

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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NATURAL GAS LEAKS RESULTING IN FATAL \*

HOME EXPLOSION ON JANUARY 24, 2024 \*

Accident No.: PLD24FR003

& SECOND HOME EXPLOSION ON JANUARY \*

27, 2024 IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: DORSEY HAMLIN, District Chief

Jackson Fire Department

(Regarding January 27, 2024)

Jackson, Mississippi

Tuesday,

January 30, 2024

APPEARANCES:

ELENA BOZHKO, Pipeline Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

KALEB GIBSON, Pipeline Safety Investigator  
Public Service Commission, Pipeline Safety Division

JAMIE MCKENZIE, Vice President of Technical Services  
Atmos Energy, Mississippi Division

PATRICK ARMON, Assistant Fire Chief  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

JUSTIN POWELL, Deputy City Attorney  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

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I N T E R V I E W

(4:00 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MS. BOZHKO: So, today's January 30th, 2024, and it's about  
4 4:00 p.m., local time. My name is Elena Bozhko, I'm a pipeline  
5 accident investigator with National Transportation Safety Board  
6 with Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials  
7 Investigations. For this accident, I am the emergency response  
8 group chair.

9 We are at 555 Southwest Street in Jackson, Mississippi. This  
10 interview is being conducted as part of an investigation into the  
11 explosion that occurred on January 27th, 2024, at 1146 Shalimar  
12 Drive.

13 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah, Shalimar Drive.

14 MS. BOZHKO: Shalimar Drive, Jackson, Mississippi. The NTSB  
15 case number for this accident is PLD24FR003. The purpose of this  
16 investigation is to increase safety, not to assign fault, blame,  
17 or liability. The NTSB is an independent federal agency charged  
18 with determining probable causes of accidents and promoting  
19 transportation safety. NTSB has no regulatory or enforcement  
20 powers.

21 This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a  
22 later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to you for  
23 your review, prior to being entered in the public docket. You are  
24 permitted to have one person present during interview. This  
25 person of your choice, a supervisor, friend, family member, or

1 nobody at all. You will need to state for the record who you have  
2 selected. Please provide the spelling of your name, the company  
3 you work for, and your job title.

4 MR. HAMLIN: Dorsey Hamlin, that's D-o-r-s-e-y H-a-m-l-i-n.  
5 I work for the city of Jackson Fire Department, and I'm the 2A  
6 shift district chief in District 2.

7 MS. BOZHKO: All right. And who will be the person that  
8 you've selected to --

9 MR. HAMLIN: No one.

10 MS. BOZHKO: No one.

11 MR. HAMLIN: It's -- well, I mean, if he's gonna be --

12 MS. BOZHKO: Yes.

13 MR. HAMLIN: He's -- well, I guess, yes.

14 MS. BOZHKO: Okay, so --

15 MR. HAMLIN: Mr. Martin. Drew Martin. Or Chief -- I don't  
16 know, whoever, they're from Jackson.

17 MS. BOZHKO: Drew Martin.

18 (Background voices.)

19 MR. HAMLIN: Okay, Drew Martin. All right.

20 MS. BOZHKO: All right. My name is Elena Bozhko. That's E-  
21 l-e-n-a B-o-z-h-k-o. I'm a pipeline accident investigator with  
22 NTSB. Kaleb.

23 MR. GIBSON: I'm Kaleb Gibson, pipeline safety investigator  
24 with the Public Service Commission, Pipeline Safety Division. I  
25 guess Kaleb, K-a-l-e-b. Last name Gibson, G-i-b-s-o-n.

1 MR. MCKENZIE: I'm Jamie McKenzie with Atmos Energy,  
2 Mississippi Division. I'm the vice president of Technical  
3 Services and my name is spelled J-a-m-i-e M-c-K-e-n-z-i-e.

4 MS. BOZHKO: All right, and can people on the -- on the call  
5 introduce themselves please?

6 MR. ARMON: My name is Patrick Armon, I'm the assistant fire  
7 chief, Jackson, Mississippi. My name is spelled P-a-t-r-i-c-k A-  
8 r-m-o-n.

9 MR. POWELL: My name -- this is Justin Powell, Deputy City  
10 Attorney. J-u-s-t-i-n P-o-w-e-l-l.

11 INTERVIEW OF DORSEY HAMLIN

12 BY MS. BOZHKO:

13 Q. Thank you. All right. So, we will be talking to you about  
14 Shalimar in Jackson.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So, would you please tell us, how did you find out about the  
17 events there, and what happened next?

18 A. Okay. We got -- we got dispatched probably about 15 minutes  
19 before we actually felt the rumble. I actually felt the fire  
20 station kind of shaking. I thought somebody was beating on the  
21 garage door. Because -- it's unusual because it was like a little  
22 small vibration.

23 Q. Here?

24 A. No, at the station on -- where I'm housed at. So, I got up,  
25 and then I laid back down and I said, okay, maybe it's raining

1 outside or it's -- or it's thundering or something. So, in the  
2 process of me just thinking, you know, what's going on, the alarm  
3 goes off. So, we get dispatched to a house fire in that area.

4 And Engine 12 arrived on the scene first and called out what  
5 they had. That this house had exploded, and we have a -- the  
6 house adjacent to it that's a small fire, that's kind of running  
7 up this -- which would be the B side of the wall, getting in the  
8 attic.

9 And then so, I took command, take the command from him, and I  
10 notified dispatch of his finding that, yeah, we do have an  
11 explosion that occurred, this house is totally gone. Something I  
12 never seen before, so I was trying to gather my thoughts and get  
13 the proper information to our fire dispatch. And then letting  
14 them know that they was laying a line and going in for an interior  
15 check on the home to actually pass the fire that's going up to the  
16 roof and do that.

