybe one blocking in front of,  
5 maybe, 190.

6 Q. So approximately 190. Okay. And I think you answered that.  
7 I just, I missed that in my -- and you kind of got, you got hit  
8 with a whirlwind of questions around what you did and when and  
9 those types of things. There was a lot that was going on there.  
10 I'm just trying to frame, kind of, the duration of time. I mean,  
11 you know, obviously you went around the building a couple of  
12 times. Was this minutes? Was this over the course of an hour?  
13 What was the timeframe?

14 A. At what point --

15 Q. Well, Rick Downs was asking you a lot of questions from the  
16 time you showed up until you, you know, saw the individuals. You  
17 went and helped those individuals. You walked around the  
18 building. Do you check the -- you checked to see that the meters  
19 were locked off. You checked -- you know, you kind of went back  
20 and saw other ones locked off, and you also had mentioned about  
21 going and shutting that valve off. Just kind of the duration.  
22 Because it seemed like there was really a lot going on and I just,  
23 you know -- do you have kind of a -- just a timeframe?

24 A. Well, pulling up and then getting out, taking care of that,  
25 talking with Jose, talking with Chet --

1 Q. Let me, let me just put it another way, Sean.

2 A. Yeah, let's --

3 Q. Was this, was this over a couple of minutes? Was this a half  
4 an hour? Was it an hour?

5 A. Maybe a half hour to an hour.

6 Q. Half an hour to an hour.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay, that's all I was, I was getting at, is because I think  
9 we kind of compressed all of that into a very small --

10 A. Right.

11 Q. -- you know, series of activities. I just want to make sure  
12 -- yeah, and that was -- you had a lot going on --

13 A. Half-hour to an hour, yeah.

14 Q. -- over a course of a period of time. Okay.

15 MR. KRIEGER: That's the only question I had. Thanks.

16 MR. EVANS: Ed, you have some questions?

17 MR. KENDALL: Yeah, I have some. Edward Kendall, NTSB.

18 BY MR. KENDALL:

19 Q. Ken, when you were there after the accident at issue, did you  
20 talk to any neighbors while on-scene?

21 A. No. I didn't want to talk to anybody except for UGI, fire  
22 department, people involved.

23 Q. Okay. And in your conversations, before you reached the  
24 accident scene, with Ricky, did he say anything to you regarding  
25 what was going on?

1 A. Just that they were getting 80 gas in the sewer.

2 Q. Okay, did he say -- did he tell you why they were getting 80  
3 gas? Did he have -- did he say anything about tapping tees or  
4 anything like that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. So all you knew going into it is that there was 80 gas  
7 in the sewer.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. Did he say anything -- any other readings he had other than  
10 the 80 gas in the sewer?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And the only other person you talked to before you got to the  
13 scene was Jason?

14 A. And dispatch.

15 Q. And dispatch. Okay.

16 MR. KENDALL: Those are all the questions I have.

17 MR. EVANS: Okay, just a few questions. So --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Name?

19 MR. EVANS: Name. Oh, Roger Evans. Yeah. Thank you.

20 BY MR. EVANS:

21 Q. So your call with Chet was brief, and that was only for the  
22 information to go ahead and close the valve. That was the only  
23 thing you --

24 A. Making sure that it was the right valve.

25 Q. And did he come to the scene later on of that day? Did you

1 see him there?

2 A. Not that I'm aware of.

3 Q. Okay. And there was, there was something about this scene  
4 that was remarkable, I guess. It was -- there was a -- you know,  
5 when we came up to the scene, we saw the excavated hole, you know,  
6 right there where someone was going down to get at the -- we know  
7 now that they were trying to get to the main to squeeze it. We  
8 also found the meter disconnected from the house. And we've, we  
9 have heard that some of the employees know or it's understood  
10 that, if you pull a meter out, the excess flow valve will stop the  
11 flow of the gas to the, to the meter. Have you practiced that  
12 yourself in your --

13 A. The flow limiter.

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. It tripped the flow limiter.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. In your own career with UGI, have you done something of that  
19 sort?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What would be the occasion you'd want to do that?

