

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FIRE ABOARD THE *SPIRIT OF BOSTON*
NEAR THE BOSTON SPORTS DISTRICT
IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON
MARCH 24, 2023

Accident No.: DCA23FM022

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Interview of: JESSICA FRIEDMAN
City Cruises

First Coast Guard District Office
Boston, Massachusetts

Tuesday,
May 16, 2023

APPEARANCES:

CDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lead Investigator
United States Coast Guard

KEITH FAWCETT, Civilian Marine Accident Investigator
United States Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
United States Coast Guard

LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Legal Advisor
United States Coast Guard

LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
United States Coast Guard

BRIAN YOUNG, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

MATTHEW HARNETT, Certified Fire Investigator
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

ERIC DENLEY, Esq.
Representing City Cruises and *Spirit of Boston*

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:04 p.m.)

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2
3 LT [REDACTED] First and foremost, Ms. Friedman, thank you for
4 joining us today, we greatly appreciate that.

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

6 LT [REDACTED] Before we begin, do you have any questions?

7 MS. FRIEDMAN: No.

8 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So we're going to go ahead and this
9 interview's going to be recorded. Can you go ahead and
10 acknowledge that the Coast Guard is going to be recording the
11 interview?

12 MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes.

13 LT [REDACTED] Thank you. This is a joint Coast Guard and
14 National Transportation Safety Board investigation and the Coast
15 Guard is the lead agency, and we are conducting this interview to
16 determine the cause of the fire. Today is Tuesday, May 16th. It
17 is 14:04. This is an interview with Ms. Friedman and we are
18 located at the Coast Guard District Office, 8th Deck legal
19 conference room. I'm going to go ahead and we're going to
20 introduce the interview team and when you say your name, please
21 state your last -- or spell your last name. My name is Lieutenant
22 [REDACTED], and I am with the First Coast Guard
23 District investigations team.

24 LCDR [REDACTED] I'm Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED], and I'm also with the First District

1 investigations team.

2 LT [REDACTED] Mr. Fawcett.

3 MR. FAWCETT: Yes. Hello again, Ms. Friedman, nice to talk
4 to you again. My name is Keith Fawcett, F-a-w-c-e-t-t. I'm part
5 of this investigation. Lieutenant, can you turn on your video,
6 please?

7 LT [REDACTED] Ours is on, Keith, yours is the one that is off.

8 MR. FAWCETT: Okay, I can't see you, but go ahead, continue.

9 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Mr. [REDACTED]

10 LCDR [REDACTED] You're muted.

11 CDR [REDACTED] My apologies, good afternoon. My name is
12 Commander [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm the lead investigator for this case.
13 I'm going to sit back and listen, and I thank you for your time
14 today.

15 LT [REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED]

16 LCDR [REDACTED] Good afternoon, I'm Lieutenant Commander
17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and I'm with the First Coast Guard
18 District formal investigation team.

19 LT [REDACTED] Mr. Young.

20 MR. YOUNG: Good afternoon, my name is Brian Young, I'm with
21 the National Transportation Safety Board. Thank you so much for
22 your help today, we appreciate you being here. Y-o-u-n-g is the
23 spelling of my last name.

24 LT [REDACTED] And Mr. Hartnett.

25 MR. HARTNETT: Special Agent Matthew Harnett with the Bureau

1 of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I'm the certified
2 fire investigator investigating the cause of or origin of the
3 fire. Hartnett is H-a-r-t-n-e-t-t.

4 LT [REDACTED] And for parties in interest on line, Mr. Denley.

5 MR. DENLEY: Yes, good afternoon, it's nice to see you again.
6 I'm Eric Denley, D-e-n-l-e-y, and I am so sorry that I can't be
7 there with you in Boston, but if you have any questions or
8 concerns or would like to take a break at any time, you can always
9 just let the investigators know. And if at any time you wanted to
10 pause the interview and talk to me, you can kind of just raise
11 your hand and let them know that you'd like to do that. So again,
12 it's nice to see you --

13 MS. FRIEDMAN: You, too.

14 MR. DENLEY: -- and I appreciate you -- I appreciate your
15 participating today, thank you.

16 MS. FRIEDMAN: Any time.

17 LT [REDACTED] And Ms. Friedman, can you please introduce
18 yourself and spell your last name?

19 MS. FRIEDMAN: I'm Jessica Friedman, my -- F-r-i-e-d-m-a-n.

20 LT [REDACTED] Thank you. And are you represented by counsel
21 today?

22 MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes.

23 LT [REDACTED] And that is --

24 MS. FRIEDMAN: Eric.

25 LT [REDACTED] Mr. Denley, okay. Mr. Denley, do you agree that

1 you're represented by counsel, you're representing Ms. Friedman?

2 MR. DENLEY: I'm not representing her personally, I represent
3 City Cruises and *Spirit of Boston*.

4 LT [REDACTED] Okay, thank you, sir. Thank you, ma'am.
5 Appreciate that. We are conducting this interview to examine the
6 events surrounding the fire aboard the excursion vessel *Spirit of*
7 *Boston* which occurred on March 24th, 2023 in Boston Harbor. Prior
8 to us beginning, if we can please go ahead and silence all of your
9 cell phones. Also, if you are not asking questions online, go
10 ahead and please turn off your cameras and go ahead and silence
11 your microphones.

12 Ms. Friedman, just for your information, you may change or
13 modify anything that you say in this interview at a later date.
14 If you wish to do that, we'll give you the contact just to make
15 notification and do that, okay?

16 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

17 LT [REDACTED] And also, you may appeal the final results of any
18 reports that may come out of this investigation.

19 MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay, thank you.

20 LT [REDACTED] If you don't have any further questions, we're
21 going to go ahead and begin this interview, are you all set?

22 MS. FRIEDMAN: All set.

23 LT [REDACTED] Thank you. Mr. Fawcett.

24 MR. FAWCETT: Okay. Lieutenant, I do not have video of the
25 room.

1 LCDR [REDACTED] It looks like Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] and
2 Commander [REDACTED] can see us, so -- and maybe --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can, as well.

4 LCDR [REDACTED] Yeah.

5 MR. FAWCETT: I'm not sure why this is the first time this
6 has occurred.

7 LT [REDACTED] Do you want to take a second, jump out and jump
8 back in?

9 MR. FAWCETT: Brian, can you see what's going on? I'm going
10 to leave and come right back, thank you.

11 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

12 INTERVIEW OF JESSICA FRIEDMAN

13 BY MR. FAWCETT:

14 Q. There we go. All right, my apologies, Ms. Friedman. It's
15 very nice to see you again. My apologies, Ms. Friedman, it's very
16 nice to see you again.