17 And then, I just -- from there, we do normal fire ground  
18 operations, catching a hydrant, making sure we get this fire out.  
19 So, I noticed the power line was down, so we request Entergy to  
20 take care of the service and the power. And we normally -- we  
21 normally try to service it ourselves if we can get to the meter,  
22 but we couldn't get to the meter.

23 And that's when I discovered that the gas was seeping in two  
24 different areas, close to each other. From the house on the --  
25 which would be on the B side of the structure -- I could see

1 flames and kind of a gas sound. And then I discovered that the  
2 house that was on fire actually had the same kind of sound, but  
3 not as loud.

4 And so, the coloring of the flames was kind of bluish and  
5 stuff. You know, I know it's, you know, gas -- it's not just a  
6 regular fire. And so, I notified dispatch to get Atmos en route  
7 there, we got a situation where we can't service the gas meter.  
8 We can't cut the main. We can't cut it off, so it's gonna have to  
9 be serviced by them. So, that's how it all started.

10 Q. All right. So, when you arrived to the scene, you basically  
11 assess and command if somebody else needs to come in to help you  
12 to fight the fire?

13 A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Who are the entities or persons that you try to --

15 A. We normally get -- we normally dispatch two pumpers, a ladder  
16 truck, and a rescue. So, that's our normal fire ground  
17 operations. And so, with me realizing that I have a situation  
18 where I'm not sure if somebody's trapped in this house that has  
19 exploded, I call for two additional pumpers to come and do search  
20 and rescue on the property.

21 It wasn't -- that particular property that disintegrated  
22 wasn't on fire. It was just debris everywhere. So, I had to get  
23 the additional help to try to figure out if someone's, you know,  
24 trapped inside so we can try to attempt a rescue.

25 On the house that was on fire, it was pretty much -- I'd say



1 it went pretty smooth, even with the gas problem and the power  
2 line being down. The fire actually only ran in the attic and on  
3 -- the D side of the structure wasn't that involved, so it wasn't  
4 throughout the whole house -- the whole entire house.

5 So, once we got the fire under control, I'm back and forth  
6 from the yard to the street. You know, I'm still catching a whiff  
7 of the gas smell, so I notice it's starting to kind of affect me.  
8 I said, man, you know, I think my -- I'm getting a little headache  
9 or nauseated.

10 So, my captain from Engine 12 radios. I said, chief, look,  
11 we got a strong gas smell in here with my -- with my equipment on.  
12 I think it's gonna be a hazard, so I notify dispatch that we'll be  
13 pulling everybody out this structure. We'll be in defensive mode  
14 because the situation becoming hazardous, and I just want -- I'm  
15 not knowing if something's gonna explode again or not. I'm just  
16 trying to be cautious so I can make sure my men are covered, and  
17 they're safe.

18 Because we -- you know, we never been in a situation like  
19 this. We don't know if what we're doing is the right thing for  
20 us, being in this area. We know we're doing the right thing about  
21 fighting fire, trying to get the fire out. But with this large  
22 gas smell that's covering the atmosphere right now, we've never  
23 experienced this. So, I just -- and I got 20 something people out  
24 there that I'm responsible for. So, I made the call to pull  
25 everybody back toward the street to just try to fight it -- the

1 fire from the street here. So, that's what we ended up doing and  
2 eventually got it under control probably after about 45 minutes.

3 Q. Forty-five minutes?

4 A. Yeah. The house -- the fire -- as far as putting out the  
5 fire in the structure. We just -- we still had flames on the two  
6 spouts that was sticking out the tube, what I -- what I assume to  
7 be gas fittings. That burned probably for about an hour until  
8 Atmos got out, until they assessed it.

9 I'd say that Atmos got on the scene probably about, maybe 45  
10 minutes to an hour before the first guy came out. I don't know  
11 his name. He came out, took a look at it. And I asked him --  
12 first question was, are we safe. And so, he told me as long as  
13 the flames are burning and we know where it is, and it's burning  
14 off, we're good.

15 So, I gather up my guys and I did what we call a park, to  
16 make sure everybody's together and all the -- all the units are  
17 accounted for. Just make sure everybody's fine. I just did a  
18 briefing, just to see how they was doing mentally. See if anybody  
19 else was experiencing nausea or headaches, anything like that.  
20 And I got a no from everybody.

21 So, I returned my two rescue units back to service that I  
22 used to try to search the adjacent property after they called it  
23 all clear. And we continued just from that point to hit hotspots  
24 because I felt comfortable from the Atmos gentleman that it was  
25 safe to be in the area. As long as -- and what we did was --

1 well, let me go back.

2 My -- Rescue 14 was the unit that I had to do our regular  
3 fall patterns to kind of shoot water over the two flames that was  
4 spouting out to try to keep the flames from continuing to get on  
5 to the structure. So, we did that for, I know, about an hour and  
6 20 minutes. Like, we just kept an eye over it the whole time.

7 And so, once we got to the point where we had the structure  
8 fire out, what we call under control, and then we check for  
9 hotspots and extensions. We did all that, we was able to ladder  
10 the structure, take care of all the hotspots, and then we was  
11 looking at there -- I think it was about maybe 6:00 by that time.  
12 So, I'm concerned about shift change, which is 7:00.

13 So, we was able to kind of run things smoothly from there.  
14 And we was just -- and they just -- we put out cones for power  
15 lines, and we just assessed the situation with the flames  
16 continuing to burn with the -- you know, whatever y'all call it.  
17 The fitting -- I don't know. But I didn't see a meter on the  
18 structure that had exploded. It was just a pipe that was coming  
19 out the ground.