22 A. If your lockwing valve -- your riser comes up.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. You have the lockwing valve on top.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. If it's leaking underneath there, okay, I would look in  
2 MapFrame, make sure there's a flow limiter on it. And then what  
3 you could do is, before you do that, you could open up the lock --  
4 you could take the top off, okay, the union, and you could trip it  
5 by opening up the valve.

6 Q. So then you would -- that canceled out the leak at the meter  
7 there, correct?

8 A. What do you mean?

9 MR. DOWNS: The valve would have closed.

10 MR. EVANS: The valve --

11 MR. FITZPATRICK: Yes. The flow limiter would have kicked.

12 MR. EVANS: Would have kicked and no more flow?

13 MR. FITZPATRICK: It hisses out a little, a piss -- excuse  
14 me.

15 MS. COOPER-SMITH: It's all right.

16 MR. EVANS: It blows gas (indiscernible) --

17 MR. FITZPATRICK: Yes, it blows out a little, yes. Very  
18 little.

19 BY MR. EVANS:

20 Q. So in your experience in all the time at UGI, has that been  
21 something that some of the C&M guys just kind of -- they know  
22 that'll happen and they do it, or is that taught?

23 A. No, you -- that's part of practice. I mean, you have control  
24 when you open that valve. If it doesn't blow, there's no flow  
25 limiter.



1 Q. Right.

2 A. Do you understand?

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. So I mean, we do it. Is it common practice? Yeah. We do  
5 that. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. So if you have, you know, just -- we just talked to a  
7 lady who reported this incident, right? She's walking down the  
8 street, and all of a sudden, she gets hit with gas odor that's,  
9 like, almost -- she stops in her tracks kind of thing. So she  
10 smelled gas pretty strongly, right? So the fact that you get a --  
11 when we know that we have a bar hole near the capping tee, we have  
12 high gas there and we know that. We know there's another bar hole  
13 pretty close by, and we have high gas there. The fact that the  
14 meter was disconnected on this home when we went to the scene --  
15 it was completely disconnected -- is that an indication that the  
16 problem was at the meter and -- more so than the problem at the,  
17 at the tapping tee?

18 A. That I don't know. I don't know what was going through their  
19 minds at the time. I didn't even hear about it, that it was  
20 disconnected. So I really don't know, but I guess they're trying  
21 to make it safe so that gas isn't going into the house if there's  
22 an issue.

23 Q. Would that lead one to believe that there's -- something in  
24 the house is releasing gas more so than the gas coming out of the  
25 tapping tee, perhaps?

1 A. The gas is going to follow the easiest way. I mean, I don't  
2 know what's, you know, belowground, what they were doing. Maybe  
3 they thought that maybe it was following the casing pipe. Or you  
4 know, it could follow the casing pipe, water going into the house,  
5 even the sewer line. And maybe that's why -- I don't know, maybe  
6 they -- disconnecting it would maybe help lessen the gas up  
7 against the foundation or in the house?

8 Q. I see. So your conversations with -- we have a lot of Kens  
9 here. You actually had a conversation with Ken O'Neil and Ken  
10 Henry?

11 A. No. No, just when Ken Henry showed up.

12 Q. When Ken Henry showed up.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Okay. The decision they made early on to excavate  
15 when the gas had already reached a certain level -- let's say an  
16 LEL -- the building hit LEL, let's say, and they're excavating  
17 versus going back to, perhaps, close the valve. When you look at  
18 that in your own -- if you -- let's say you're on-scene and you're  
19 calling the shots here, would you look at that from the standpoint  
20 of, well, it's going to take just as long for the line to bleed  
21 off as it is going to be for -- to pinch it? Or would you have  
22 gone for the valve versus the pinch?

