

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

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Interview of: BRAEDYN DAWSON, Fire Watch
SRG Temp Agency/Trident Seafoods

Trident Seafoods Facilities
Tacoma, Washington

Thursday,
April 27, 2023

APPEARANCES:

CWO [REDACTED], Investigating Officer
United States Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED], Investigating Officer
United States Coast Guard

NATHAN PETRULAK, Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms

CAPT DAVID FLAHERTY, [REDACTED], Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

LARRY ALTENBRUN, Attorney
Nicoll Black & Feig
(On behalf of Trident Seafoods)

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I N T E R V I E W

(11:00 a.m.)

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3 LT [REDACTED] The time is 11:00 a.m. The date is April
4 27th. We are located at Trident Seafoods in Tacoma, Washington.
5 I am Lieutenant [REDACTED], investigator with the United
6 States Coast Guard. That's spelled [REDACTED] and in the
7 room here with me --

8 CWO [REDACTED]: Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] marine
9 investigator with the Coast Guard. Last name is [REDACTED]

10 SA PETRULAK: Special Agent Nathan Petrulak with the Bureau
11 of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Last name is spelled
12 P E T R U L A K.

13 MR. DAWSON: And then I am Braedyn Dawson, D A W S O N.

14 MR. ALTENBRUN: Braedyn, why don't you spell your first name
15 for us just because it's --

16 MR. DAWSON: Braedyn, it's B R A E D Y N.

17 MR. ALTENBRUN: Thanks, my name is Larry Altenbrun. My last
18 name is spelled A L T E N B R U N and I am the attorney for
19 Trident Seafoods.

20 LT [REDACTED]: And joining us via phone, Mr. Flaherty?

21 CAPT FLAHERTY: My name is David Flaherty. Last name is
22 spelled F L A H E R T Y. I'm the investigator in charge for the
23 National Transportation Safety Board.

24 LT [REDACTED] Thank you.

25 Braedyn, before we get started, I just want to make sure, are

1 you here on your own free will, nobody's coerced you to come here
2 and make a statement or anything like that?

3 MR. DAWSON: Uh huh.

4 LT [REDACTED]: All right.

5 MR. ALTENBRUN: Say -- you've got to say yes.

6 MR. DAWSON: Yes.

7 MR. ALTENBRUN: Thank you.

8 LT [REDACTED] Thank you.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All the letters are --

10 INTERVIEW OF BRAEDYN DAWSON

11 BY LT [REDACTED]:

12 Q. Yeah, all right, so as you know, we're here to just ask you
13 some questions about your relationship with the *Kodiak Enterprise*
14 and what work you did and everything like that. So, before we
15 start on that, though, can you just tell us what your job is and
16 who you work for?

17 A. SRG is the temp agency that I'm with right now. I came in a
18 week before the Saturday -- or Friday, Saturday, whatever time it
19 was and before -- the whole time I've been working on the
20 *Kodiak* -- at first, I was working with high, but then I was
21 working doing foam on the second level in the back.

22 Q. Okay, so what was your job title?

23 A. Just fire watch.

24 Q. Fire watch, okay.

25 A. Making sure people aren't lighting themselves.

1 Q. Okay, and how long have you -- prior to this, how long have
2 you been working as a fire watch in your life?

3 A. Two weeks.

4 Q. Two weeks, okay. So, you spent a week on another -- at
5 another facility before you came here?

6 A. No, I was here a week and then they were shut down for a week
7 after. Once -- I came in on a Saturday morning when all the fire
8 trucks were here and I got turned away and then my SRG was put
9 off, so I haven't been here since the Thursday prior.

10 Q. Okay, so the Thursday prior to the incident was the last time
11 you were here?

12 A. Uh huh.

13 Q. Okay, so can you tell me what your typical duties as a fire
14 watch on the *Kodiak Enterprise* encompassed?

15 A. It's mainly just to go in there, set up the area to make
16 sure, you know, nothing's catching on fire, you've got your hoses
17 to make sure if there is a fire, you'll spray it up, and there's
18 fire extinguishers. But basically, you're just watching to make
19 sure the welder's safe is what I was brought about to.