17 A. You, too.

18 Q. So we did an interview together in the offices of Hornblower
19 in Boston on April 7th and I just want to say that since then,
20 we've looked at some closed circuit TV camera footage that was
21 provided from the *Spirit of Boston* and we have some follow-up
22 questions based on that. But in your previous interview, I just
23 want to make sure I have the facts correct. In the previous
24 interview, you said that you had thrown a paraffin candle, empty
25 one, in a trash can in the wait station area, would that be

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was it more than one or just the single one?

4 A. It was just one.

5 Q. Okay. And then would I be correct in that you said that you
6 had seen people using electronic cigarettes or vape pens on the
7 *Spirit of Boston* at any time?

8 A. I had not seen anybody smoke or vape on the *Spirit of Boston*.

9 Q. Okay. And then you were aware of the March (sic) 29th, 2021
10 -- the *Odyssey* was moored and there was a drifting sailboat that
11 was on fire, you were aware of that prior --

12 A. Yes, I was there that day.

13 Q. Okay. And then were you aware of the fire on the *Spirit of*
14 *Norfolk* before the fire that occurred on March 24th?

15 A. Yes, I was.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you very much. So we looked at the closed
17 circuit TV camera that was provided by City Cruises and they have
18 a whole bunch of cameras on the boat and they provided the footage
19 and it had time stamps on it and we saw you in the footage, and I
20 want you to just take a minute, because it was some time ago that
21 the fire occurred on March 24th, just sort of sit there quietly
22 for a moment and think back to that time and then I have a few
23 follow-up questions for you, okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 MR. FAWCETT: All right, Lieutenant [REDACTED] or Commander

1 [REDACTED] if you could show the Snip 1, we're going to show you a
2 picture up on the screen, Ms. Friedman, and I'm going to ask you
3 some questions about it.

4 MS. FRIEDMAN: Hey, that's me.

5 MR. FAWCETT: That was my first question, thank you very
6 much. So we're going to show you another snip from that footage
7 and if you show that, please, sir, that's Snip 2. And now Snip 3.
8 Okay, I want you to leave that on.

9 BY MR. FAWCETT:

10 Q. Ms. Friedman, I'm going to ask you a couple of questions
11 about that. So would you be holding a rag or what you described
12 in your previous interview as a linen?

13 A. Yes, it's a bus rag I use to clean the bus station.

14 Q. All right. And then, in that -- would that be a dirty rag
15 you're -- in that image, you're walking out of the wait station.

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. Do you remember what you used that rag for? I'm going to
18 show you a video in a minute where you seem to be cleaning
19 something up on the floor or as we call it, the deck, do you
20 remember that?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Talk about that for us.

23 A. It looked like water.

24 Q. And how big was the area where there -- where you saw the
25 water, was it a puddle or was it a large area? Could you describe

1 how much area the water was?

2 A. It was about this big, it was near the bus station.

3 Q. And when you say this big, could you give me an idea and what
4 size --

5 A. The size of a small dish.

6 Q. Okay. Did it have a -- as you recall, you're holding it by
7 the corner there, did it have a smell or an odor?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Was it clear liquid?

10 A. Yes, it was clear liquid.

11 Q. And did you mention to anyone that you cleaned up something
12 that had spilled on the floor or the deck?

13 A. I did not mention that.

14 Q. All right. So that rag that you're holding, what did you do
15 with it after you cleaned it up? You're walking towards the after
16 part of the boat towards the galley, what did you do with that
17 rag?

18 A. I put it in the linen bag.

19 MR. FAWCETT: All right. Now, I'm going to show you the
20 video, if you'll play that video, please, for Ms. Friedman.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will we be able to see the video, as
22 well?

23 LCDR [REDACTED] Yes.

24 MR. FAWCETT: Yeah, you'll see it in just a second.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, great. Thanks. Just checking.

1 (Video played.)

2 MR. FAWCETT: Could you play that just one more time, please?

3 (Video played.)

4 BY MR. FAWCETT:

5 Q. It's hard to see here because of the way the camera angle is,
6 but did you just throw it on the deck or did you actually wipe up
7 an area on the floor?

8 A. I wiped up the area and then put it in the linen bag.

9 Q. And was it -- could you describe where it was in the wait
10 station area, was it in the middle of the floor or was it over
11 where the racks were with the glasses stored on them?

12 A. It was near where the glasses are stored.

13 Q. And you wiped it up because -- because of why?

14 A. So no one would slip on it.

15 Q. All right. Did it feel slippery to you, do you know if you
16 slipped on it?

17 A. No, I did not slip on it.

18 Q. Okay, so when did you notice that puddle or that liquid on
19 the floor?

20 A. After the cruise.

21 Q. And then there appears to be a period of time where there was
22 about 2 minutes or so where you were in the actual wait station
23 area, we can't see it because of the angle of the video, can you
24 talk to us about what you were doing in there?

25 A. I was cleaning the bus station after the cruise.

1 Q. And talk a little bit more about that, what you were doing in
2 cleaning that -- you can pull that down now, please, and go back
3 to the room video, thank you. So what were you doing in terms of
4 cleaning up in there?

5 A. I was making sure all the coffee cups were put away and all
6 the sugar was put away, the station was clean, all the coffee was
7 poured out, everything was neat and tidy for the next cruise.

8 Q. So think there for another minute, if you would, it's very
9 important, the Sterno cans that have the red cap on them, did you
10 see any Sterno cans in the vicinity of that drink cart where they
11 had the glasses stowed?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you see any in the trash can?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And the trash can, as you understood it, had been emptied by
16 the marine crew and you just threw that one paraffin candle that
17 was empty in there?

18 A. Yes, I saw the marine crew take out the trash and to my
19 knowledge, there's only -- the only one I put in there was empty
20 and had no liquid in it.

21 Q. You know, you mentioned that you didn't see anyone with --
22 using vape pens or electronic cigarettes on the *Spirit of Boston*.
23 Have you seen them where passengers leave them around, you know,
24 like they forget them or they don't take them with them?

25 A. Not to my knowledge.

1 Q. Have you seen any of those that might've been thrown in the
2 trash?

3 A. I have not seen any vape pens or electronic cigarettes in the
4 trash. If I had, I would've alerted my manager or the captain
5 right away.

6 Q. And why would that be?

7 A. Because those things are flammable and they're dangerous and
8 they're not allowed on the -- no one's allowed to use them on the
9 boat.

10 Q. But the crew uses them. You mentioned you've seen crew use
11 them, not necessarily on the *Spirit of Boston*, you've seen it on,
12 perhaps, the *Odyssey*, would that be correct?