23 A. No. I would have pinched.

24 Q. You would have pinched.

25 A. That's quite a -- that is -- let me tell you, my shins hurt

1 for 3 days. Running down the street -- no. I don't think that  
2 would have helped, plus you still have pressure in the line once  
3 you even turn that valve off.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. No, I think squeezing off the main was --

6 Q. The logical thing to do.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MR. EVANS: Okay, that's all I have.

10 MR. DOWNS: A follow-up question. Downs.

11 BY MR. DOWNS:

12 Q. Sean, let me ask you about the emergency standby arrangement  
13 you had. You're on a, you were on a standby status, or were you  
14 on --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- regular duty that particular day?

17 A. No, I wasn't even on at all.

18 Q. You weren't even on at all?

19 A. No. My phone stays on. I mean, sorry if it sounds -- I mean  
20 --

21 Q. No, we just had a witness who described a standby process  
22 that you can sign up --

23 A. Yeah. I mean, yes, you can sign up.

24 Q. Right, and I didn't know the arrangement you had with the  
25 company on this particular event.

1 A. No, my phone's on. My wife hears it. You know, it depends  
2 on who it is.

3 Q. So you weren't even on the clock, weren't even on standby --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- status at all.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you have standby status that you sign up for on occasion?

8 A. Yes. Yes.

9 Q. But not on this particular --

10 A. No, not this one.

11 Q. Okay. How often do you sign up for stand-by? Top of your  
12 head.

13 A. I don't know. If I'm on once a month, maybe an extra week.

14 Q. Something in that --

15 A. Yeah. That's it, yeah.

16 Q. -- in that general range? Okay. The standby status, the way  
17 it was described to us, the employee could sign up voluntarily.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. There's a little bit of premium pay that's provided for that  
20 standby time, and that it's incumbent -- pretty much required that  
21 you answer the phone --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- for that arrangement. Is that how it works?

24 A. Sure.

25 Q. Okay. And it's been your experience that you get the calls

1 when you sign up, that it always happens you get a call when  
2 you're on standby or rarely or --

3 A. No. No.

4 Q. So it's rare.

5 A. No, it's rare.

6 Q. Okay. So would you say it's 10% of the time, 15%? Top of  
7 your head. Best guess.

8 A. I don't know. Maybe 15. It's not a lot.

9 Q. Not that many?

10 A. You know, it depends. Winter months, sometimes it's a little  
11 more because people are using more gas.

12 Q. Okay. Very good. And in this particular case, you were just  
13 at home off-duty entirely.

14 A. Cutting bushes. Yeah.

15 Q. And you get the call, and your colleague needed help.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Why would they call you as opposed to calling dispatch and  
18 say, send me more crew?

19 A. Well, when Ricky called dispatch, he had mentioned he needed  
20 help, and they said, we'll send Ken out.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. So Ricky thought of me. So that's why he called me. And  
23 then my wife said the phone rang. And when Ricky calls, I go.

24 Q. Very good. You were that tight with Ricky in terms of, when  
25 you got a call like that, you knew it was very --

1 A. Well, I knew it was something serious.

2 Q. -- serious. Something serious.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And has this ever happened before, when you get a call  
5 when you're off-duty from somebody?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The last time this happened? Best guess, top-of-your-head  
8 recollection.

9 A. Probably in the winter. Wintertime.

10 Q. Last winter?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay, so we're talking 6 months or so --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- prior? Okay. What was that particular call about?  
15 Similar leak? Gas leak?

16 A. We had -- no. That was more of -- when it snowed, we had a  
17 lot of houses that the snow blew up against the regulator. And  
18 when it can't breathe, then it shuts everything down, so we had to  
19 clear out the regulators.

20 Q. I see.

21 A. So it was --

22 Q. Once it's cleared, it functions correctly?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So it sounds like a straightforward fix, right? Sean, you  
25 indicated that you pulled up in your truck, you had just put it in

1 park, and --

2 A. The house --

3 Q. -- the explosion went. Were your windows and everything up?

4 Your air conditioning --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- on, I think you mentioned --

7 A. Yeah, the air conditioning was on and --

8 Q. -- as you were pulling up?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. My question here is, by chance, did you hear any noises as  
11 you were pulling up behind the fire truck?