20 Q. Okay, so you worked on the *Kodiak Enterprise* for the week
21 leading up to the incident. What -- can you tell us what jobs you
22 were doing specifically in that week leading up to the incident?

23 A. For the first week, we were taking out the back two -- I
24 think they were heaters. They're right by -- beside the freon
25 tank. About three of us were doing that for the week and then the

1 Thursday is when I was moved into the second deck, in the back
2 room, just chipping the foam.

3 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- get the drawings out.

5 LT [REDACTED] Yeah.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, make sure it's the correct room
7 that you're talking about here.

8 BY SA PETRULAK:

9 Q. Are you familiar with the decks and the levels as far as the
10 01 deck, 02 deck?

11 A. No.

12 Q. So, just so you're understanding these drawings, so this is
13 how the boat is set up from bottom to top. All right, so the very
14 bottom of the boat here, you're going up from the double-bottom
15 tank, to the whole plan. This is going to be the main deck and
16 then here on the 01 deck, that's where the galley is and the mess
17 hall. Do you remember those rooms?

18 A. I haven't been down there.

19 Q. And the dry storage and then the deck above that is the 02
20 deck. This is going to be the bow of the deck and there
21 is -- let's see, and then you have, obviously, the 03 deck here.
22 There's a hatch up on that deck and there's a deck locker that
23 goes into here.

24 A. We were in one of the living quarters. I don't remember what
25 that level is.

1 BY LT [REDACTED]

2 Q. So, on -- you're talking about Thursday?

3 A. Uh huh.

4 Q. Okay, so on Thursday, you were chipping foam, you said, and
5 do you recall what you were chipping foam for?

6 A. They were -- there was a pipe coming down from the level
7 above and we had to clear the area for them to take out that pipe
8 and then put a new one in.

9 Q. Okay, and so do you -- based on those plans that you're
10 seeing, do you recall where you were on the boat? Where that work
11 was being done?

12 A. The drawing's -- so, which one's the flat -- like, the top --

13 SA PETRULAK: This is, like, the engineer's cabin, like,
14 where they drive the boat. This is the very tippy top. So, one
15 level down from that is going to be your 02 deck. This is where
16 you can get go out on the bow there.

17 MR. DAWSON: These are the -- not the storage, but the --

18 LT [REDACTED] State rooms?

19 SA PETRULAK: Yeah, the state rooms?

20 MR. DAWSON: Yeah.

21 SA PETRULAK: Okay, so you were on the --

22 MR. DAWSON: On the very back one.

23 SA PETRULAK: On the portside?

24 MR. DAWSON: The left side.

25 SA PETRULAK: So, yes.

1 MR. DAWSON: At the boat, here, we would've been 01?

2 SA PETRULAK: Yes.

3 BY LT [REDACTED]

4 Q. Do you recall what was above you? So, they were cutting out
5 a pipe, was it -- was there open air above you or was it a state
6 room above you as well?

7 A. It was another state room above.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Not really a state room, but, like, a bunch of hallways or
10 corridors. It was -- so, the pipe came down by the stairs
11 vertically, it came through the top of the hole, and then turned
12 towards the other side of the (indiscernible).

13 LT [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 BY SA PETRULAK:

15 Q. And then what tools were you using to remove the foam?

16 A. A nail gun and the --

17 Q. When you say, like, a nail gun to remove the foam, are you
18 actually saying, like, something with a bunch of little needles on
19 it to --

20 A. Uh huh.

21 Q. Like a descaler, basically?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Other than that, that's all we used to take it out. We
25 didn't really use anything -- there was no hot work going on that

1 day and then I wasn't here the next day.

2 SA PETRULAK: Okay.

3 BY LT [REDACTED]

4 Q. So, you were not on board the *Kodiak Enterprise* on Friday?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay, and then did you participate in any -- on Thursday, you
7 said you were doing mostly needle gunning and everything, did you
8 do any sort of fire watch for hot work going on at any point on
9 Thursday?