20 Q. And it was flaring at that time?

21 A. Oh yeah, it was -- it was definitely -- it was hissing as I  
22 -- we would say, it was hissing. And I -- this -- the house that  
23 exploded was hissing louder than the house that was actually  
24 burning. Yeah, but they both were, you know, flowing the whole  
25 time.

1 Q. Was there any specific direction for the flames or the --

2 A. Yes. If I'm facing this wall here from the house that  
3 exploded, I'm not sure if the explosion caused it, but that  
4 hissing was going -- it wasn't going straight up. It was kind of  
5 going towards the other fire.

6 And then the other house that actually was on fire, I really  
7 couldn't tell, but it was just running and burning up the side of  
8 the wall. Or what I'm assuming where the meter, was. So, that's  
9 how it was going -- kind of -- that one's going that way, and this  
10 one's just kind of burning up and down.

11 Q. Do you recall if you were the one -- the person who had  
12 called Atmos?

13 A. Yeah, that's my job.

14 Q. That's you?

15 A. That's my responsibility. My position is, I'm the -- I'm the  
16 incident commander. That's my job, on patrol, on the fire scene.  
17 So, normally if a unit get on scene first, he'll take command and  
18 he'll pass it once he announce to dispatch what he has.

19 My job is to come to manage the whole scene no matter what's  
20 going on. So, my job is to first establish safety, see what kind  
21 of plan operations I'm gonna have to -- what I'm gonna do to try  
22 to deal with this situation. So, like I said, seeing all the  
23 debris in the streets and no fire over there -- so, right now,  
24 it's not a hazard.

25 I only have three hazards. I got fire, I got powerlines

1 that's down, I got gas that's hissing, but I got a flame, so I'm  
2 not really worried about any other flames, any other problems  
3 occurring. I'm just knowing to common sense-ally that, if it's  
4 burning right here, it might be some kind of release. So, the  
5 pressure's probably already gone, so we can probably deal with the  
6 situation without needing -- worrying about another house  
7 exploding.

8       Because that's what I'm thinking in my mind. Okay, can this  
9 run down the street this way, or another house go this way.  
10 That's my main concern. But we're here, I got a job to do and  
11 most -- the number one thing is safety. So, I gotta make sure my  
12 guys are safe, they're not gonna be hurt.

13       So, I had to try to announce what I got, make sure dispatch  
14 understands that this house did explode, okay? It's not the house  
15 that's on fire, but this house is totally gone, and now we're  
16 dealing with a structure fire that's right adjacent to that  
17 property that exploded.

18       So, that just started off like that. You know, just  
19 basically telling what I got, what have. Then, going to do what I  
20 need. Okay, I need Atmos, I need Entergy, I notify my C6.

21 Q.    What's C6?

22 A.    My supervisor.

23 Q.    Okay.

24 A.    Because this is an unusual situation. We normally don't  
25 notify C2 or anybody else. We do always call arson because I

1 can't -- I'm not an investigator, so I don't know what's happening  
2 and what's going on. So, we normally do that right off the bat.  
3 So, I notified them because this is a unusual situation. We had  
4 the explosion a couple -- I guess last week. And this is  
5 Saturday, and this stuff just never happened since I been on 20  
6 years fire department. So, you know.

7 So, I got everybody I thought was -- that needed to be  
8 notified to go ahead and start getting here as quick as they could  
9 just in case, if it was a fatality. That's the way I was  
10 thinking.

11 BY MR. MCKENZIE:

12 Q. Is Charles the person that --

13 A. He's the -- he's the arson --

14 Q. Arson. Right, right. I just wanted to --

15 A. -- investigator that I called.

16 Q. Yeah. I just wanted --

17 A. What I do, I notify dispatch to give me a unit or arson  
18 investigator. I'm not sure who's on call and who's coming, but  
19 yeah, he was the one that responded. Yeah.

20 BY MS. BOZHKO:

21 Q. And you -- okay. Can I ask you how your dispatch works? Is  
22 that dispatch separate from the county dispatch? Or that's all  
23 together?

24 A. Yes. Yes.

25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. It's -- we -- Jackson has its own fire dispatch. It's not  
2 the same as the -- Hinds County.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. But the dispatch is the -- handling police --
- 6 A. And fire.
- 7 Q. And fire, okay. Together?
- 8 A. From what I understand, yup. Police and fire, yeah.
- 9 Q. Okay. So, you won't call dispatch to call Atmos, you would  
10 call Atmos direct or contact --
- 11 A. No, no, no, I notify my fire dispatch because I don't have a  
12 direct line to Atmos.
- 13 Q. Oh, they --
- 14 A. My radio traffic's, DC to the dispatch, I need Atmos out  
15 here, we have a gas leak.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. DC to the dispatch, I got power lines down, notify Entergy  
18 that it is a hazard. I need them to try to get here ASAP. That's  
19 normal, you know, radio traffic.
- 20 Q. Yeah. Okay.
- 21 A. Sometimes it's more severe. Sometimes it's, you know, we're  
22 more calm if I -- if there's no -- if it's a situation where we  
23 can pull power, I'm gonna notify them, but I'm not gonna be as,  
24 you know, demanding in my voice, you know.
- 25 Q. Yeah.

1 A. Because I want them to understand, look, this is a safety  
2 hazard. I need somebody here as quickly as I -- you know, I can.  
3 And so, that particular morning, I think I was, you know, probably  
4 a little more aggressive than I've probably ever been, because I  
5 never experienced an explosion as a DC.

6 So -- but I wasn't sure it was, you know, if it was somebody  
7 that actually lived in the two structures. I just -- you know,  
8 you just don't know. Yeah.