12 A. No. No noises.

13 Q. No noises? Explosion occurred, then you made a call  
14 immediately, you said?

15 A. I got out of the car. As I was running, I made a call to  
16 dispatch.

17 Q. Okay, great. Did you hear any noises when you got out of the  
18 car?

19 A. No. It was a dead silence.

20 Q. Dead silence. Okay.

21 A. Well, the only noise I heard was the alarm on the truck.

22 Q. Which alarm on which truck?

23 A. The street truck. The street truck that Robert Lopez brought  
24 out was parked here.

25 Q. Okay, that's the utility truck.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. It's right in front of the 206 building?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what kind of alarm is that?

5 A. Just like a siren. Like someone breaking in a vehicle.

6 Q. Is it a -- it's a security alarm --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- for the vehicle, or is it some other instrument that's  
9 alarming?

10 A. No. I think what it was was just that the airbags all blew  
11 out and probably shook the truck and -- you know, like a security  
12 alarm sound.

13 Q. It sounded like a security alarm.

14 A. That's it. Yeah.

15 Q. Is that a feature that your trucks would normally have?

16 A. That I don't know.

17 Q. You don't know. In other words, there's no equipment in the  
18 truck that would alarm like that noise that would be routine? In  
19 other words, a gas meter or something.

20 A. Not that I know of, because this is a newer vehicle than I'm  
21 used to working with. We just got that. I don't know what's  
22 exactly in that vehicle.

23 Q. Okay, but it sounded like a security alarm.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Somebody breaks a window in the car --



1 A. Right, right. Yeah.

2 Q. -- or something, that kind of noise. Okay, very good.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. My colleague Roger had asked you a little bit about  
5 the meter disconnection process. And we addressed that a little  
6 bit and the excess flow limiter capacity, meaning sometimes a crew  
7 would open the union on the, on the meter itself to allow the gas  
8 to escape, which would trip the excess flow valve, correct? Would  
9 that just be the one union, or would it be both unions on the  
10 meter itself? In other words, why would a crew disconnect  
11 entirely a meter at a particular residence?

12 A. So you're -- there's two valves. There's a convenience valve  
13 --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- and a valve on the meter.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. The valve on the meter is the one I would disconnect.

18 Q. Okay. But why would the meter have been completely  
19 disconnected in this particular case? Would there be a reason  
20 that a crew would do that?

21 A. That I -- no. That I don't know. I don't know what was  
22 going on, what they were doing.

23 Q. I'm not a gas guy, so forgive me if I ask the silly question,  
24 but it seems to me that the only reason you would disconnect a  
25 meter completely is to replace the meter. Would that make sense?

1 A. It could, I guess. I mean --

2 Q. Would that be the only reason?

3 A. Unless they had issues I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. I'm just trying to piece together in my mind what  
5 would account for a fully disconnected meter here as opposed to,  
6 say, just the valve being closed and a, and a union being open,  
7 separated in order for the gas to escape and allow the limiter to  
8 trip.

9 A. Well, what if they thought there was a leak on the surface?

10 Q. That's my thinking, is what are the other factors that might  
11 come into play here?

12 A. Leak on the surface. They could trip the flow limiter.  
13 That's all the way at the tee. You know, if there's an issue on  
14 the surface heading to the house, that would lessen the gas flow  
15 coming through.

16 Q. And that would account for that process?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Very good. Anything else you can think about regarding the  
19 complete disconnection of the meter?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No? Very good.

22 MR. DOWNS: Okay, I'll pass it on to the next person.

23 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Terri Cooper Smith, PUC.

24 BY MS. COOPER-SMITH:

25 Q. Just one question regarding the meter. If you take off one

1 side of the meter as opposed to like he was just describing,  
2 taking off the whole, the whole thing, is that something that you  
3 would need approval from your superior to do, or is it something  
4 that you would just be able to do on -- and when I say you, I  
5 don't mean you specifically. I mean a crew or mechanic or  
6 whoever's out there. Is there something that says you cannot do  
7 anything with this meter unless you talk to or get approval from a  
8 supervisor or -- because you had said that it's something that you  
9 guys do often, so --

10 A. I shouldn't say us guys. I should say I would. They were  
11 probably talking to Jason. I mean, he's the supervisor on-site.  
12 So I don't know what their situation was.

