

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FIRE ABOARD *KODIAK ENTERPRISE*  
NEAR TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
ON APRIL 10, 2023

Accident No.: DCA23FM026

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: DEAN ABIVA, Certified Shipboard Competent Person  
Trident Seafoods

Tacoma, Washington

Friday,  
April 14, 2023

APPEARANCES:

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER [REDACTED], Investigator  
United States Coast Guard

GREGORY HELLER, Special Agent  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

LT. COMMANDER [REDACTED], Chief of Investigations  
United States Coast Guard

ELIZABETH STRUNK, Counsel for Trident Seafoods  
Nicoll, Black, and Feig

LARRY ALTENBRUN, Counsel for Trident Seafoods  
Nicoll, Black, and Feig

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:49 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 CWO [REDACTED]: This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED], last  
4 name is spelled [REDACTED]. The day is April 14th, and the time is  
5 10:49 Pacific Standard Time. We're at Trident's facility  
6 conducting interviews into the fire on the Kodiak Enterprise.  
7 Also in the room I have --

8 MR. HELLER: Special Agent Greg Heller with the ATF. The  
9 last name's spelled H-e-l-l-e-r.

10 LCR [REDACTED]: Lt. Commander [REDACTED], Chief of  
11 Investigations. Last name's spelled [REDACTED].

12 MS. STRUNK: Elizabeth Strunk, last name S-t-r-u-n-k with  
13 Nicoll Black & Feig representing Trident.

14 MR. ALTENBRUN: Larry Altenbrun, also representing Trident.  
15 Last name is spelled A-l-t-e-n-b-r-u-n.

16 MR. ABIVA: Dean Abiva, last name A-b-i-v-a.

## INTERVIEW OF DEAN ABIVA

17  
18 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

19 Q. Okay, Dean. Can you tell us what your position is with  
20 Trident?

21 A. I am a welder and I'm also a certified shipyard competent  
22 person. In the mornings I walk around and do my rounds of  
23 certified spaces at (indiscernible).

24 Q. Okay. And how long have you been with Trident?

25 A. I want to say going -- almost going on two years.

1 Q. Two years. All right. And how long have you been qualified  
2 as a safety competent person?

3 A. Maybe as of June of last year, I want to say. I can give you  
4 a more specific date. I think I have a -- the cert card -- yes,  
5 June 29th of 2022, yes, so.

6 Q. Okay. So in regards of the Kodiak Enterprise, on Friday were  
7 you on that vessel?

8 A. I was briefly in the morning doing part of my rounds.

9 Q. Okay. And what were you doing? Explain us -- explain to us  
10 what you were doing that morning?

11 A. So they needed a hot work permit on the vessel over by the  
12 wheelhouse and on the bow, and they needed some tanks cleared,  
13 too.

14 Q. Okay. So if we give you -- we'll give you one of these  
15 drawings here -- just to be more specific on where you were at.  
16 So we're looking at the general arrangement outboard profile. So  
17 can you tell us -- they've got five jobs listed there. Were those  
18 the job sites that you went to?

19 A. Yes. I did Job number 3 and Job number 4.

20 Q. So Job number 4 also goes to -- so it's up at the -- up in  
21 the bow area, but it's also on the stern. Did you -- all of Job  
22 number 4 you did or just in the --

23 A. Yes, so all of number 4, but on the very front, like on the  
24 bow right here.

25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. They weren't even set up for anything.
- 2 Q. They weren't set up for anything?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. So you didn't -- you didn't do anything?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. So when you say you went -- they needed the  
7 certificates, were you -- explain that to us if you would.
- 8 A. All right. So just to make sure -- so when I go up there,  
9 make sure that they have running water and since it's on the main  
10 deck, they have to have -- and they're doing hot work on the main  
11 deck, they have to have a fire watch person below and the foam  
12 moved exactly, you know, 12 inches from where they were cutting.  
13 And they had the foam removed, they had the fire watch up top and  
14 bottom, they had water and a fire extinguisher.
- 15 Q. Okay. And when you say water --
- 16 A. A charged firehose.
- 17 Q. Okay, all right. So they had a charged firehose. They had a  
18 -- what type of fire extinguisher? Do you recall?
- 19 A. No, I don't.
- 20 Q. Okay. All right. So they had a fire watch on -- so you're  
21 saying Job 4, top deck and below?
- 22 A. Um-hum.
- 23 Q. Okay. And then -- all right. Is there -- what specific are  
24 you -- so you're checking the safety gear and the general  
25 condition of the job site. Is there anything else that you're