13 A. Yes, but usually, it's not in front of customers. Only --

14 Q. And then -- I'm sorry, go ahead, Ms. Friedman.

15 A. Oh, nothing, go ahead.

16 Q. And when you say they're dangerous, how do you know that an
17 electronic cigarette or vape pen are dangerous in terms of a fire
18 risk?

19 A. Because the battery could ignite.

20 Q. And who told you that?

21 A. I saw it on the news.

22 Q. Now, Mr. Kinney, who's the restaurant manager, you know who
23 I'm speaking about, right?

24 A. Jeremy.

25 Q. So he mentioned that when he looked at the fire, he saw

1 sparks and heard a hissing sound. Did you hear any sound when
2 people were aware of the fire, like a hissing sound or like gas
3 escaping or any noise that was unusual?

4 A. I remember hearing a pop, pop sound like someone was popping
5 popcorn.

6 Q. And could you tell me, like if you walked me onto the boat
7 that night, could you take me to where you heard the popping
8 sound?

9 A. Near the bus station where the fire started, I thought I
10 heard like a popping, sounded like someone was popping popcorn or
11 fireworks.

12 Q. Did you smell anything?

13 A. No, I didn't smell anything.

14 Q. And that popping noise -- okay, so what I've seen in the
15 video, which has been very helpful to me, is I see the restaurant
16 manager and Jeremy Kinney see the fire and then the people that
17 are working on the wait staff on the main deck kind of move
18 towards the fire, kind of like to the vicinity of the fire. You
19 stop for a minute and you stand still, do you know why you stood
20 still there?

21 A. I have no idea.

22 Q. At that point, did you hear the popping sound?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you said it was over towards the wait station area.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then everybody evacuated the boat, the restaurant
2 manager --

3 A. Straight away.

4 Q. Straight away.

5 A. Straight away. And the FDB was called and they showed up and
6 put out the fire.

7 Q. Right. Do you have any idea what might have made that
8 popping sound?

9 A. Honestly --

10 MR. DENLEY: Objection, calls for speculation.

11 BY MR. FAWCETT:

12 Q. Do you know what made the popping sound?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know if the paraffin candle might have leaked the
15 liquid on the floor?

16 A. Not to my knowledge.

17 Q. And how about a Sterno can, the Sterno cans, as I understand
18 it, have a clear fluid in them, could that have made the spill on
19 the floor?

20 A. Not to my knowledge.

21 MR. FAWCETT: That's all the questions I have for now. I'll
22 turn it over to my colleagues. I may come back, Ms. Friedman, and
23 ask you additional questions.

24 MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay.

25 MR. FAWCETT: Thank you very much.

1 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

2 LT [REDACTED] Good afternoon, Ms. Friedman, again. Thank you
3 so much for being here. I just have a few follow-up questions
4 before we move on.

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay.

6 BY LT [REDACTED]

7 Q. So you had mentioned that you were cleaning up the wait
8 station.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That was one of your duties. Can you describe to me what you
11 do, all your duties in cleaning the wait station?

12 A. I empty out the coffee, put any sugar away, throw out any
13 additional trash, wipe the bus station down, make sure all the
14 trash is taken out, make sure the floor is clean, no dangerous
15 liquids on the floor, make sure the ice is melted. I put the
16 cream and milk away afterwards, back in the fridge.

17 Q. Okay. And you had mentioned the coffee. Talk to me about
18 the coffee service. Is it a coffee maker? Can you explain to me
19 how the coffee -- is it a coffee machine, is it a warmer, what is
20 it?

21 A. It's a coffee pot. I put the paper in the coffee maker
22 machine and put the coffee into it and let it brew.

23 Q. And how does it -- how does it get warm?

24 A. It heats up in the machine.

25 Q. It heats up in the machine?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Now, once it's in that, once it's in the machine and goes
3 into the coffee pot, does it stay there?

4 A. Yes, it does.

5 Q. Is there a heating element or how does it stay warm?

6 A. The machine heats it.

7 Q. Okay. Is that in the normal operation, do you have the same
8 operation on the *Odyssey*?

9 A. On, no. On the *Odyssey*, we make the coffee but we give it
10 out to the customer. On the *Spirit*, it's a coffee station.

11 Q. Okay, so it's different.

12 A. Different.

13 Q. Okay. And in that area, when you were doing -- when you were
14 cleaning on that night, was there a Sterno can underneath the
15 coffee warmer?

16 A. There was, but it was burnt, it had been extinguished.

17 Q. How do you know it was extinguished?

18 A. Because there was no label on it.

19 Q. Okay. And was it still underneath there?

20 A. No, it had been removed.

21 Q. Where was it removed to?

22 A. It was on the bus station counter and I picked it up, shook
23 it to make sure there was no liquid in it, and then I threw it
24 away.

25 Q. You threw it away?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Okay. In which trash can did you throw it in?
- 3 A. The one next to the bus station.
- 4 Q. And when you shook it, was there a cap on top of it or could
5 you see the wick?
- 6 A. I could see the wick.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. It had been used to keep the coffee hot.
- 9 Q. Okay. And was the can warm at all?
- 10 A. No, it was cold.
- 11 Q. It was cold, okay. And do you know who blew out that candle?
12 No?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Do you know how long it had been lit for?
- 15 A. The entire cruise.
- 16 Q. What time do those normally get lit on the cruise?
- 17 A. Before the cruise starts.
- 18 Q. So how long was the cruise that night?
- 19 A. Three hours.
- 20 Q. So for approximately three hours that -- is that your area of
21 -- so while you're working on the *Spirit of Boston*, do you
22 normally -- how many times have you worked on the *Spirit of*
23 *Boston*? Let's go back to that.
- 24 A. I worked there -- I worked there a couple of times.
- 25 Q. A couple of times?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And in this -- so prior to March 24th, you had worked there a
3 couple of times, like within the year or over many years?

4 A. The year. I worked there on Valentine's Day a couple weeks
5 before that and the night of the fire.

6 Q. Okay. And have you always worked that same area? Was that
7 your location of the boat, like --

8 A. Usually, I work on the *Odyssey*.

9 Q. I know, but when you're working on the *Spirit of Boston*.

10 A. Usually, I go where they tell me, what deck I'm assigned to.

11 Q. Have you worked there before in that area?

12 A. I have.

13 Q. And was it the same type of situation before?

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 Q. And you had the same setup, was the coffee back there the
16 same way?

17 A. It was.

18 Q. And was there a Sterno can there before?

19 A. Really, it's to keep the coffee nice and warm.

20 Q. Yeah, exactly. Well, nobody likes a cold black coffee,
21 that's not good. So at what point did you throw away that Sterno
22 can, was it after the cruise?