9 Q. And I haven't asked you that first, but can you tell us about  
10 your experience with the fire department?

11 A. I been on for 20 years. I just made DC back October of '22.  
12 I was a captain for three years before that over in District 1.  
13 But as far as experience, firefighting experience, I probably seen  
14 and done on the average, just like everybody else I would say.

15 I would say I'm a go-getter. I guess that particular  
16 district, I mean -- it's little -- it's a lot going on. It's not  
17 like that all over the city, so it's a lot of experience. You see  
18 a lot of bad stuff besides just fire. So, in 20 years, yeah, it's  
19 not easy. You just kind of get immune to what you see, you know?

20 And it's -- that's probably about all I can say about that,  
21 as far as my experience. I'm still here. You know, I'm willing  
22 to retire but not, you know, just kind of leave early. But it's a  
23 lot of terrible stuff that goes on that we have to deal with.  
24 And, you know, that -- like I said, that probably was my worst  
25 expecting because I never -- I just didn't know what was gonna



1 happen after it was over. Whether we was gonna see dead bodies  
2 lying everywhere, or it was just an explosion -- thank God it was  
3 just -- both structures were empty. And that kind of helps with,  
4 you know, being able to deal with some of this stuff.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Like I said, I've been on 20 years, been a -- most of my  
7 officer experience is lieutenant, captain, and DC. It's probably  
8 about a seven-year span, I think.

9 Q. Okay. And so, in 20 years, there was no other explosions  
10 that you were a part of?

11 A. No. No. No, not -- no. I don't think so. Not here in  
12 Jackson that I had witnessed.

13 Q. To follow on that, do you -- do you recall if you've gotten  
14 any training from Atmos, since that's the gas company in the area?  
15 That they've provided to you as a fire --

16 A. Back -- I'm not sure how long ago -- back when I was a  
17 (indiscernible) or the lieutenant, I know we used to -- we'd get  
18 gas calls sometimes. And we had gas detectors that we got from,  
19 I'm assuming, Atmos. And we get the calibration training on how  
20 to reset it, so we -- if we get called to a gas leak, we can go  
21 and try to figure out if it's something going on.

22 And then we still was instructed if we discovered with the  
23 gas meter that it was a leak or something like that, we still  
24 notify them.

25 Q. Would you get a call of the gas odor as a fire department,

1 that you had to respond to? Would that -- would that go to  
2 somebody else?

3 A. No, we get that.

4 Q. You get that?

5 A. I got one this morning.

6 Q. All right.

7 A. Yeah. Yeah. Someone called about 3:00 this morning, said  
8 she smelled gas. And so, I got up, I -- Rescue 11 was the unit  
9 that got dispatched. So, and because this happened, I'm worried  
10 the whole time. I'm like, okay, you know, this -- because now,  
11 this has happened -- it's been happening more frequently for  
12 whatever reason.

13 So, I was concerned that -- I just -- you know, when they get  
14 there, is it going to be something. So, in about 20 minutes, they  
15 said they didn't smell anything, it was all clear, and they got  
16 back in service. So -- but since this been happening, we all kind  
17 of been on edge, you know, because it's just never happened  
18 before.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. In a case like that, would Atmos be called in by your  
22 personnel?

23 A. Yes, it would -- yes, we advise the homeowner to contact  
24 Atmos if they do smell gas. Because there's nothing we can do.  
25 We smell the gas just like you are. I guess they call us because

1 they -- you know, they trust the fire department, trust our  
2 response. But as far as the level of training, that's it. I'm --  
3 I could go in, and I could try to find out where -- I know what I  
4 smell. Yeah, that is gas I smell. But as far as fixing it, we  
5 have to notify Atmos.

6 And so, we advise them to leave the home, get away from it,  
7 you know -- that's all we can do. That's all we normally do,  
8 anyway.

9 Q. For the activities that you perform at the site, is there a  
10 report that is created at the end that is --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- describing everything?

13 A. Yes. Some -- yeah. Yeah, each --

14 Q. What is it?

15 A. Well, what I -- as a -- I'm responsible for finishing the  
16 report, making sure all my units put their report in. So, we're  
17 trained to only put in limited information, that's only what we  
18 see. What I saw when I got there, what I told dispatch, what I  
19 called for. No elaboration because we don't know anything besides  
20 that. So, we don't go no farther than -- it might be a paragraph,  
21 it might just be sentence.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So, I'm gonna say what I say. I'm gonna start in my  
24 narrative what I saw when I started, if I transfer command, if I  
25 end command, that's -- if it takes two paragraphs, that's all it

1 is. So, it's not 10 pages worth of information. It's just brief,  
2 to the point, and that's it.

3 Q. And what is that report called, if we were to request it?

4 A. It's a fire report.

5 Q. Fire report.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And --

8 A. Building fire report.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And you can get that from our fire marshal.

11 Q. And we will need to tell the date and the location or --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay. And would you guys document, like take pictures of any  
14 sort while you're on scene?

15 A. Only arson. Yeah, we're not allowed to take any pictures.

16 We don't take pictures of scenes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. We allow arson investigators to do all the investigation,  
19 taking pictures.

20 Q. Okay. I -- somebody mentioned that the fire trucks are  
21 equipped with cameras?

22 A. Yeah. The fire trucks are equipped with cameras.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But we do have a policy where we're not allowed to have  
25 phones on scene. So, we can't do any recording, taking pictures

1 like that.

2 Q. Oh.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Yeah, but the fire trucks are equipped with cameras.

6 Q. Who would be the person -- I think Charles, would have access  
7 to them?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Chief Armon and Charles would be the two people that could,  
11 you know, get camera access. They have -- well, it has to be  
12 initiated through those two. The people that's in charge.