13 Q. But normally, you would ask the supervisor, should I --

14 A. Yeah, we all --

15 Q. You should ask the supervisor.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that in, is that in a procedure to do that, or is that  
18 just something that everybody kind of knows how to do?

19 A. Well, there's certain protocols that we would have to notify,  
20 like, dispatch or the supervisor. I think it's just something we  
21 do. I don't remember if it was something that's in there.

22 Q. Okay. It's something that you do, but it's something you  
23 would definitely get approval from a superior --

24 A. Yes. Yes.

25 Q. -- to do before you do it. Okay.

1 MS. COOPER-SMITH: That's my only question.

2 MR. MAURER: Nothing.

3 BY MR. KRIEGER:

4 Q. Just following up on -- Bob Krieger. Following up with Terri  
5 Cooper Smith's question, are you aware of times when meters would  
6 be pulled that individuals wouldn't communicate with the  
7 supervisor?

8 A. Am I aware?

9 Q. Like a meter changeout, as an example. If you're doing a  
10 meter changeout and you get an order to do that --

11 A. Meter changeout, yes. You have an order for that.

12 Q. You're going to go out. You're going to go out --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you're going to pull that meter --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- you're going to replace it.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You're qualified to do that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Yeah, so there's -- so it's -- would you agree it's  
21 situational-based if you're pulling a meter as to --

22 A. Right.

23 Q. -- the higher -- yeah, you're not communicating those  
24 activities, all activities day-to-day to the supervisor.

25 A. No. No. No.

1 MR. KRIEGER: Okay. All right. That's the only question I  
2 had.

3 MR. EVANS: Do you have one?

4 MR. KENDALL: Yeah. Edward Kendall, NTSB.

5 BY MR. KENDALL:

6 Q. Just to -- what was your normal work schedule?

7 A. My normal work schedule?

8 Q. As an inspector. You know, was it Monday to Friday, 9:00 to  
9 5:00?

10 A. Yeah. Monday to, Monday to Friday.

11 Q. And so then, basically anything outside of 9:00 to 5:00,  
12 either you'd be on call for the temporary duty or you would do  
13 overtime; is that correct?

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. Okay. And so --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- do you have inspectors who work the weekend as part of  
18 their schedule?

19 A. Unless there's jobs that require that, then sometimes maybe  
20 they would be 6 days a week inspecting.

21 Q. Okay. So if there were scheduled jobs for Saturday, you'd  
22 have an inspector for a Saturday.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But in -- but for the most part, it was generally 9:00 to  
25 5:00 --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- Monday to Friday job. And that would be the same for  
3 Ricky, too?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. KENDALL: Those are the only questions I have.

7 MR. EVANS: Roger Evans.

8 BY MR. EVANS:

9 Q. So in your almost 14 year-career at UGI, when you were on  
10 callout, did you ever not answer that phone?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You always answered the phone?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Let's go back to the meter again. Just want to cover  
15 that one more time. I mean, I can, I can understand what -- the  
16 logic you have about, okay, let's go ahead and pull the meter out,  
17 and if we think we have a leak in the surface line, then if we, if  
18 we yank the meter out, then if that's where the leak is, that's  
19 going to take care of that leak, pretty much. Correct?

20 A. Well now -- it depends on how much you have up against  
21 foundation, hoping that that'll drop.

22 Q. Right. Right. Right. But I mean the flow of the gas should  
23 stop at that point, right, when you take that meter out and you  
24 trip that valve? The excess flow --

25 A. It should stop that gas going through the surface.

1 Q. Okay. Okay. So if you're just doing that and you have, you  
2 know, you have an inlet to the meter and you have an outlet to the  
3 meter, right? So could the, could the technician just go ahead  
4 and say, okay, I'm just going to disconnect the inlet side and let  
5 it trip, and leave the meter where it is hanging on the side of  
6 the house?

