

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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RESIDENTIAL GAS EXPLOSION \*

ON SPRINGDALE LANE, MILLERSVILLE, \* Accident No.: DCA17FP006

PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 2, 2017 \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: TIMOTHY PRAMIK

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

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

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I N T E R V I E W

(3:25 p.m.)

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

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

14 The interview is being recorded 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 entered into the public  
17 docket.

18 MR. EVANS: So, Timothy Pramik, please spell your name and  
19 give us your job title?

20 MR. PRAMIK: Timothy is T-I-M-O-T-H-Y, last name's Pramik,  
21 P-R-A-M-I-K. I am a senior supervisor.

22 MR. EVANS: Okay. So, you have the -- you're permitted to  
23 have one other person present during the interview. This is a  
24 person of your choice -- attorney, a supervisor, a friend, family  
25 member or nobody at all. Please state for the record who you have  
26 selected.

1 MR. PRAMIK: Bob Krieger.

2 MR. KRIEGER: Big yuk.

3 MR. PRAMIK: I have Gary Maurer and --

4 MR. JAQUES: Dane Jaques.

5 MR. EVANS: Okay. So Dane Jaques is the official  
6 representative. Please spell your name, sir.

7 MR. JAQUES: Dane, D-A-N-E, last name is Jacques,  
8 J-A-Q-U-E-S, with Steptoe & Johnson in D.C.

9 MR. EVANS: Okay. Thank you. Now, we'll go around the room  
10 and make introductions. Spelling of your name and job title,  
11 please.

12 MR. KENDALL: Edward Kendall, K-E-N-D-A-L-L, Attorney, NTSB.

13 MR. DOWNS: Richard Downs, D-O-W-N-S. I'm with Survival  
14 Factor's Technical Working Group Chair, NTSB, Washington, D.C.

15 MS. COOPER SMITH: Terri Cooper Smith, S-M-I-T-H.  
16 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Fixed Utility Valuation  
17 Engineer 3.

18 MR. MAURER: Gary Maurer, Manager, Operations Programs, UGI  
19 Utilities, M-A-U-R-E-R.

20 MR. KRIEGER: Robert Krieger, Vice President of Operations,  
21 UGI Utilities, K-R-I-E-G-E-R.

22 MR. EVANS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for appearing today,  
23 Timothy.

24 INTERVIEW OF TIMOTHY PRAMIK

25 BY MR. EVANS:

1 Q. We'd like to begin with some background information, how long  
2 you've been in your current position, kind of like your current  
3 title and then, years in that position and previous titles and  
4 years in those positions. If you could go through that for us?

5 A. I'm the senior supervisor of Construction and Maintenance.  
6 I've taken this position in October 2016. Prior to that, I was a  
7 safety and claims coordinator. I started in May 27, 1980.

8 Q. And those two positions are the only two you've had in the  
9 company?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. And your current position, can you give us a brief  
12 description of what you do, your roles, responsibilities, who you  
13 report to?

14 A. I report to Jose Figueroa. And I am directly responsible for  
15 one-call locates and restoration work.

16 Q. And your reports that you have in your current position, how  
17 many people report to you?

18 A. Seven.

19 Q. And who are those folks? Just job titles is okay.

20 A. They would be Utility A2s and Utility A3s and Mechanic 2s,  
21 would be their job titles.

22 Q. So, these folks, can you perhaps run us through a typical  
23 day, how these seven individuals would receive direction from you,  
24 the type of work you would give them, how you close that work out  
25 and basic description of what they're going to be doing for you?

1 A. In the morning, I review all the one-call tickets that come  
2 in and are assigned. They're dispatched to five individuals.  
3 During the day I review them periodically to see what the progress  
4 is. And at the end of the day, we review work completed and then  
5 reassign work as necessary.

6 One of the employees is what we call a Restoration Inspector,  
7 and what he does is he technically supervises the outside  
8 restoration contractors that we utilize to make sure that the work  
9 is getting done, completed correctly and all the reports are  
10 filed.