1 checking and making sure it's --

2 A. Making sure that there's no flammables around, like, you  
3 know, gasoline. Sometimes we have gallons of gasoline on other  
4 vessels before they start, and we normally tell them to take it  
5 off and put it somewhere else, preferably off the vessel. Make  
6 sure they have -- they remove all the toxic coatings if they were  
7 not.

8 Q. Okay. So do you verify the requirements from the marine  
9 chemist's certificate that --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- there may --

12 A. Yes, we mainly go -- so marine chemist comes in first, writes  
13 down, you know, the requirements. And then we basically just go  
14 off of what he says.

15 Q. Okay. So you're just verifying that the condition hasn't  
16 changed, and it's maintained in that --

17 A. Exactly.

18 Q. -- the condition of the marine chemist's certificate? All  
19 right. So with Job 3 and 4, so it would be -- so Job 3, that was  
20 in that fan space or that crawlspace there. Did you do any air  
21 monitoring --

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. -- in that space?

24 A. Um-hum, everything was normal.

25 Q. Everything was normal. Okay. And then in Job 4, did you do

1 air monitoring before they conduct the work as well?

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. Okay. And where is that -- what do you -- so you -- explain  
4 that to me what your procedure for that? Just walk me through.  
5 So you -- so we'll say Job 3, you went there with what type of  
6 meter do you have?

7 A. I don't know the exact model. I mean, I can grab it.

8 Q. That's fine. We can get that later. But, okay, so this  
9 meter, what does it measure?

10 A. It measures for oxygen, like oxygen levels, carbon monoxide,  
11 antioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and that's it.

12 Q. Okay. So it's a 4-gas meter? Okay. And then, okay, so you  
13 got that. You show up in the morning, you turn that thing on and  
14 it's good to go?

15 A. We calibrate it.

16 Q. Okay. And is there -- how do you know how to calibrate it?

17 A. We normally do that once every, like, three days I want to  
18 say.

19 Q. Every three days. So if -- so yesterday it was calibrated,  
20 today you wouldn't calibrate it?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. So you show up first thing in the morning, you turn it  
23 on. You check that it was calibrated at least in those three  
24 days. All right. And where -- how do you know if it's calibrated  
25 or not?



1 A. I don't know.

2 Q. You don't know if it's -- you don't know how -- if it's being  
3 calibrated or not?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I just know how to use the meter, how to calibrate it.

7 Q. You know how to use it and how to calibrate it? Okay. But  
8 you said that it's calibrated every three days, so that's why I'm  
9 just curious how would you know that? If you weren't here for the  
10 last two days --

11 (Crosstalk)

12 A. -- I can't say for certain. I just -- I normally hold on to  
13 one meter and then I'll go and calibrate it.

14 BY MR. HELLER

15 Q. So did you calibrate the meter today?

16 A. Today, no.

17 Q. How -- when was the last calibration?

18 A. Maybe sometime last week.

19 Q. Did somebody tell you when you need to calibrate it?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So sometimes you do calibrate it?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. How do you know when to calibrate it?

24 A. I don't. I just calibrate it.

25 Q. Occasionally, you just say okay, I should probably calibrate

1 this?

2 A. (No audible response).

3 Q. Just relax, I -- just relax. Nobody's trying to catch you in  
4 anything. We're just trying to get information from you. Just  
5 relax.

6 BY CWO [REDACTED]

7 Q. Yes, we're just trying to -- relax, relax. I don't have --  
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nobody's accusing you of anything.

9 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

10 Q. I don't have the silver bracelets to -- and take you away.  
11 So we're just trying to get an understanding on the process, okay.  
12 So that's -- so treat me like you're training me to do your job.  
13 So walk me through that. Does that make -- will that help you  
14 out? So just -- seriously. I'm the new guy here at Trident  
15 facility, and I want to be a safety competent person. So I --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shipyard competent person.