7 A. I think it'd be kind of easier to just to get to that, to  
8 that lockwing valve and just take it off, take it off the union.

9 Q. That's all -- that's off -- that's between the house and  
10 the --

11 A. That's right on the riser.

12 Q. Okay. Yeah, then that makes sense. So the flow to the meter  
13 is shut off, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Yeah. So taking that off, you could get, you could get  
16 that --

17 A. We could shut the flow limiter.

18 Q. Right. So going this extra step of someone taking the meter  
19 off the wall, any ideas why someone would do that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No ideas?

22 A. To take the whole meter off? No. I don't, I don't know what  
23 was going on there.

24 Q. Have you ever been a call where you had a leak that you took  
25 the meter off, completely out of the system?

1 A. Just for a meter change.

2 Q. Okay. Okay. The training that you, that you received for,  
3 you know, let's say a call like this. When someone says, hey, we  
4 got an odor complaint. Shows up on your phone or whatever, and  
5 you have to go address an odor complaint, do you have a checklist  
6 that you work with to address that situation?

7 A. A checklist?

8 Q. Yes. Any sort of a checklist? Like I'm going to get my  
9 meter out. I'm going to maybe turn the power off. I'm going to  
10 do blah, blah, blah. Do you have anything like that in your --

11 A. Well, we use a GMI or an FI unit. And what we do is, like,  
12 for a main, we'll go along the main, get to a point with the FI  
13 unit where then we'll go GMI where we'll put bar holes in the  
14 ground and try to determine where the strongest reading is.

15 Q. Okay, let's do this. Let's pretend that we have an odor call  
16 at a home, and you're the guy that's going to make that visit.  
17 When you, when you get that call, walk us through what you're  
18 going to do. You know, chapter verse. What are you going to do?

19 A. Well, I'll make sure I have the right location, number one.  
20 Find out who made the call. If fire department's on the spot,  
21 I'll ask them questions. They'll tell me odor in the house. If  
22 there is an odor in the house, I'll use my GMI and I'll try to  
23 find its location, range, water heater, service, whatever gets  
24 gas. And then I'll determine from there. That's it.

25 Q. Okay. And when will you work with your meter for the LEL?



1 A. Well, if it's outside -- I mean, if I'm getting LEL on it,  
2 depends on where it is. I could, I could take care of it there.  
3 If it's a situation that it's in multiple spots, I'll call a crew,  
4 because I'm a first responder. I mean, I could, I could probably  
5 fix it, but you don't want to tie me up if, God forbid, there's  
6 another emergency coming in.

7 Q. I see. So the next thing that should happen, once you get  
8 this indication, is to call a crew in.

9 A. Depending on the situation.

10 Q. But it could be that you would call a crew. And that  
11 would --

12 A. I would call the supervisor and ask for a crew to come out.

13 Q. Okay. And that'll be with the truck and all the gear and --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- be able to do excavations and -- will they call in the  
16 backhoe or --

17 A. It depends on what work, you know, is -- that's needed.

18 Q. Okay. And then your understanding for an evacuation. If  
19 it's at 10% LEL, are you -- what is your number based on your  
20 training?

21 A. Twenty LEL.

22 Q. Twenty LEL.

23 A. They have to, they have to be evacuated.

24 Q. But when do you start making moves? At what point?

25 A. At one point?

1 Q. No, at what point in the LEL range do you actually consider  
2 saying, this is getting out of hand; let's get them out of here?

3 A. If I have 10 LEL, I'm concerned, okay? And I will talk to  
4 the people in the house. A few minutes later, if it goes up to 12  
5 LEL, I'll have those people removed from the house and open doors  
6 and windows.