23 A. After the cruise.

24 Q. Was it prior to doing the linens?

25 A. Before the linen.

1 Q. It was before the linens?

2 A. Before the linens.

3 Q. Okay. Was it before or after you had brought back the salt
4 and pepper shakers?

5 A. After.

6 Q. After you brought back the salt and pepper shakers but before
7 you went back out and did the linens?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And so at what point did you pick up that Sterno can
10 and shake it and make sure it was empty and then throw it in the
11 trash?

12 A. Before I threw it away.

13 Q. Before you threw it away, but -- so was that before or after
14 you cleaned up the liquid on the floor?

15 A. After.

16 Q. So you did that after you cleaned up the liquid on the floor?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Did you wonder where the liquid came from?

19 A. Honestly, I thought it was just water.

20 Q. Okay. And you had stated that it was the size -- originally
21 you had stated it was the size of like a saucer, like 5 inches?

22 A. Yeah, a 5-inch puddle of water.

23 Q. But it had extended -- the way we see you cleaning it up on
24 the deck, it looks like you had covered a few feet when you were
25 -- when you were cleaning it, like using your feet.

- 1 A. Well, I was not using my feet to clean the water.
- 2 Q. Not your feet, but you were pushing a rag on the deck with
3 the feet.
- 4 A. Oh, I was making sure I didn't lose the rag before I threw it
5 away.
- 6 Q. Yeah. No, that's very smart. So can you explain to me how
7 you cleaned it up and from where you did?
- 8 A. I cleaned it up right near where they kept the glasses and
9 the coffee cups.
- 10 Q. So if I'm looking at that space, and maybe you can walk me
11 through what's back there, because you were one of the last people
12 back there in that area, I just want to make sure we all are on
13 the same page with it. So if I'm standing -- so I'm standing, say
14 I come into the doorway heading in to the service -- the wait
15 station, right, and I turn towards the window, so if this is --
16 I'm going to set this up really quickly, right.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. So say this is the window --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- okay, and then this is the wall, in front.
- 21 A. Um-hum.
- 22 Q. This is the other wall, okay, so this is the hallway, okay?
- 23 A. That is a hallway.
- 24 Q. And so if -- the coffee maker is right here, okay?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So what's behind me?
- 2 A. The wall.
- 3 Q. The wall. But what's on that back wall?
- 4 A. Just the back wall and the entrance of the galley.
- 5 Q. Okay, so we had mentioned some cup -- some glass containers,
6 right?
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 Q. Where you keep the glasses at.
- 9 A. We keep the glasses in the glass containers.
- 10 Q. Okay. So what's next to the glass containers up against the
11 windows, is there -- is there a rack there?
- 12 A. Yeah, another rack of wine glasses.
- 13 Q. A rack of like wine glasses?
- 14 A. Yeah, and some coffee cups.
- 15 Q. And coffee cups. And what's on the shelving unit over here
16 against the window?
- 17 A. The tea box, the sugar, extra salt and pepper, and some extra
18 coffee bags.
- 19 Q. Okay. And then you had mentioned the glass racks, are they
20 the ones that -- the plastic ones?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Like, can you describe to me, like, what they look like?
- 23 A. They're bright blue, they have glass (ph.) in them.
- 24 Q. And are they like plastic or metal?
- 25 A. No, they're metal.

1 Q. The rack is metal or so do you, like -- so I'm talking the
2 stackable ones, right, so you're taking, yeah, those ones, were
3 those in that space?

4 A. Yes, they were.

5 Q. And are those hard plastic?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Q. And how many sets of those were in there, do you remember?

9 A. Three.

10 Q. Okay. And then was there -- there was a rubber trash can in
11 there, as well?

12 A. And a rubber linen bag.

13 Q. Okay. And so that trash can that was in there, that's where
14 you threw --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- that Sterno can that you had?

17 A. I made sure it was cold, empty, and not had any liquid in it.

18 Q. Okay. And you did that by -- can you explain to me again how
19 you did that?

20 A. I shook it.

21 Q. You shook it and you didn't feel anything --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- moving around in there?

24 A. If I had felt anything, I would've called someone.

25 Q. Okay. And is that -- have you ever done this before --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- with the Sternos?

3 A. No, usually the galley throws those away.

4 Q. Okay. So you believe that it's liquid and it would create a
5 -- like a sloshing --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- if it were to be --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And when you threw that away, did you throw it towards
10 the can, did you walk over and drop it in, can you explain to
11 me --

12 A. I dropped it in, I dropped it in.

13 Q. Okay, you dropped it in. Is there any way that that could've
14 gotten on the floor?

15 A. Not to my knowledge.

16 Q. Not to your knowledge?

17 A. Not to my knowledge.

18 Q. Okay. So on the night of the 24th --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- you had gone into -- to do your wait station cleanups --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and you were in there for approximately 2 minutes doing
23 your wait station cleanups.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You had come out --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and you picked up your jacket and you kind of were walking
3 around doing some linens, it appeared.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And then there was -- and then approximately a minute and a
6 half later, approximation, you had went back into that wait
7 station's -- you went back into the wait station for another 45
8 seconds. Did you hear or smell anything at that time?

9 A. I did not see or smell anything at the time.

10 Q. No?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I had no idea what was about to happen, actually.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I really wish it hadn't happened.

16 Q. Yeah, nobody wishes it happened.

17 A. And I honestly would not have been there that night.

18 Q. Yeah, I understand.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. So when --

21 A. And then --

22 Q. Go ahead.

23 A. And then about 30 minutes later, CeeCee said everybody off
24 the boat, we all evacuated.

25 Q. You did, yeah. We saw that.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. This is Ms. Bell, right? Is Ms. Bell the -- she's one of the
3 servers on there?

4 A. She's my fellow SA (ph.).

5 Q. Yeah, she's a fellow SA, okay. So Ms. Bell, after you had
6 departed and you were not in the wait station, nobody was in the
7 wait station --

8 A. Right.

9 Q. -- and Ms. Bell had walked back there.

10 A. To get her phone.

11 Q. To get her phone. And you kind of followed her back there.
12 Were you guys talking about anything?

13 A. We were talking about -- we were talking about the next week
14 and how busy we were about to get.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. And then all of a sudden, she said she smelled something
17 burning and then the fire started and we all left the boat.

18 Q. Did you, yourself, see the fire?

19 A. After we got off the boat.

20 Q. After you got off the boat. And you said that you heard --
21 you said you heard a popping, like a popcorn popping, is that
22 correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And did you hear that before or after Ms. Bell saw the fire?

25 A. After. Actually, it was really, really scary.

1 Q. It was.

2 A. It was.

3 Q. Did anybody that you saw go to grab a fire extinguisher?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did anybody mention the fire extinguisher?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did anybody mention the fire blanket?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you personally know where the fire extinguishers are on
10 board that boat?