17 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

18 Q. Or -- yes, I'm sorry -- shipyard competent person. I show up  
19 -- I showed up this morning at, you know, 7:00, whenever you do  
20 your rounds. And, all right, Dean, I'm ready to go. Walk me  
21 through this, man. Let's do this.

22 A. Just grab the meter, turn it on, let it do its thing, because  
23 it has to be in clean air for it to go through its paces. And  
24 then walk around the boat. It'll go off if it reads anything bad.  
25 And then that's about it. We have the calibration center where we

1 -- our little machines. And then, I don't know, sometimes it'll  
2 read like odd numbers for, like, oxygen because it hasn't been  
3 calibrated in a while so you just throw it in the machine, let it  
4 do its thing and it should be good after that.

5 Q. Okay. So do I have to log anything when I fire that up in  
6 the morning and say, hey, okay, it's reading, you know, the O2  
7 or --

8 A. On the boat, you have to log conditions on the permit paper,  
9 like, exactly what the oxygen readings are, all the other  
10 readings.

11 Q. Okay. So when we fire it up in the morning, we just let it  
12 do its thing. And if it's in -- it doesn't look anything out of  
13 the ordinary --

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. -- then we go on board, we go to the job sites, like you  
16 said, Job 3 and Job 4. And we take a reading, and we write that  
17 down on the piece of paper.

18 A. Um-hum.

19 Q. And --

20 A. Then we tape it onto somewhere nearby, where the welder or  
21 the fire watch and leadmen could see. And I'm not certified  
22 either, you know, giving permission to do hot work or not.

23 Q. Okay. So you're making the call if this space is safe to  
24 conduct hot work or not? And how do you know if it's safe to  
25 conduct hot work?

1 A. If they have the proper equipment, you know, charged  
2 firehose, clean air, nothing that can burn around it. And there's  
3 no foam on the opposite side and the foam has to be 12 inches or  
4 more, removed from exactly where they're cutting.

5 Q. Okay. So then also with that meter, it's got to be in a  
6 certain range?

7 A. Yes. So for oxygen, it has to be above, like, 19.2 and below  
8 20 -- 22 and a half.

9 Q. Okay. All right. So that's a safe range there. And any of  
10 the other settings?

11 A. The rest of the settings, we prefer to keep it at zero.

12 Q. Okay. So prefer or does it have to be at zero?

13 A. If I'm going to sign off on it, it has to be -- the rest of  
14 it has to be zeroes.

15 Q. Okay. All right. So with these two spaces, they're  
16 obviously completely different. So when you go in there and take  
17 readings, do you just stand in the middle of these spaces or how  
18 do you --

19 A. So --

20 Q. -- do that?

21 A. -- Job number 3, it was actually underneath the wheelhouse,  
22 in the little dry storage area. Since it's technically a confined  
23 space and there's only one way in and out, I crawl in there with  
24 the meter and measure readings from all four corners and in the  
25 middle, at least to where I can, you know, move through the other

1 stuff in there.

2 Q. Okay. So you're going deep back into the corners and all  
3 that?

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. So -- okay. So Job number 3, you're saying -- and I don't  
6 know because I'm on the vessel -- I've been on the sister vessel  
7 for her, like, I'm just trying to clarify -- is you said there was  
8 one entry into that crawlspace?

9 A. From that side, yes.

10 Q. Okay, from that side.

11 A. I think there was another door on the opposite side of that,  
12 there was -- I don't remember exactly that was under there, like,  
13 stored under there.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I don't know what there was.

16 Q. All right. So there's two openings. Is there a bulkhead  
17 that goes through that, do you know?

18 A. I don't believe so.

19 Q. Okay. So it would be -- you could go in from one side and go  
20 out the other?

21 A. (No audible response).

22 Q. Okay. All right. Okay.

23 LCR [REDACTED]: Dean, you should say yes or no when he asks you  
24 a yes or no question, because it's being recorded.