10 A. No, it was just the needle gunning.

11 LT [REDACTED]: Okay, do we have any record of that work being
12 done -- that pipe being replaced?

13 SA PETRULAK: I think Greg -- he might have something. But
14 depending on which one this is, I'm not -- possibly the vent pipes
15 for the dryer because it's normally at the very front edge of
16 that. So, I think that would come out weird.

17 BY LT [REDACTED]

18 Q. Do you remember what the pipe was for? Was it a water pipe,
19 a vent pipe, or --

20 A. It might've been a vent because if you look in the pipe, you
21 could --

22 SA PETRULAK: See all the way through the -- you could see
23 daylight?

24 MR. DAWSON: Yeah, we would make a joke about it being a
25 skylight.

1 BY LT [REDACTED]:

2 Q. Okay, and there was -- so, you never saw where that pipe lead
3 to?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You were --

6 A. My person was just there because that's where they told me to
7 be.

8 LT [REDACTED]: Okay.

9 BY SA PETRULAK:

10 Q. So, that pipe was actually already cut, disconnected, and you
11 could see out there where you put the (indiscernible) in the --

12 A. Uh huh, and then they were cutting around it is what I was
13 told and then they were replacing that whole thing.

14 Q. Okay, and then as far as the hot work itself goes, whenever
15 you were watching that, like how often would you have to, like,
16 you know, kind of stop the guys to hey, you know, there's a little
17 bit of fire, let me put it out? So, like, how often did that
18 happen?

19 A. I mainly only did it when things actually started, like,
20 drying up or kind of smoking a little and then it would stop and
21 then spray down the area.

22 Q. So, like every --

23 A. Ten to 15 minutes.

24 Q. Okay, and did they also have you responsible for putting a
25 fire blanket anywhere to cover things up?

1 A. Uh huh.

2 Q. Specifically, do you remember putting a fire blanket on the
3 hatch or on the 03 deck, right there in front of, like, the
4 chief's cabin?

5 A. I wasn't anywhere near the chief's cabin. I was a little
6 ways --

7 Q. Okay, so you really didn't do anything on the bow of the
8 boat?

9 A. Nuh huh.

10 Q. And then you said you never remember going down into the
11 galley or the dry stores or anything?

12 A. The week prior, I was on the back at the top of the boat and
13 that was the whole week and then I moved up into -- by the
14 stairwell and then back into the room. That stairwell that's
15 right there beside the -- there's like an engineering cabin right
16 there. That little storage room. Then I was there and then they
17 moved me back up to the left of the boat.

18 BY LT [REDACTED]:

19 Q. And then where did you receive your fire watch training?

20 A. SRG.

21 Q. SRG provided your fire watch training, okay.

22 A. And then I came here for the class.

23 Q. Okay, so Trident provided you a fire watch class?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay, and what -- when did you take that class?

1 A. I don't remember off the top of my head the exact day I took
2 it.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But it was the week prior to me coming here.

5 Q. Okay, it was the week -- and it was a one-day course?

6 A. It was a one-day course.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And then I stayed after and worked a couple of hours.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. That was about it. But I didn't do any fire watch things
11 either.

12 Q. Okay, did you feel like the course -- being that this was
13 your first job doing fire watch, do you feel like the course
14 adequately prepared you for your job as a fire watch?

15 A. Yeah, I didn't have any qualms with it. I thought they did
16 really well explaining a lot of stuff and I'm pretty sure that I
17 knew how to pretty much pick up everything else as I go.

18 Q. Okay, and were you provided all of the equipment that you
19 needed to conduct fire watch?

20 A. Uh huh.

21 Q. Okay, when you were being trained, how was the training
22 conducted? Was it video, PowerPoint?

23 A. It was PowerPoint slide and then we would take time between
24 each and explain anything that didn't come up in the slides.