11 Q. So, just for an example in my own mind, a restoration person,  
12 if you've done a one-call and there was something that was  
13 disturbed, dug up, this person's going to go back and make sure  
14 that it's all back to the way you saw it before you started  
15 digging? Is that what --

16 A. That's generally what they, what he does.

17 Q. Okay. And what about of the other people in the group?

18 A. They're strictly doing locates for us. They locate our  
19 service mains and our distribution system in general. And they  
20 mark them out and go to the next one.

21 Q. So, this might be something like a, someone's going to put in  
22 a new housing development and they want to start excavating and  
23 they want to know where your lines are?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. So, your guys go out and do all the marking and -- does all

1 this marking get recorded in some sort of a computer? That this  
2 new development or whatever you're going to be doing, does that  
3 get updated into your system line maps?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And that's a, does it happen like within so many days,  
6 the update?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What's the -- how many days is that?

9 A. It's, depends on what we're installing. Now, I want to go  
10 back a step. All's our guy does is locate the existing lines that  
11 are in the street.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. So, how about your role with regard to the  
13 accident? Did you have an active role in any part of that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you describe that for us?

16 A. I responded to the scene and I was assisting Jose Figueroa  
17 and Chris Brown on the -- mitigating the emergency.

18 Q. Okay. And what time did you arrive?

19 A. Approximately 2:30 p.m.

20 Q. Okay. And when you arrived, I guess everything is, the fire  
21 trucks are gone and all the emergency vehicles were gone and, is  
22 that correct?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Oh, they weren't? Okay. Give us an idea of what was on the  
25 scene and who you saw? And you say, Chris Brown and company, but,



1 I mean, can you just go through what you saw and who you talked to  
2 and what you were doing?

3 A. I was -- when I arrived, I had to park about 3 blocks away  
4 because of the all the emergency apparatus. I parked my vehicle  
5 and walked up to the scene and reported to Jose and Chris.

6 Q. Were you doing locating for, I mean, were you, were you  
7 actually, you weren't doing any sort of locating? Were you  
8 looking at what locating had been done?

9 A. No. I didn't.

10 Q. Okay. So, what was your role on that day then?

11 A. At first they had me work with several of the employees that  
12 were on site to make sure all the gas meters were turned off in  
13 that street and cul-de-sac.

14 Q. Okay. So, the gas meters and what about the service period  
15 to the neighborhood, was that, was that off when you got there?

16 A. Yes, it was.

17 Q. Okay. I'm going to hold my questions for later then, I  
18 guess.

19 MR. EVANS: Any questions for you?

20 MR. KENDALL: Not at this time.

21 MR. DOWNS: Not at this time.

22 MS. COOPER SMITH: None at this time.

23 MR. JAQUES: No. I don't have any questions that I know of.

24 MR. EVANS: Yeah. I'm, I mean, the fact that, I hope we  
25 didn't waste your time. But the fact you had very limited

1 involvement and that the supervisory for one-call is probably not  
2 effective for us because I don't know that we're going to get that  
3 much information out of this interview.

4 MR. KRIEGER: Can I ask a question?

5 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

6 MR. KRIEGER: Bob Krieger. Tim, do any of the individuals  
7 that were the first to arrive on scene, do they report to you?  
8 And, those names would be Robert Lopez, Sean Fitzpatrick, who  
9 arrive shortly thereafter, Jason Trimble and Rick Fowler.

10 MR. PRAMIK: Rob Lopez directly reports to me as an employee.

11 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay.

12 MR. PRAMIK: But, he doesn't work for me directly.

13 MR. EVANS: And that day what was his role? Why was he  
14 there?

15 MR. PRAMIK: He was --

16 MR. EVANS: This is Roger Evans, by the way.

17 MR. PRAMIK: He was the duty foreman.

18 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay. Duty Foreman, right.

19 MR. KENDALL: I do have a question. This is Edward Kendall,  
20 NTSB.

21 BY MR. KENDALL:

22 Q. So, are you responsible for the one-call locates basically  
23 Monday to Friday? Are you responsible for the emergency one-call  
24 locates like the one they had called in on the day of the  
25 accident?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And that would fall to the duty supervisor or the  
3 foreman or someone on the scene at the time?