11 A. I know where they are on the *Odyssey*.

12 Q. Then why do you know where they are on the *Odyssey*?

13 A. Like I work there more often.

14 Q. Have you ever received training on the *Odyssey* on where fire
15 extinguishers are?

16 A. Yes, we have.

17 Q. Did you ever receive training on the *Spirit of Boston* where
18 the fire extinguishers are?

19 A. No.

20 Q. But you have been on there --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- for two or three cruises.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Do you know if any of the other managers or wait staff knew
25 where the fire extinguishers were?

1 A. They did, but we decided the best course of action would be
2 to evacuate and call the fire department.

3 Q. So nobody mentioned we should grab a fire extinguisher?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did anybody describe the fire to you when it was initially
6 seen?

7 A. Not to my knowledge. I know it was a two-alarmer, it was
8 pretty big, and it took out almost the entire boat.

9 Q. Oh, okay. And where did you get that information from?

10 A. I saw it on the news.

11 Q. Saw it on the news.

12 A. And I know that the fire department had to be flagged out
13 because they went right past us.

14 Q. Oh, okay. When you had departed the boat, where did you go
15 from there?

16 A. Went to the dock and we stood there and watched the fire get
17 put out. We were far, far away.

18 Q. Did you have any discussions with anybody else on how the
19 fire could've started?

20 A. No. We were all just freaking out.

21 Q. And when you're on the *Odyssey*, do you ever dispose of
22 Sternos on the *Odyssey*?

23 A. No, the galley takes those and they put them in the water and
24 they throw them out themselves.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. But that point in the night, the galley from the *Spirit* was
2 already -- had already left.

3 Q. Did you ask anybody on how to dispose of a Sterno? No?

4 A. No. Because usually the galley does that.

5 Q. Did you see the Sterno lit?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What does it look like, how would you describe it?

8 A. A bright blue flame.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Like something out of a horror movie.

11 Q. Okay. And you think it was lit for approximately 4 hours?

12 A. Yeah, during the cruise, it kept the coffee warm.

13 Q. Do you know who lit it to start the day?

14 A. I think it was one of the galley guys.

15 Q. So okay, do you know -- do you know offhand if it was a new
16 one or a used one?

17 A. I think it was a new one.

18 Q. And where would they -- where do they get those Sternos from,
19 do you know?

20 A. Honestly, I have no idea.

21 Q. Okay, okay.

22 A. We don't use them that much on the *Odyssey*, we usually have
23 plated meals.

24 Q. Yeah, understood.

25 A. We're not known for buffets, I mean, only for brunch.

1 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you for answering my questions.

2 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

3 LT [REDACTED] Mr. Young?

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 BY MR. YOUNG:

6 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Friedman. My name is Brian Young and I'm
7 with the National Transportation Safety Board.

8 A. Nice to meet you.

9 Q. Nice to meet you, too. Thank you so much for your help
10 today, we really appreciate it.

11 A. Oh, you're welcome. Anything I can do to get this
12 investigation moved along.

13 Q. Thank you. We really do appreciate that.

14 A. You're welcome.

15 Q. I know you answered a few questions about wiping up what you
16 thought might have been water on the deck --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- with the linens. Do you remember seeing anybody drop
19 anything on the deck that could've caused that spill?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you know where that water on the deck may have come from
22 at all?

23 A. I thought it just from one of the clean water glasses.

24 Q. Okay. And would that spill or wet spot on the deck be in the
25 area of the garbage pail or would it have been closer to the racks

1 of glasses?

2 A. Closer to the racks of glasses.

3 Q. And are all the glasses that are in the racks cleaned from
4 the dishwasher or are they all dirty from the passenger space?

5 A. They were all clean from the dishwasher. They were ready to
6 go for the cruise that was supposed to have been on Sunday.

7 Q. Okay. And do they typically get stored upside down, each of
8 the glasses?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then, of course, with the liquid on the deck, did you
11 notice any sort of an odor or smell other than what could've been
12 water, which doesn't have any smell?

13 A. I didn't smell anything.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I know it was just water.

16 Q. Understood. And were all the glasses that are stored on
17 those -- I think some of the people you may work with call them
18 rollies, is that correct?

19 A. Yes, they were stored on the rollies.

20 Q. Do the rollies move around or do they always stay in that
21 spot?

22 A. They always stay on that spot unless we're taking the glasses
23 out to be put onto the tables.

24 Q. And then at that point, would you wheel out the rollie with
25 all its racks, to wheel them out to the places for distribution?

1 A. Yes, we would. We put them in a -- we put them in -- we put
2 them in the middle of the floor and then we grab the glasses, put
3 them on the tables, and we put some (indiscernible) down and we
4 put on the napkins then we would make sure everything was done
5 before we left.

6 Q. Okay. What I was just trying to see is if the rollies had
7 been sitting in that spot for a long time or if they get wheeled
8 out frequently.

9 A. They do.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Otherwise, they just sit in the bus station safely away from
12 everybody else.

13 Q. Okay, that's great.

14 A. Yeah.

15 MR. YOUNG: Okay, thank you very much. Those were the only
16 two questions I had and I really appreciate your help today.

17 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. You're welcome.

18 LT [REDACTED] Mr. Hartnett?

19 BY MR. HARTNETT:

20 Q. I have some questions.

21 A. Sure.

22 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Friedman.

23 A. Nice to meet you.

24 Q. I just want to tell you a little bit of why I'm here, I
25 didn't get to speak with you the last time you were here.

1 A. You do alcohol, fire, and tobacco.

2 Q. And all I do is fires.

3 A. And fires.

4 Q. That's all I do.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. And one of the things as a fire investigator is that we have
7 to determine where the fire started --

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. -- in order to determine what could've caused it. Does that
10 make sense?

11 A. It does.

12 Q. If you don't know where the fire started, how can you say
13 something caused the fire if you don't know where it even began?
14 Makes sense.

15 A. Yes, it does.

16 Q. So we have to determine where the fire started and then we
17 start looking at what is there that could start a fire. So have
18 you ever experienced a fire in your life?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. So --

21 A. The only fire I experienced was the one on May 29th, it was
22 outside the boat.

23 Q. What happened to that?

24 A. It was a sailboat that had caught fire and ran into us and we
25 had to evacuate the boat.

1 Q. And the sailboat caught fire?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that -- okay.

4 A. A different boat.

5 Q. Different boat, okay. So in your personal life that's the
6 only fire you've ever experienced?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I have a degree in fire science --

9 A. Wow.

10 Q. -- bachelor's degree in fire science and I have a master's
11 degree in forensic science specializing in arson explosive
12 investigation.