13 Q. Yes. All right.

14 A. Just chief or arson.

15 (Background voices.)

16 MR. HAMLIN: Okay. He said he -- Chief Armon said he'll be  
17 in about 5, 10 minutes -- assistant chief.

18 BY MS. BOZHKO:

19 Q. Okay. Yes.

20 A. Yeah, that kind of stuff has to -- has to be initiated from  
21 the assistant chief, fire chief. And they instruct arson on how  
22 they wanna pull the video and stuff like that. But yeah, we --  
23 real strict on cameras. Because it's not just fires, it's a lot  
24 of other stuff that goes on where we can't allow guys to, you  
25 know, have cameras and stuff. Y'all probably can imagine why.

1 Everything is a lawsuit nowadays, so you gotta be careful on how  
2 you deal with stuff on scene.

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. Especially with family members. So, yeah.

5 Q. Have you interviewed anybody while you were there, or talked  
6 to somebody, residents?

7 A. I was able to talk to the homeowner of the structure that  
8 caught on fire.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I didn't get a name.

11 Q. That would 1138?

12 A. 1138. Didn't get a name, I just a -- had a gentleman come  
13 over with a gray beard that said, I own this structure. And I'm  
14 like, well you gotta get back off the fire scene. You're kind of  
15 in harm's way, so back off. Our arson investigator will be here.

16 And so, once my -- once my arson investigator arrived, I  
17 said, look, that gentleman said he owns this structure. No one  
18 has claimed the other one, but he -- so, then I noticed a lady  
19 walked up the street. And so, Charles was able to talk to them.  
20 So, that's as far as I got communicating with him, just him  
21 saying, I'm the owner of the structure.

22 Q. Okay. As far as coordinating with Atmos. So, you made the  
23 call. Would you know what roughly the time was that you made the  
24 call?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Would that be with dispatch?

2 A. Now, I can tell you -- I'm not certain, but I can tell you  
3 from the time I arrived on scene, and I assessed the situation,  
4 probably no more than seven, eight minutes later. But it would be  
5 on the report. I just don't have the report in front of me.

6 Q. Oh, okay.

7 A. Everything is recorded on report, about the times, you know.

8 Q. And the time Atmos came to the scene would be on the report?

9 A. Yeah. Yeah, once the Atmos got to the scene -- once I know  
10 it's Atmos, I -- my radio traffic -- like I said, I'm in command.  
11 So, my radio traffic's, DC to the dispatch, Atmos -- we put Atmos  
12 on location. And so, that records the time they got there. So,  
13 all that stuff is on the report.

14 Q. And that report is the building fire report?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. For that particular address. Yeah.

18 Q. Was the ambulance called to the scene as well?

19 A. Yeah, the ambulance -- normally, it's dispatch. Yeah, the  
20 ambulance, they was up the street. And I don't make contact with  
21 the ambulance unless somebody's injured or something like that.  
22 But the reason I know they was there, dispatch, at some point, did  
23 radio me and ask me if I still need them.

24 To which I say, yeah. Normally, I would let them -- I'd  
25 release them because we almost done. But because this happened, I

1 just didn't know how long we was gonna be out there. So, I said,  
2 no, they need to stay for a little while longer. And I think I  
3 released them. I can't remember when, but -- I kept them normally  
4 -- I kept them longer than I normally would. Yeah. But they --

5 Q. Because of the scale of the --

6 A. Yeah. Of the situation, yeah. Until we figure out -- once  
7 Atmos got there, and like I said, my comfort level -- I felt  
8 better after he assured me it wasn't gonna be -- you know, that we  
9 was safe. Even though that fire was going up. And then, the gas  
10 smell outside kind of subsided a little bit.

11 And, you know -- and once my guys, you know, kind of heard  
12 the conversation that we was safe, we was able to -- you know,  
13 because -- you know, guys -- even though I'm the IC, I'm the boss  
14 man on the scene, it's still -- you know, if I'm telling -- I'm  
15 telling you I can't -- you safe. They not -- no. No, we're not  
16 chief. We're not safe. This is --

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. -- because it was -- this never happened to nobody. So, it  
19 was a shell shock to us. So, once he assured us that we was fine,  
20 we was able to go ahead and work like we normally would work to  
21 try to get out and get -- you know and get off work. You know,  
22 and get back home. So, it just kind scared everybody. They just,  
23 you know. Yeah.

24 Q. Yeah. All right.

25 BY MR. MCKENZIE:



- 1 Q. Chief.
- 2 A. Mm-hmm.
- 3 Q. Help educate me.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. You were using numbers -- excuse me, letters A, B, C, and D?
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. I'm not --
- 8 A. Oh, sorry.
- 9 Q. -- how -- you know, help educate me. Are you starting A in  
10 the middle of the house -- the front of the house?
- 11 A. Yeah, counterclockwise.
- 12 Q. Are you --
- 13 A. Yeah. Then, we go B, C --
- 14 Q. And B is the corner?
- 15 A. Yes. The left -- yeah, the corner.
- 16 Q. The left corner?
- 17 A. Yeah. It's not going clockwise. It's going --
- 18 Q. So, and C would be the back corner?
- 19 A. No, no. A is the front. B is the side.
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. A, B -- and C is the back. And --
- 22 Q. Okay. And then D --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. Okay. So, it's just four letters.
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. I thought it might be something like that, but I just  
2 wanted to be --

3 MS. BOZHKO: Front, left, back.

4 MR. MCKENZIE: Yeah. I wanted to clarify that.

5 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah, we try to use -- you know, sometimes we  
6 say A, B, C, or D. And out here, we say Charlie side, Delta,  
7 Bravo, you know, Alpha.