4 A. That is correct.

5 MR. KENDALL: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. COOPER SMITH: This is Terri Cooper Smith.

7 BY MS. COOPER SMITH:

8 Q. Were you -- you said -- what time did you say you arrived on  
9 site? Was that 2:30?

10 A. Approximately 2:30. Yes.

11 Q. Were you aware that your, that Rob Lopez was on site prior to  
12 2:30 that day?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And how did, how were you made aware of that?

15 A. First, I knew he was on the duty crew for the weekend. And,  
16 when I contacted Jose, he told me that Rob was on site and  
17 injured.

18 MS. COOPER SMITH: That's all I have.

19 BY MR. EVANS:

20 Q. So, how long -- this is Roger Evans. How long has Rob Lopez  
21 been working for you?

22 A. He's been assigned as a direct report to me since October of  
23 2016.

24 Q. Okay. And the training your guys receive, are they, are they  
25 the type of guys that can go to a scene and kind of do leaks and

1 all the other stuff that have, you know, all the gas  
2 operation-type things?

3 Q. Depending on their classification and what their OQ qualified  
4 to do.

5 Q. Okay. So, let's say, let's use an example. Rob Lopez, what  
6 is his, what are his qualifications and what would he be doing?  
7 What could he do for you?

8 A. Without checking his training records, I couldn't, you know,  
9 go right down the list. But he's a duty foreman, so he's  
10 qualified to do leaks and repairs.

11 Q. And are these guys all, when they do excavations, they can  
12 run a vac truck, they can do, you know, air-spade and all that's  
13 included in these OQs, when they, when you say they can do leaks?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And do they all have the training about, you know, that deals  
16 with evacuating?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what to do in case of an actual, of an evacuation and all  
19 that stuff?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. EVANS: Okay. I think that's all I have.

22 MR. DOWNS: Okay. I've got some follow-up questions.

23 BY MR. DOWNS:

24 Q. Downs, NTSB. Tim, have you ever had in your recollection,  
25 any work yourself in this particular area on Springdale in that

1 general development over the years that you can recall?

2 A. Never once on site.

3 Q. Sorry?

4 A. I was never once on site till July 2.

5 Q. How about that general neighborhood just doing one-call  
6 follow-up work or anything like that?

7 A. I was never in the neighborhood.

8 Q. Never in the neighborhood that you can recall?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Okay. Thank you. And you've been with the company, sorry,  
11 how many years?

12 A. Since 1980, 37 years.

13 Q. Thirty-seven years. Wow. Okay. I like to give my witnesses  
14 the opportunity, knowing what you know now and knowing that you  
15 had relatively little involvement with the direct response to the  
16 event, it sounds like as a follow-up you were notified to respond  
17 to the site. Is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that by dispatch or who is that?

20 A. It's kind of convoluted.

21 Q. We've got all day.

22 A. I don't -- no. A friend of mine, I'm a volunteer firefighter  
23 and instructor.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And a friend of mine -- I live in Harrisburg. A friend of

1 mine called me and said, do you know that there was an explosion  
2 in Lancaster. I knew Jason was on-duty supervisor, so I called  
3 his phone to see if he needed any help, if it involved us at all.  
4 Sometimes there's explosions and we're not involved. I didn't get  
5 an answer, so I called Jose. I got Jose on the phone. He was  
6 actually onsite. He kind of told me what was going on. I asked  
7 him if he really wanted me down there. He said he wasn't sure. I  
8 just basically told him, I'm on my way, hung up and got in the car  
9 and left.

10 Q. This was before or after the event?

11 A. After the explosion.

12 Q. Okay. So this is kind of important to us. This is Jose,  
13 right?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And he said to the effect that he did not need you or wasn't  
16 sure or --

17 A. He wasn't sure at --

18 Q. He wasn't sure?

19 A. And I'll classify that saying, I could hear it in his voice  
20 that it was a serious incident. He informed me that Rob and Jason  
21 were injured and on the way to the hospital. And he told me that  
22 we lost Rick. So, that's, that was my key. I hung up the phone  
23 and I just told him I was on my way.