7 Q. Now is that taught or is that your style?

8 A. No, we're told 20 LEL. If it's, if it's even before 20 LEL,  
9 I'll get, I'll get people out. That's me.

10 Q. That's you. But that's not taught.

11 A. They told us 20 LEL.

12 Q. Okay. And have you evacuated in the past at 10, 11, 12 LEL?

13 A. I'd wait till it come up -- I think it was, like, close to  
14 maybe 15, and I evacuated. I mean, it was getting close. So I  
15 would, I would pull them out.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MR. EVANS: Okay, that's all I have. Anyone else?

18 MR. DOWNS: Downs.

19 BY MR. DOWNS:

20 Q. A quick follow-up here, Sean. You were off-duty at the time  
21 you received the call from Ricky.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you make a call to your supervisor at all immediately?  
24 Maybe you didn't get to that.

25 A. Well, I called dispatch first. And they said it was Ken

1 O'Neil. I wanted to make sure they didn't say, hey, we'll call  
2 Ken, but Ricky didn't hear -- all he heard was Ken, not a last  
3 name. And I did call -- that was Jason Trimble -- after that.

4 Q. I see. I see. And did they give you approval to proceed to  
5 the site? Or maybe fill me in on how that works.

6 A. Well, Jason said that they had a lot of gas and that -- I  
7 pretty much volunteered, do you need my assistance?

8 Q. And that's to the dispatch you said this?

9 A. No. Jason.

10 Q. To Jason.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And would he be effectively your supervisor or no?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So he's, in effect, your supervisor?

15 A. Yeah, he was the duty sup.

16 Q. So basically, it was an approval to come on-duty at that time  
17 on an emergency basis.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Very good. Okay. Lastly, I like to give all the witnesses a  
20 chat with, kind of, a few moments to kind of in retrospect -- now  
21 that you got your thoughts together, and hindsight and everything  
22 -- you know, hindsight is 20/20. Knowing what you know now, is  
23 there anything that you would have done differently than you did?

24 A. What I did?

25 Q. In other words, knowing what you know now and all the

1 circumstances, would you, would you have done anything differently  
2 in terms of -- starting when you first got the call and went  
3 through the process?

4 A. No. I would have done the same thing.

5 Q. Same thing. No changes. Sometimes people think, oh no, I  
6 would have gone around this way instead of that way, knowing what  
7 I know now --

8 A. Well, running around the house -- knowing where Ricky was, I  
9 could have ran over him.

10 Q. Right. Under debris and everything.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Right. But no, I'm just thinking out loud here that  
13 sometimes people, in their mind, oh, I would have approached it  
14 from a different technique, process --

15 A. Right.

16 Q. -- or whatever.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Nothing. You wouldn't have done anything differently.

19 A. No.

20 Q. Very good.

21 MR. DOWNS: That concludes my questions. Anybody else?

22 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Yes. Terri Cooper Smith. Can we show him  
23 the log, the phone log --

24 MR. EVANS: Yes, absolutely.

25 MS. COOPER-SMITH: -- and just have him explain the calls?

1 MR. EVANS: Here it is. Handing off Exhibit 2(a) to the  
2 witness to discuss the timeline.

3 BY MS. COOPER-SMITH:

4 Q. And all I'm really looking for is just -- find your name on  
5 the timeline. And you know, for each one, just tell me if you can  
6 recall what was going on in each one. Let's start with at 11:40.

7 A. Forty-three?

8 Q. Forty-three. Yes.

9 A. Okay. That's Ricky. At that point -- let's see. That's  
10 probably when Ricky called me and nobody answered. And then I  
11 called Ricky back.

12 Q. At 11:44? Is that what --

13 A. Yes. 11:44. Spoke to Ricky. And then I called dispatch  
14 11:46. That was dispatch call. And then 11:47, that was me  
15 calling Ricky -- oh, no. Two minutes -- Jason. I called Jason.  
16 That's when I asked Jason if he needed a hand. Do you want me to  
17 go down to where it says 12:25?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. That was when I called Jason to find out the address and make  
20 sure the address.