25 CWO [REDACTED] Yes, so --

1 MR. ABIVA: My bad.

2 LCR [REDACTED]: It's okay.

3 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

4 Q. Okay. So if it -- all right. I think that's all --

5 BY LCR [REDACTED]:

6 Q. I have a few questions for you. So I think you said it's  
7 zero for your readings. Do you know at what points the other  
8 dimensions alarm, for example, the H2S? Do you know what those  
9 are set at?

10 A. Like at what point does it go off?

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. The meter?

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. So for H2S, we don't really deal with that much here, but I  
15 haven't had any hydrogen sulfide readings on -- since I've been  
16 doing this.

17 Q. I know, I understand that, but do you know what the --

18 A. The limits --

19 Q. -- the limits are on the actual meter?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And are you able to explain to us the relationship that you  
22 have with the marine chemist and the marine chemist certificate?

23 A. You mean, like, the marine chemist that actually came out  
24 here that day or --

25 Q. Just -- you can certainly tell us about that, you know. That

1 would be great information to have. But like Mr. [REDACTED] was saying,  
2 I'm curious if you were to train us, can you explain to us your  
3 role as the shipyard competent person, how you interact with the  
4 marine chemist and the certificate that he or she issues?

5 A. So usually, I'm not the one that calls the marine chemist,  
6 but when the marine chemist does come out, an SCP has to be  
7 present for him to -- him or her to sign the paper.

8 Q. Um-hum.

9 A. After the marine chemist has done what they're supposed to,  
10 then there's, like -- he pulls the laptop out, asks you to sign  
11 this, and when you sign to basically agree that we're not -- I  
12 forgot what it does say -- I'm not going to sit here and try to  
13 tell you something that I don't know.

14 Q. Okay. Is there anything that you have to do for your permits  
15 that are dependent on the marine chemist certificate?

16 A. We take the marine chemist number and put it on our permits.  
17 Is that what you mean?

18 Q. I'm just asking. What about on Friday? You said you took  
19 the readings for a few of the jobs. Do you recall what the marine  
20 chemist certificates stated?

21 A. Not off the top of my head. I think we have a copy of it  
22 somewhere.

23 Q. So if there's a marine chemist -- a marine chemist  
24 certificate is not issued for every welder job. Right?

25 A. Yes, not every.

1 Q. All right. Just when there's entry into confined spaces and  
2 that sort of thing?

3 A. Um-hum.

4 Q. Is that right?

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. Yes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And so if there's a marine chemist certificate that's been  
9 issued for a particular job, is that something that you would  
10 review as part of your responsibilities as the SCP?

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. Yes?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I need a verbal answer.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And will you then, as part of your SCP, verify that the fact  
17 the -- if they -- if the marine chemist has written down certain  
18 conditions that have to be present, will you verify that those  
19 conditions are actually met?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That's what I -- and just to clarify, you said that you -- on  
22 Friday you had approved or had some responsibility of Jobs 3 and  
23 4. I thought that you also had approved Job number 2 or had some  
24 role in Job number 2. Is that correct or is that --

25 (Crosstalk)



1 A. Yes, Job number 2.

2 Q. Okay. So Jobs 2, 3 and 4?

3 A. Yes, 2, 3 and 4.

4 Q. All right. And what about Job number 1, which was that --  
5 the fuel oil tank down port starboard fuel oil -- number 2 fuel  
6 oil test. Did you do anything with respect to that?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay.

9 BY MR. HELLER:

10 Q. With those Jobs 2, 3 and 4, you said -- explained you had to  
11 make sure they have firehoses and fire watch and all that sort of  
12 stuff. Did you have to correct any issues on Friday?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Everything was set?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And do you know, did they have -- did you go down into the  
17 room below Job number 2? Were the -- number 2 was, like, cutting  
18 on the deck?