24 Q. Given they were involved as subordinates or whatever, you  
25 knew immediately that you needed to be there. Is that an accurate

1 representation?

2 A. I took it upon myself that knew that they needed help.

3 Q. Great. Okay. Did you need to notify a supervisor of yours  
4 or anything to start that process as a courtesy or as a course of  
5 action?

6 A. Jose is my supervisor.

7 Q. And that would be the only person you would notify?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. And would you have needed to notify dispatch, the  
10 company dispatch in any way or no?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. Just as a routine course of action that you would follow?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Okay. So, you are based out of Harrisburg, you said?

15 A. I live in Harrisburg.

16 Q. You live -- are you based out of an area over in that  
17 direction or where do you work out of?

18 A. I work out of Lancaster.

19 Q. Wow. That's a big commute.

20 A. I have my car trained.

21 Q. Okay. Is most of your work out in that neck of the woods or  
22 you work all over the system?

23 A. In my current position, I work out of Lancaster.

24 Q. Out of Lancaster? Okay. And you knew pretty much where the  
25 site was or did you need directions or --

1 A. I general knew where it was, But I have a GPS unit.

2 Q. And that led you right into the spot?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Like I started to say before I went off on this little  
5 tangent, knowing what you know now, in terms of Company  
6 principles, practices, SOPs or whatever is there anything that you  
7 would be able to offer in terms of things that might have done,  
8 been done differently to either eliminate a problem, prevent a  
9 problem or whatever that you could offer?

10 A. I don't have all the facts and I wouldn't want to speculate.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Or try to Monday night quarterback somebody.

13 Q. Sure. Okay. Well sometimes somebody says, oh, you know,  
14 thinking about this, I might've called this person instead of that  
15 person, that kind of thing. Just to offer that opportunity.

16 A. Well, nothing.

17 Q. Nothing that you would have done differently or you could  
18 propose to the Company to maybe change something that, in their  
19 processes?

20 A. If I see a final report and know all the facts, then I'd be  
21 able to comment.

22 MR. DOWNS: Very good Okay. That concludes my questions.

23 Thank you.

24 BY MS. COOPER SMITH:

25 Q. A follow up question, Terri Cooper Smith. Do you know about



1 what time you spoke to Jose, the first time?

2 A. I'd have to check the records on my phone. But I can't just  
3 recall off the top of my head.

4 Q. Okay. And how long did it take you to get from where you  
5 were located that day to the site?

6 A. Probably about 45 minutes.

7 MS. COOPER SMITH: Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.

8 BY MR. DOWNS:

9 Q. A follow up question -- Downs. Tim, do you have your phone  
10 with you, your company phone?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Okay. I'm going to suggest that after we adjourn here, let's  
13 check your phone, if we can, real quick and maybe you can narrow  
14 down that call to Jose for us?

15 A. Okay. Yes.

16 MR. DOWNS: Thank you. Not a critical number, but we're  
17 trying together a timeline. And, sometimes, those little things  
18 inserted at the right places help.

19 MR. PRAMIK: Okay.

20 MR. DOWNS: Thank you. Other questions? Thoughts?

21 BY MR. EVANS:

22 Q. Yeah. This is Roger Evans. Jason reports to you as well?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Oh, Jason doesn't. It's Rob Lopez only?

25 A. Rob reports to me, yes.

1 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay. Okay. Now, I don't have any more  
2 questions.

3 MR. DOWNS: Gary?

4 MR. MAURER: No.

5 MS. COOPER SMITHY: I'm good. Thank you.

6 MR. KENDALL: I don't have any more.

7 MR. EVANS: Okay. Good to go.

8 MR. PRAMIK: All right.

9 MR. EVANS: Anyway, it concludes our interview.

10 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)  
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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 Timothy Pramik

ACCIDENT NO.:               DCA17FP006

PLACE:                       Millersville, Pennsylvania

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.



Romona Phillips  
Transcriber