21 Q. Okay, stop for a second. At 12:47, when you -- wait, was it  
22 12:47? 12:46, you called dispatch.

23 A. Okay, wait a minute. 12:46.

24 Q. 12:47, you called Jason. Did you, did you talk to Jason at  
25 this --

1 A. Wait, wait, wait.

2 Q. -- at that time? Oh, I'm sorry. 11:47. You spoke to Jason  
3 at that time?

4 A. Let's see. Calling into dispatch 11:47. I did call Jason.

5 Q. Did you actually speak to him?

6 A. Then it -- yes. I did speak to him.

7 Q. And he didn't give you the address at that time?

8 A. He probably did, but I wanted to make sure once I got out  
9 there because I didn't write it down.

10 Q. Okay. And then jump down to -- what was your next call?  
11 12:36; is that right?

12 A. 12:25? That's when I called Jason to get the address again,  
13 yes.

14 Q. 12:25. Okay. 12:36?

15 A. 12:36 to Jose. I called him first once -- that's after the  
16 explosion.

17 Q. And 39?

18 A. That's when I called dispatch. I tried to call Jose. He  
19 didn't answer. I called dispatch to make sure that we had the  
20 right people to come and help.

21 Q. Okay. 12:48?

22 A. 12:48. Brian Morris (ph.). I believe I even -- I tried to  
23 call him, Brian Morris.

24 MR. EVANS: Who? Who?

25 MR. FITZPATRICK: Well, that's not my --

1 MS. COOPER-SMITH: No, Ken Fitzpatrick calls Jose --

2 MR. FITZPATRICK: Oh, there you are. Jose again.

3 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Yeah.

4 MR. FITZPATRICK: Yes.

5 BY MS. COOPER-SMITH:

6 Q. You spoke, you actually spoke to Jose that time, or did you  
7 get an answer machine?

8 A. Yeah, because I called him once before. And then he called  
9 me back. I think that's what it was. He was on his way.

10 Q. Okay. Well, you called -- at 12:48, you called him.

11 A. No, it -- I either called him or he called me back. I don't  
12 remember.

13 Q. Okay. 53? 12:53?

14 A. 12:53. One minute dispatch. I may have -- these calls to  
15 dispatch, probably to make sure somebody was coming out.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MS. COOPER-SMITH: Okay, that's it. That's all I have.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. KRIEGER: Bob Krieger. Just one question.

20 BY MR. KRIEGER:

21 Q. You had mentioned earlier that you had talked to Jose about  
22 shutting the valve off. Was that Jose that you spoke to, or was  
23 that someone else?

24 A. Jose, and then Chet got on the phone to call me back.

25 Q. Would that have been one of those calls at 12:36 or 12:48

1 that you spoke to Jose?

2 A. Yeah. I think so.

3 Q. Which one would that have been? Do you know for sure? And  
4 if you don't, that's fine.

5 A. You said, you said 12:38?

6 Q. I thought I saw -- 12:48 I heard, or --

7 A. 12:40.

8 Q. -- 12:36.

9 A. Oh, that's dispatch, 12:48. And where's the other one?

10 Q. 36 is in the row.

11 A. I don't, I don't know timewise.

12 Q. Might have been -- okay, so -- but one of those  
13 conversations, when you were talking to Jose, was around the  
14 valve?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MR. KRIEGER: No further questions. Thank you.

18 MR. EVANS: Okay. I have no other questions. Thank you for  
19 the interview.

20 MR. DOWNS: That concludes the interview. Thank you.

21 MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you very much.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)  
23  
24  
25



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

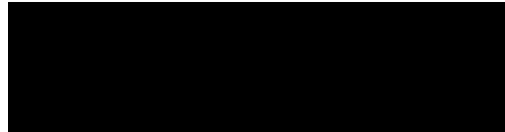
IN THE MATTER OF:           RESIDENTIAL GAS EXPLOSION  
                                  ON SPRINGDALE LANE, MILLERSVILLE,  
                                  PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 2, 2017  
                                  Interview of Kenneth Fitzpatrick

ACCIDENT NUMBER:           DCA17FP006

PLACE:                        Millersville, PA

DATE:                         July 25, 2017

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.



---

Eileen Gonzalez  
Transcriber