13 A. Like from CSI?

14 Q. Well, kind of like that.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. So I've gone through a lot of training, a lot of education,
17 and I am working under a memorandum of agreement with the Coast
18 Guard and NTSB as their representative to determine the cause of
19 fire.

20 A. Wow.

21 Q. So I'm the training guy.

22 A. Oh.

23 Q. So they're the government, we're the government, they call me
24 in to help with that.

25 A. Wow, so much training.

1 Q. Yes. And with that training comes a lot of experience over
2 the years, I've been doing this job for over 20 years.

3 A. Wow, I've been working on the *Odyssey* for 15.

4 Q. And so I've seen a lot of fires in that time.

5 A. Wow.

6 Q. And not every fire I go to is a deliberate act, a lot of
7 accidental fires, I go to a lot of them.

8 A. Well, that's a good thing.

9 Q. I agree. Nobody wants a fire and hopefully, it's an
10 accident. But why do you think we investigate fires, why do we,
11 as a society, expect a fire investigation?

12 A. To make sure it doesn't happen again?

13 Q. Exactly. So if there's something we can do to determine
14 that, let's say you bought a product at the store, like you said
15 earlier, lithium batteries can start a fire.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So if we can identify --

18 A. I've seen those blow up on TV a lot.

19 Q. Okay. So if we were able to go to a scene that had a fire
20 and we could identify that a particular product -- and identify a
21 lithium ion battery, let's say Company X --

22 A. Right.

23 Q. -- and they were making bad batteries, we would want to stop
24 that company from --

25 A. Doing it again.

1 Q. -- doing it again.

2 A. Like those on hover boards?

3 Q. Exactly. So we put a crackdown, as the government says you
4 can't import or make faulty batteries and bring them into this
5 country because they cause fires and burn down people's houses,
6 cause injuries.

7 A. Like the ones in those Samsung phones a couple years ago.

8 Q. Yeah, same thing.

9 A. I watch a lot of news.

10 Q. And something that I experience a lot when I investigate
11 fires are fires caused by smoking and I'm just saying this as an
12 example, I'm not saying that's what caused this fire, but I'm
13 going to use this as an example to explain to this you.

14 A. I don't smoke.

15 Q. Well, that's good. I investigate a lot of fires that are
16 caused by improperly discarded smoking materials and it's
17 unfortunate that the people that I interview, that deny smoking
18 when it's an accident and people that cause fires accidentally are
19 concerned about the fault of causing a fire even though it was an
20 accident and they don't want to be blamed for something that they
21 did do even though it was an accident. But my point is, is that
22 if we can't prove that a fire was started accidentally and we don't
23 know what caused the fire, we have to possibly keep the realm of
24 the evidence we have that somebody did something on purpose
25 because we can't disprove somebody did something on purpose.

1 A. I didn't start that fire.

2 Q. I'm not accusing you, I'm not even going to ask who started
3 the fire because I don't believe you did, that's not even the
4 question I was going to ask.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. But what I have to do is I have to look at evidence, just
7 I'll use your CSI example.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. If I see something, I have to deal with physical evidence.
10 This laptop is on the table right now and it's sitting right here.
11 No one in this room can dispute the laptop is sitting on the table
12 in front of me right now, would you agree with that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So when I went out to the fire scene and I examined
15 it, we're going to first what? Determine where did it start,
16 where is the area of origin, where did the fire start. So in this
17 particular fire on the *Spirit of Boston*, we determined that the
18 fire started in the wait station, would you agree with that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. So then once we're in the wait station, we want to
21 find out what could start a fire in the wait station, does that
22 make sense?

23 A. Yes, it does.

24 Q. What is there, what could start a fire? So give me some
25 examples if you were going to figure out what started the fire,

1 give me three examples off the top of your head that could be an
2 ignition source for a fire.

3 MR. DENLEY: Special Agent, when I talked to Commander
4 [REDACTED] he told me that this was going to be an interview about
5 what Ms. Friedman saw and --

6 MR. HARTNETT: Okay, I'll --

7 MR. DENLEY: I mean, I just haven't heard -- I haven't heard
8 a question yet. I appreciate the background and everything,
9 but --

10 LCDR [REDACTED] I didn't hear an objection --

11 (Crosstalk)

12 BY MR. HARTNETT:

13 Q. Okay. So could you name three ignition sources, if you were
14 standing there looking --

15 MR. DENLEY: Objection, calls for speculation.

16 MR. HARTNETT: Okay.

17 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

18 BY MR. HARTNETT:

19 Q. I look at what could start a fire, so I look at electricity,
20 I know there were Sterno cans there. There was a cell phone there
21 that had a battery in it. We can eliminate the cell phone, we
22 know the battery didn't fail in the cell phone. Smoking, we find
23 evidence of smoking with improperly discarded smoking materials on
24 the boat. But I want to focus on the Sterno can. We found the
25 Sterno can, there is a Sterno can, and when I get to my -- my

1 question is, when you were cleaning the Sterno can from the coffee
2 surface, did you drop the Sterno can --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- and pick it up and throw it away?

5 A. I did not drop the Sterno can.

6 Q. Okay. Do you know -- is it an appropriate question to ask
7 her if she knows where we found the Sterno can or is it all right
8 if I just tell her?

9 LCDR [REDACTED] Just tell her.

10 MR. HARTNETT: Okay, we found the Sterno can, and I have a
11 photograph of it here, and I don't know if I can show that to the
12 witness or not.

13 LCDR [REDACTED] Can you send it?

14 MR. HARTNETT: I e-mailed the photographs.

15 MS. FRIEDMAN: No.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it one, two or three?

17 MR. HARTNETT: I can tell you by looking at it. So getting
18 back to physical evidence --

19 LCDR [REDACTED] It's photo --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here's 1.

21 MS. FRIEDMAN: Oh, dear God. Get rid of that, please. I
22 just don't want to relive this again.

23 BY MR. HARTNETT:

24 Q. Okay. Well, then I'll just explain it to you. There are
25 glassware racks on the rollies.

1 A. Oh, dear God.

2 Q. When the fire occurred, the fire is obviously going to melt
3 plastic, would you agree with that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So if something is on the floor -- if something is on
6 the floor and the plastic melts, what's going to happen to the
7 item on the floor?