19 A. Um-hum.

20 Q. And there's a stateroom below it?

21 A. Um-hum.

22 Q. Did you go down into that stateroom?

23 A. Um-hum.

24 Q. Okay.

25 LCR [REDACTED]: Yes?

- 1 BY MR. HELLER:
- 2 Q. And did they have a fire watch person down there?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then for the Job number 3, do you know where the  
5 fire watch person was for that?
- 6 A. The -- outside by the walkway.
- 7 Q. Makes sense, okay. And then for Job number 4, which was some  
8 of these pipes, do you know where fire watch was set for that?
- 9 A. Aft or bow?
- 10 Q. Aft.
- 11 A. No, I don't. I didn't have anything to do with that.
- 12 Q. Oh, I'm sorry, 4 -- yes, no that's me. Incorrect.
- 13 A. So Job number 4 --
- 14 (Crosstalk)
- 15 A. Yes, Job number 4 on the bow, at the very front of it --
- 16 Q. Um-hum.
- 17 A. -- there wasn't any --
- 18 Q. No work there, okay.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And then the other part of Job number 4, was there a fire  
21 watch person for that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. And do you know where they were positioned?
- 24 A. Like where they were standing?
- 25 Q. Yes.

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. That's all I got, thank you.

3 A. Um-hum.

4 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

5 Q. Is there any company instruction or documentation that tells  
6 you how to do your job as -- that you could refer to? Is there  
7 any, you know, any policy or anything, this is --

8 A. A hot work policy?

9 Q. Yes, is that what you have? You have a hot work policy, and  
10 it tells you as a shipyard competent person this is what you shall  
11 do, need to do?

12 A. Um-hum.

13 Q. Okay. And do you have a copy of that at all times for you to  
14 look at or --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you carry that with you or --

17 A. I don't carry it with me. I leave it in my toolbox in R&M  
18 (ph.).

19 Q. In your toolbox, okay.

20 A. If there's something I don't know or don't understand, I'll  
21 flip through it and see if I can find my answer.

22 Q. Okay. And then with the meter, so when you're done using  
23 that meter, where do you put it? Where do you store it?

24 A. Normally in the front office over here (indiscernible).

25 Q. Okay. And it just --

1 A. Just a little basket on the -- under -- like, bottom shelf on  
2 a little table, little filing table and we just pile them all up  
3 in there.

4 Q. Okay. So that's -- if you pile them up -- so you're not --  
5 are you getting the same meter every time or you get different  
6 meters?

7 A. No, we get the same meter every time.

8 Q. Okay. And how do you identify that that's the same meter?

9 A. So some of them are newer and some of them are older. I'm  
10 picky. I like grabbing one that's not all dirty and beat up.

11 Q. Okay. So you've got --

12 A. There's only one of those.

13 Q. There's only one of those?

14 A. That aren't really too beat up.

15 Q. Okay. But there's no number to identify the meter or --

16 A. On the back there's a serial number, and then the last time  
17 it was, like, maintenance, like the filters were changed out.

18 Q. Okay. And so do you use that to identify the meter or just  
19 the visible --

20 A. Just the visible.

21 Q. Just the -- how it looks. Okay. And who has access to all  
22 those meters?

23 A. All the foremen -- or all the leadmen, foremen, basically  
24 anyone that walks through that office.

25 Q. Okay. And do you know if the foremen and leadmen are

1 qualified to use those meters?

2 A. They are.

3 Q. They are.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. All right.

6 LCR [REDACTED]: Did you want to see the meter?

7 MR. ABIVA: I could grab one for you.

8 LCR [REDACTED]: (Indiscernible) for us to walk down and --

9 CWO [REDACTED] We'll just -- yes, we'll just walk down and take a  
10 look at it. So you got anything else?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

12 CWO [REDACTED]: Okay. Well, that will conclude the interview.

13 Time is 11:13.

14 (Whereupon, at 11:13 a.m., the interview was concluded.)  
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CERTIFICATE

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

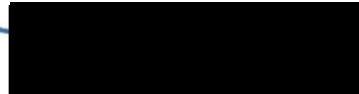
IN THE MATTER OF:            FIRE ABOARD *KODIAK ENTERPRISE*  
                                      NEAR TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
                                      ON APRIL 10, 2023  
                                      Interview of Dean Abiva

ACCIDENT NO.:                DCA23FM026

PLACE:                         Tacoma, Washington

DATE:                         April 14, 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.



bellar

Transcriber