8 MR. MCKENZIE: Right. Yeah.

9 MR. HAMLIN: That's the terminology we use to try to, you  
10 know, so -- make sure dispatch understands exactly what I was  
11 talking about on the radio. Because sometimes, the radio muffles  
12 a little.

13 BY MR. MCKENZIE:

14 Q. Yeah. No, I understand. And did you say there was two?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And can you tell me again where they were?

17 A. Okay. If I could -- can I get up and give you, like, a  
18 little --

19 Q. Yeah, yeah. That'd be great.

20 A. Okay. So, just say we're facing here. This is the A side of  
21 the structure.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. And this house over here is the house that exploded. So,  
24 what I noticed was power line that was running to the house that  
25 was burning. So, there would be --

1 MS. BOZHKO: You look for --

2 MR. HAMLIN: -- Bravo side, where both of the spouts were.  
3 So, I noticed the, what I assumed to be a gas meter, and I could  
4 hear it --

5 MR. McKENZIE: Right.

6 MR. HAMLIN: -- just going up the wall. So, then I looked  
7 over, I thought the fire had burned over to the debris. And so,  
8 once I backed off of the power line, I came around and kind of  
9 walked up the little sidewalk. I could see it was more than just  
10 fire. I could see the other little coloration. And I could hear  
11 it.

12 MR. McKENZIE: Right.

13 MR. HAMLIN: That's why I said, hey guys, we got two -- we  
14 got a situation, we got two meters that's gone.

15 MR. McKENZIE: Right.

16 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah.

17 MR. McKENZIE: And it was those two meters that were the --

18 MR. HAMLIN: Well, I'm gonna -- two meters or two pipe -- two  
19 gas --

20 MR. McKENZIE: Yeah, that --

21 MR. HAMLIN: -- where I assume it was just --

22 MR. McKENZIE: There were -- well, there was something in --

23 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah, that's what I'm trying to say, yes, sir.

24 MR. McKENZIE: -- whether it was the service line, or the --

25 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah, service line is what I'm saying.

1 MR. MCKENZIE: -- fuel line or, you know.

2 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah.

3 MR. MCKENZIE: There was something -- I mean, that was --

4 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah.

5 MR. MCKENZIE: But it was all right there and on --

6 MR. HAMLIN: Probably about -- probably about 10 feet from  
7 each other.

8 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes, sir.

9 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah, about 10 feet.

10 MR. MCKENZIE: I mean, they were close?

11 MR. HAMLIN: Kind of close, yeah.

12 MR. MCKENZIE: Okay.

13 MS. BOZHKO: So, in between the structures.

14 MR. HAMLIN: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

15 MR. MCKENZIE: Yes.

16 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah.

17 MR. MCKENZIE: Okay. I mean, that's where the --

18 MR. HAMLIN: And like I said, the one -- the one that was --  
19 that associated -- I'm assume associated with the house, it was  
20 spewing louder than the one that was burning.

21 MR. MCKENZIE: Okay. Right.

22 MR. HAMLIN: Yes.

23 MR. MCKENZIE: The one -- the house that exploded had the  
24 louder hiss.

25 MR. HAMLIN: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

1 MR. MCKENZIE: Okay.

2 MR. HAMLIN: Yup.

3 BY MR. MCKENZIE:

4 Q. When y'all -- when your dispatcher calls us, I'm assuming  
5 y'all are using our emergency number.

6 A. I'm not sure because what I do, I just ask the --

7 Q. Right. No, I -- and I understand. I just --

8 A. I'm assuming so because normally, y'all are there pretty  
9 fast.

10 Q. Yeah, and I would -- I would be fairly -- you know, just  
11 based on our conversation, I would assume that it's our emergency  
12 number that goes to our dispatch.

13 A. And then I try to be as blunt, as honest as possible. I  
14 said, look --

15 Q. Hey, that's the best way to be.

16 A. -- we need y'all now. This is not a normal situation, you  
17 know, like that, so -- I tried to get dispatch a heads up on how  
18 severe the situation is. You know.

19 Q. And I would assume Entergy's emergency number --

20 A. Same, yeah.

21 Q. Yeah. Okay. All right. And I had a -- I had one other  
22 thought that I just wanted to ask.

23 A. Take your time, I'm here.

24 Q. And I'm just trying to remember. Oh. Do y'all -- do y'all  
25 participate in the annual Paradigm training that we do?

1 A. I mean, when you say Paradigm, you talking about far as --

2 Q. It's like public awareness. You know, all of the --

3 A. I know we have, but I'm not -- I'm not gonna say myself and  
4 all the other DCs or all the other fire -- I know some of us  
5 probably have, you know. But I know I have since I've been on the  
6 job.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. But I can't tell you the last time I have. It's done on a  
9 yearly basis, I know.

10 Q. Yes. Yeah.

11 A. It's been -- when was the last time I did the training, like  
12 I said, when I was back at RDO (ph.), that's probably been over 10  
13 years ago.

14 Q. Right, okay.

15 A. With the gas meter.

16 Q. Right. You know -- because, you know, we talk about -- so --  
17 all right. No, that's -- I'm good.

18 A. Okay.

19 BY MS. BOZHKO:

20 Q. I had a question that I needed to ask.

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. So, you said you were being -- the station that you were at,  
23 it's been shaking, that's how you first realized something's  
24 happening?

25 A. Yeah. It's -- it was -- you know, I'm sleeping, I -- y'all

1 might test this, but I'm asleep but I'm not. That's -- every  
2 shift. I'm kind of trained to get good rest but listen to the  
3 radio. I'm not -- I'm not sure how I'm able to do it, but I'm  
4 able to do it. So, I try to make sure I hear all my units or  
5 whatever.