8 A. It's going to melt.

9 Q. Well --

10 MR. DENLEY: Objection, calls for speculation.

11 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

12 BY MR. HARTNETT:

13 Q. What happens -- okay. I'm not an attorney, I apologize. We
14 found, and I'll just tell you this, we found the Sterno can
15 sitting on its side along, as using Mr. [REDACTED] example, on the
16 left-hand side between the trash can and the rack, the metal rack,
17 where the wheelie rollie thing was, it was underneath and the
18 plastic had melted on top of it, that's where we found it. It
19 wasn't in the trash can. So I'm going to ask you to recollect if
20 you recall dropping the Sterno can or putting it in the trash can,
21 because we did not find the Sterno can in the trash --

22 A. I did not drop the Sterno can.

23 Q. Okay. We found it under the rollie cart.

24 A. Can we get this over? Can I stop this, please? Eric, can I
25 stop this?

1 MR. DENLEY: Sure, do you want to -- do you want to take a
2 break, Jessica?

3 MS. FRIEDMAN: No, I --

4 MR. DENLEY: Can you give me a call?

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: You know what?

6 MR. DENLEY: I mean, I would say she -- the question's
7 already been asked and answered, I think, by --

8 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Eric.

9 MR. DENLEY: -- by a couple different people, but if -- I
10 mean, if you'd like to ask it, you know, again -- Jessica, I mean,
11 you can just say what you stated, I believe she stated a couple
12 different times that she didn't drop it --

13 (Crosstalk)

14 MR. DENLEY: -- and she put it in the trash can.

15 MS. FRIEDMAN: I disposed of that thing properly, I did not
16 start the fire. I didn't want this to happen. I wanted us to
17 have all the boats in one piece, we'd have a nice season. I would
18 never have caused this to happen.

19 LT [REDACTED] Just take a 5-minute break.

20 MS. FRIEDMAN: I have to get to work.

21 (Crosstalk)

22 MR. DENLEY: No. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Let's just take a break
23 and then maybe I can have a conversation with the investigators
24 when you're not in the room and then -- and then we could -- so I
25 don't want you to go to --

1 (Crosstalk)

2 MR. DENLEY: I don't want you to go back to work --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 MR. DENLEY: I'm sorry?

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: I told you I'd be accused of something.

6 MR. DENLEY: Yeah, I know, I get a sense of that, so I mean,
7 let's just -- let's just pause the interview. If you could stay
8 there at the Coast Guard base for just a minute and I can talk
9 with the rest of the investigators and then we can -- we can kind
10 of figure out where we're going to go.

11 MS. FRIEDMAN: All right, thank you.

12 MR. DENLEY: Sure.

13 MR. FAWCETT: Okay, for the benefit --

14 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Eric.

15 MR. FAWCETT: -- of the interview, the tape is running and
16 we'll wait for Commander [REDACTED] to decide whether we pause tape or
17 resume taping.

18 MR. DENLEY: Okay. So I mean, do we --

19 (Crosstalk)

20 CDR [REDACTED] Mr. Denley, do you want to hold, do you want to
21 pause the recording so we can just have a quick offline
22 discussion?

23 (Off the record at 2:50 p.m.)

24 (On the record.)

25 LT [REDACTED] Thank you.

1 MS. FRIEDMAN: All right.

2 LT [REDACTED] Hello.

3 MS. FRIEDMAN: Hello, thank you.

4 LT [REDACTED] Thank you.

5 LCDR [REDACTED] Thank you.

6 LT [REDACTED] You're welcome.

7 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for letting me taking a breath.

8 LT [REDACTED] Yeah, no problem. Just let me know when you're
9 ready to --

10 MS. FRIEDMAN: I'm ready --

11 LT [REDACTED] You're ready, okay.

12 MS. FRIEDMAN: -- to wrap this up.

13 LT [REDACTED] Okay. And we have restarted the recording and
14 transcription and we're going to go ahead and continue with
15 questions. Mr. Denley, do you have any questions for
16 Ms. Friedman?

17 MR. DENLEY: Yeah, I do, just a couple follow-on questions,
18 and thank you so much.

19 BY MR. DENLEY:

20 Q. So this is the second time that you've been interviewed about
21 this.

22 A. Yes, it is.

23 Q. Yeah. And so we certainly appreciate, obviously, your
24 participation and your perspective. So I just want to -- I want
25 to go back to some of the questions that you answered when

1 Mr. Fawcett was asking you some questions about the liquid that
2 you were cleaning up there.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So the image that we saw, there was -- you were -- it looked
5 like you kind of dropped --

6 A. The rag?

7 Q. You dropped the rag, yeah, and then --

8 A. And then I picked it up.

9 Q. And then picked it back up. So like, was that all -- like,
10 did you just drop the rag because you -- did you drop the rag
11 because you dropped the rag or did you drop the rag because you
12 were trying to clean up something on the floor or do you -- or do
13 you remember?

14 A. I dropped the rag, I dropped the rag.

15 Q. Okay. So you were --

16 (Crosstalk)

17 BY MR. DENLEY:

18 Q. So I just want to be clear. The video that Mr. Fawcett
19 showed you when you were dropping, when you dropped the rag, you
20 were not cleaning up any liquid at that point?

21 A. No, I was not, I was just picking up the rag and putting it
22 in the proper disposal area.

23 Q. Got it, got it. Okay. And then when you -- you said you
24 worked on -- you said that you worked on the Valentine's Day
25 cruise on the *Spirit of Boston*?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. Okay. And did you work the first deck on that particular
3 cruise?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And so you worked out of that wait station?

6 A. I have.

7 Q. Okay. So the process that you described with the coffee, did
8 you work the coffee service on that particular cruise or do you
9 remember?

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It's just so long ago.

13 Q. No, I understand. Do you recall, during the Valentine's
14 cruise, did you -- did you dispose of the Sterno for the coffee?

15 A. Not to my recollection, I don't remember, it was so long ago.

16 MR. DENLEY: Okay, got it. I don't have any further
17 questions. Thank you so much, I appreciate it.

18 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

19 LT [REDACTED] Thank you, sir. Mr. Fawcett?

20 BY MR. FAWCETT:

21 Q. Hey, Ms. Friedman.

22 A. Hello.

23 Q. Just a couple of questions for you. Thanks again.

24 A. You're welcome.

25 Q. So have you ever shaken a Sterno can before to determine

1 whether or not it's got liquid in it?

2 A. Not usually.

3 Q. Because those Sterno cans with the red snap-on cover, they're
4 designed to last approximately six hours and you mentioned that
5 the Sterno had been going about three hours. To me, it seems like
6 there would still be a couple hours fuel in that can.

7 A. I have no knowledge of Sterno cans, to be honest, I just know
8 they're used to keep the food warm on the *Spirit* and the *Odyssey*.

9 Q. And then I just want to clarify, so the spill you wiped up,
10 the puddle or the area, could it have looked like -- like a snake
11 as opposed to something the size of like, you know, a dinner --
12 like a small saucer?