6       So, it's a lot of -- it's gunshots all the time. We're  
7 pretty much in a bad area. Because something's always going on  
8 and I'm -- if it's a different sound, I know it's a different  
9 sound. So, I knew it was supposed to storm. And there wasn't no  
10 tornado watch. So, it was almost like a thump. So, I said, man,  
11 a tree done fell on the station. You know, I'm just thinking  
12 different stuff. And then I said, well, something going on. I  
13 said, what -- and so, it was kind of like a little -- and then it  
14 stopped.

15       And so, like I said, I got up. And I say, shoot, I'm gonna  
16 go out there. It's raining outside. I'm fixing to get back into  
17 bed, so I got back in the bed. Because I didn't hear anything  
18 else. So, I laid back down, grabbed my phone, looked at my phone,  
19 I said, man, it's still early. I said -- you know, I'm thinking I  
20 gotta go to sleep, you know.

21       About five minutes later we just get the call for a house  
22 fire, and it was right up the street. But at the time, I didn't  
23 associate it with the thump. So, as we were going, we got to the  
24 top of the hill. I didn't see no fire, because that's what we  
25 trained to look for, if it's an actual fire.

1           And so, I heard my units say, it's gonna be -- it's not on --  
2 it was dispatched in the area of -- oh, lord. What is it? I  
3 can't --

4           MR. MCKENZIE: It's at Shalimar and Castle Hill.

5           MR. HAMLIN: Castle Hill, but not on Castle Hill side. They  
6 dispatched it on -- not McFadden, what's that, right there?

7           MS. BOZHKO: Shady Lane.

8           MR. HAMLIN: Shady Lane, I'm sorry. Couldn't -- I just  
9 couldn't get it. So, Engine 12, dispatch, we're in the area  
10 checking. We check, we don't see anything. So, we'll be checking  
11 -- DC 2 in the area don't see anything. So, shortly after that,  
12 Engine 12 now said, dispatch, I do -- we have a house on fire on  
13 Shalimar.

14           So, they made the turn, got down there. Then, that's when  
15 they announced that, dispatch, this is some type of explosion.  
16 This -- a house exploded, and we got a -- two structures affected.  
17 And so, once I got on the scene, we got out and saw what we had.  
18 I said, oh man, this is probably what I felt in the station,  
19 because it bust the windows out across the street, and that -- I  
20 heard the guy that came out the house and say, it knocked them out  
21 the bed -- so one of the guys that was walking up, you know, while  
22 I was trying to assess the scene. So --

23           MS. BOZHKO: And what's your station's address?

24           MR. HAMLIN: I'm -- I do not --

25           MS. BOZHKO: What -- like, if I -- if I tried to look it



1 up --

2 MR. HAMLIN: I'm sorry.

3 MS. BOZHKO: -- what's the station number maybe where --

4 MR. ARMON: Station 12, it's on McFadden.

5 MR. HAMLIN: It's on McFadden, but she want the physical  
6 address. I can look --

7 MS. BOZHKO: All right, I will --

8 MR. ARMON: We can look it up on Google.

9 MS. BOZHKO: McFadden?

10 MR. HAMLIN: McFadden. Yeah. I can -- hold on, give me a  
11 second.

12 MR. ARMON: (Indiscernible).

13 MR. HAMLIN: Okay. I apologize. I don't -- I don't even  
14 know the zip code.

15 MS. BOZHKO: No, that's good. We'll look it up.

16 MR. ARMON: (Indiscernible) Fire, 39204.

17 MS. BOZHKO: 39204?

18 MR. ARMON: (Indiscernible).

19 MR. HAMLIN: Station 12. You got it? If you -- I guess -- I  
20 guess it's probably about a mile maybe --

21 MR. ARMON: 39204 -- 2435 McFadden Road.

22 MS. BOZHKO: 25204?

23 MR. ARMON: 2534 -- no, 2435, I'm sorry.

24 MS. BOZHKO: 2435. Okay.

25 MR. ARMON: McFadden, M-c-F-a-d-d-e-n. That's McFadden Road,

1 and the zip is 39204.

2 MR. HAMLIN: About a quarter mile. I'm not sure how far it's  
3 from -- it's not -- maybe about a mile, I guess. But that's the  
4 (indiscernible) the station from where the fire occurred.

5 MS. BOZHKO: Gotcha. Any other questions? Is there anything  
6 else that you wanna add, that we haven't asked yet?

7 MR. HAMLIN: I can't -- I think y'all asked everything. No  
8 injuries except -- you know, except for, like I said, the  
9 headache, all the guys are fine. And I think that's normal  
10 because, you know, we don't -- we don't smell gas like that, you  
11 know.

12 BY MR. MCKENZIE:

13 Q. I do -- I do have one last question.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. How long did it take y'all to get everything under -- to the  
16 point that you felt it was under control?

17 A. It took us probably about an hour.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And probably about -- and I'm saying this from experience,  
20 probably about 45 minutes longer than what it normally would.  
21 Because I kept -- I kept it -- kept them away from the power line  
22 and the gas.

23 Q. Correct.

24 A. Yeah, we just couldn't fight fire on that side.

25 Q. No. (Indiscernible) there on the scene.

1 A. Yeah. So, in a normal situation, that, you know, we get in  
2 we knock it down, it's over --

3 MR. MCKENZIE: Chief Hamlin --

4 MR. HAMLIN: Yes.

5 MR. MCKENZIE: -- I think you -- you know, your training is  
6 in line with what, you know, what we would do. You gotta keep  
7 your people safe.

8 MR. HAMLIN: Safety -- yes.

9 MR. MCKENZIE: And then start taking out the hazards.

10 MR. HAMLIN: Yes, sir. Yup. So --

11 BY MR. GIBSON:

12 Q. So, what time was the call made, and y'all were on the scene  
13 at what time?

14 A. I'm not sure. Probably less than two minutes though because  
15 we were right down the street. But it'll be on the fire report.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Because the -- like I said, everything is radio traffic. We  
18 get alarmed out. We'll acknowledge that we got the call, and  
19 we'll notify dispatch that we are responding on the right fire  
20 ground, whether it's one, two, three, four, five. And so, we --  
21 dispatch, DC 2 responding, get me to fire ground we're operating  
22 on. So, I get that fire ground, and I let them know that I am  
23 responding.

24 Q. And that was one hour for -- from arrival until completely --

25 A. Say again?

1 Q. Was that one hour from arrival until completely extinguished?

2 A. No, probably a little bit -- little -- probably about two  
3 hours.

4 Q. Two hours. One hour to manage --

5 A. Probably about 45. When I say the fire is out, it's under  
6 control, no more flames, but we got a little smoking hotspot that  
7 we'll be taking care of, so the fire won't rekindle. So, we call  
8 it -- that's the control time, what we call it here. So, we try  
9 to get a control time. Let dispatch know the fire's out. We'll  
10 be hitting the hotspots in (indiscernible).

11 And so, during that time, we was able to change over shifts.  
12 We change at 7:00, we was allowed to let some units back into  
13 service. They go back to the station, get the oncoming shift, and  
14 then they came back to continue to hit the fire spots -- hotspots  
15 to make sure it's totally out.

16 So, when I looked at the -- at the ending of the fire report,  
17 when I finished it, the last unit cleared at 9:00. About --  
18 around 9:00, 9:07.

19 MR. ARMON: Let me tell y'all something about those times  
20 too. We right now are in the process of getting to where our  
21 times can be a lot more accurate. Because our system, as far as  
22 getting our times is, you know how he telling you that they radio  
23 to dispatch and say that we en route. And dispatch is at that  
24 point supposed to start a timer.

25 MR. HAMLIN: Right.

1 MR. ARMON: And that's how we're doing it right now. But  
2 we're in the process of making it more accurate to where the time  
3 won't be -- won't have anything to do -- it won't be any personal  
4 or any --

5 MR. MCKENZIE: Won't be any handoffs from person to person.

6 MR. HAMLIN: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly. It's gonna be automatic to  
8 where we would get automatic times.

9 MR. ARMON: So, like I said, we're in the process of getting  
10 that happening. And I got fire investigators (indiscernible) so  
11 we can show y'all the cameras. And on those cameras, we don't  
12 have a cache system that matches up with the technology that we  
13 have on the trucks, as of now.

14 We're working on getting it, and it should be here within the  
15 next budget year or something. But anyway, they have a way --  
16 it's what they call a break down (ph.) pattern. And they'll show  
17 you that once they get back, and it'll show you exactly how long  
18 it took each unit to go to the scene, the route that they took to  
19 get there, and all of that stuff.

20 And that's just on the trucks that we have that. We have  
21 some reserves that our systems now -- like I said, we currently  
22 (indiscernible). As soon as we get it, we'll have a lot more  
23 accurate response times.

24 MS. BOZHKO: I don't -- yeah, I think we have all -- we've  
25 asked all the questions --

1 MR. HAMLIN: Are we done?

2 MS. BOZHKO: -- there that we had, I think. Yes.

3 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

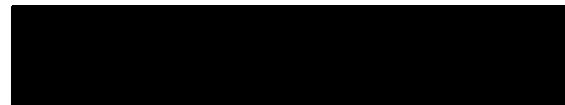
IN THE MATTER OF:           NATURAL GAS LEAKS RESULTING IN FATAL  
                                  HOME EXPLOSION ON JANUARY 24, 2024 &  
                                  SECOND HOME EXPLOSION ON  
                                  JANUARY 27, 2024 IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
                                  Interview of Dorsey Hamlin

ACCIDENT NO.:                PLD24FR003

PLACE:                         Jackson, Mississippi

DATE:                         January 30, 2024

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.



Amanda Wise  
Transcriber

## Elena Bozhko

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**From:** DORSEY HAMLIN <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 9:59 AM  
**To:** Elena Bozhko  
**Subject:** Re: Transcript Review Request: Jackson Mississippi Home Explosions and Fires - NTSB PLD24FR003

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

no changes needed thanks

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 10:20:03 AM CDT, Elena Bozhko <elena.bozhko@ntsb.gov> wrote:

Dorsey,

I'm emailing to follow-up on the voicemail I had left earlier today. I wanted to confirm that you have received the transcripts for your review. Let me know if you have any corrections, otherwise please respond to this email stating that no changes are needed.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you for your help on this matter.

- Elena



**Elena Bozhko, Pipeline Accident Investigator**

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations

National Transportation Safety Board

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Washington, DC 20594

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**From:** Elena Bozhko  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 3:44 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Transcript Review Request: Jackson Mississippi Home Explosions and Fires - NTSB PLD24FR003



Good afternoon, Dorsey,

Attached please find the interview transcript for our January 30, 2024, interview and a Transcript Errata Form. Please review the attached transcript for accuracy, indicate any necessary changes, and respond with the completed form. If changes are needed, please reference the relevant page and line number along with the suggested change or redline a copy of the transcript document.

Please return the attached form by April 10, 2024, even if no changes are needed.

This transcript may not be publicly disclosed or passed to others (even within your organization). Again, thank you for interviewing with us and supporting the NTSB's investigation.

- Elena



**Elena Bozhko, Pipeline Accident Investigator**

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations

National Transportation Safety Board

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Washington, DC 20594

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