13 A. To my remembrance, it looked like a saucer, not a snake.

14 Q. And then when you wiped it up, was it completely cleaned up?

15 A. Yes, it was.

16 Q. And the deck was dry?

17 A. The deck was dry as a bone.

18 Q. And then something caught my attention, you mentioned the
19 *Odyssey* and the burning sailboat that occurred, you said May 29th,
20 but it might've been March 29th.

21 A. No. I remember it was right before Memorial Day.

22 Q. Yeah. And you had mentioned it ran into the *Odyssey* in this
23 interview here.

24 A. Yeah, it bumped us.

25 Q. Okay, that's the first time I heard that, that the sailboat

1 was on fire and it actually bumped into the *Odyssey*.

2 A. Yeah, we had to evacuate our boat, too, we had to cancel the
3 cruise.

4 MR. FAWCETT: Oh, okay. All right. Thank you very much.

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

6 MR. FAWCETT: I don't have any other questions. Thank you
7 very much.

8 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome. Now, if you gentlemen don't
9 mind, I have a cruise to prepare for.

10 BY LT [REDACTED]

11 Q. Okay, I just have one more question, if you wouldn't mind,
12 it's a really easy question.

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. In your previous -- in your preliminary questioning that
15 Mr. Fawcett did with you --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- you had stated that the trash was taken out before you
18 threw -- before you cleaned the service station.

19 A. Yeah, the marine crew always took out the trash after the
20 cruise so it's not on the deck anymore.

21 Q. So it was like a fresh -- so when you threw away the -- you
22 threw away the candle in there, as you stated in your previous --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. It went into a fresh trash bag.

25 A. Fresh trash bag.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. All the trash was gone by then.

3 LT [REDACTED] Okay. I don't have any further questions. Just
4 really quickly, Mr. Young, did you have any further questions?

5 MR. DENLEY: I have one.

6 LT [REDACTED] Okay, one second, Mr. Denley.

7 (Crosstalk)

8 MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay.

9 LT [REDACTED] Are you all set, Brian?

10 MR. YOUNG: Yes, I'm all set, thank you.

11 LT [REDACTED] Okay, thank you. Mr. Denley.

12 BY MR. DENLEY:

13 Q. Yeah. So Jessica, when you --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So when you -- when you picked up the -- when you picked up
16 the Sterno can to throw it away from --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- the coffee service, was it in -- where was it located?

19 A. Where the coffee pot had been, on the table.

20 Q. Like was it underneath, was the coffee pot already removed?

21 A. Yes, it was. I had removed it and poured out the coffee.

22 Q. Okay. So you removed the coffee pot.

23 A. Yes, first, then the Sterno can.

24 Q. So did you extinguish the Sterno can initially?

25 A. No, it was already out by the time I got back.

1 Q. Okay. And then do you know when that Sterno can was
2 extinguished?

3 A. Around 10:30, the time we got back.

4 Q. You got back at 10:30, but do you know when the Sterno --

5 A. We got back at 10:00.

6 Q. You got back at 10:00, okay.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you know when the -- do you know when the Sterno can was
9 like extinguished, like who blew it out?

10 A. No, not to my knowledge. I had no idea who blew out the
11 candle, but it was definitely out when I threw it away.

12 Q. Okay. And when would that candle have been blown out, like
13 when would the Sterno can, candle, have been blown out?

14 A. Right after we -- before we got back.

15 Q. Okay. So it would've been before you docked?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And how do you know that?

18 A. I've seen them do it on the -- I've seen them do it.

19 Q. Okay. So a full 30 minutes would've passed --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- from the time that -- from the time when the Sterno was
22 extinguished to when you picked it up and threw it out in the
23 trash?

24 A. Yes, it did.

25 Q. Okay. Would it have been -- could it have been more than 30

1 minutes or is that just an estimation based on your --

2 A. Just an estimation.

3 Q. More or less, okay.

4 A. More or less, Eric.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know about how long it was between the time
6 that you threw the -- picked up the Sterno and threw it away to
7 when you saw smoke?

8 A. I think it was about like -- we were almost done, we were
9 almost done cleaning, I think it was about like 30 minutes.

10 Q. Okay. So I just want to be clear, so you -- you -- sometime
11 before 10 o'clock --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- the Sterno can, the Sterno would've been extinguished.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And then you estimate about 10:30 is when you -- 30
16 minutes later is when you threw it away.

17 A. Yes. And then the fire started.

18 Q. So how long was it from when you threw it away to when the
19 fire started?

20 A. It was about -- let's see, we're outside at -- I think it was
21 about like 11:00. Eleven, 11:30.

22 Q. Okay. And so you picked it up in your hands when --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- you threw it away? Was there --

25 A. I did.

1 Q. Was there like a -- was there a lid on it?

2 A. No, there was no lid on it.

3 Q. Okay. Was there a wick on it or did it --

4 A. Yes, there was.

5 Q. There was a wick, okay.

6 A. There was a wick on it.

7 Q. So it wasn't the kind that the fire just comes out of the
8 top, it was --

9 A. No, the wick was actually burned out.

10 Q. Okay. You said you shook it?

11 A. I shook it to make sure there was no liquid in it because
12 sometimes there is liquid in there and that's not a good thing.

13 Q. And so what would you have done if there was liquid in it?

14 A. I would not have thrown it away, I would have told CeeCee or
15 Jeremy and asked them what to do about it.

16 Q. Okay. And then you testified that you put it in the trash,
17 the trash --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- can, okay.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And the trash can was located where when you threw it away?

22 A. It was located on the deck next to the linen bag.

23 Q. Okay. Right there in the wait station?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. DENLEY: All right. Thank you so much. I don't have any

1 -- I have no more questions, I appreciate it.

2 MS. FRIEDMAN: Okay.

3 BY LT [REDACTED]

4 Q. I just have one more, just because timeline is a big deal
5 when we're dealing with things. So you had stated earlier that
6 you had thrown away the Sterno --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- after you had conducted the cleanup on the floor.

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Okay. So based upon the CCTV footage, if I said that from
11 when you did the cleanup to when the actual smoke was found, it
12 was 2 minutes and 40 seconds, does that --

13 A. That jives.

14 Q. Jives, okay. Just wanted --

15 A. Okay.

16 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

17 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

18 LT [REDACTED] All right, thank you. I guess -- Ms. Friedman,
19 thank you very much for your time.

20 MS. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

21 LT [REDACTED] That concludes our interview and we'll go ahead
22 and stop recording.

23 (Whereupon, the interview concluded.)

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: FIRE ABOARD THE *SPIRIT OF BOSTON*
NEAR THE BOSTON SPORTS DISTRICT
IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
ON MARCH 24, 2023
Interview of Jessica Friedman

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA23FM022

PLACE: Boston, Massachusetts

DATE: May 16, 2023

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



Karen D. Martini
Transcriber