25 Q. Okay, have you ever seen this -- you can look through it.

1 this is just Trident's fire watch policy. Were you guys provided
2 the policy or was it just the PowerPoint training that you guys
3 did? Or have you ever seen that?

4 A. I haven't seen this -- maybe -- this looks like mostly the
5 stuff that was on the PowerPoint slide.

6 Q. Okay, so you feel like the PowerPoint training covered what
7 was in this appendix?

8 A. Yeah.

9 LT [REDACTED]: Okay.

10 All right, [REDACTED], do you have any follow-up questions?

11 CWO [REDACTED]: No.

12 BY SA PETRULAK:

13 Q. As far as the fire watch training, was it specific for boats
14 or just, like, more of a general fire watch?

15 A. More of a general.

16 Q. Okay, and during the training, at any point, did they take
17 you onto the boat or onto a boat?

18 A. Yes, at the very end, they lead us through the boats -- or
19 the *Kodiak*, actually, and kind of gave us, like, where things
20 were -- more of, like, a location -- like how to find things.

21 Q. Okay, did they also, like, sort of point out like hey, this
22 is sort of what you look for if you're doing hot work here, you
23 can go look for -- maybe drop down here or anything like that?

24 A. They didn't really do that until I got to -- they may have,
25 but I didn't really start picking up on those things until I

1 started talking to Primo when I first started working here because
2 Primo and (indiscernible) pretty much were leading me everywhere.

3 Q. Got that, so you said you've been working here about roughly
4 two weeks with *Kodiak* and with Trident. Prior to Trident, did
5 you -- were you doing anything with hot work, maintenance,
6 anything related?

7 A. No, before I was working with Amazon, so I didn't really do
8 much but drive around.

9 SA PETRULAK: Okay, yeah, I think that's it. That's all I've
10 got.

11 LT [REDACTED] All right, David, do you have any follow-up
12 questions?

13 CAPT FLAHERTY: Just this one.

14 BY CAPT FLAHERTY:

15 Q. Sir, I appreciate you coming in and talking with us. During
16 your time on board, did you see anything that made you feel
17 uncomfortable related to fire safety or the safety of the people
18 working on the boat while it was at the dock?

19 A. While it was at the dock, no. I was just kind of worried
20 about my job. But I didn't -- as seeing around me, I didn't
21 really notice anything out of place.

22 LT [REDACTED]: While you were --

23 CAPT FLAHERTY: And --

24 LT [REDACTED]: Go ahead, David.

25 BY CAPT FLAHERTY:

1 Q. And -- I know it's kind of on hearsay, but did anyone ever
2 express to you their concerns about being on board the boat doing
3 the work?

4 A. I'm sorry, would you say that again?

5 Q. Yeah, did anyone express to you, who was also working on the
6 boat with you, that they were concerned about their safety?

7 A. No, sir.

8 CAPT FLAHERTY: All right, that's all the questions I have.
9 Thanks.

10 BY LT [REDACTED]:

11 Q. Just -- if you recall, while you were -- during your time
12 working there, did you ever hear fire alarms go off?

13 A. No, not once.

14 Q. Okay, did anybody ever mention to you about fire alarms on
15 the boat, what they should sound like, what they should look like,
16 or did you ever take down any smoke detectors or anything like for
17 your hot work?

18 A. I didn't take -- personally, I didn't take any smoke
19 detectors or fire alarms off. But, I mean, it's a fire alarm,
20 they're kind of loud and obnoxious.

21 Q. Okay, but you never heard a fire alarm on the *Kodiak*?

22 A. No, I didn't hear one go off at all.

23 LT [REDACTED] Okay, all right.

24 Larry, do you have any questions?

25 MR. ALTENBRUN: No.

1 LT [REDACTED]: Okay, anything?

2 All right, well, Braedyn, I think this concludes our
3 interview. The time is 11:15. Thank you for coming in.

4 (Whereupon, at 11:15 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 Braedyn Dawson

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA23FM026

PLACE: Tacoma, Washington

DATE: April 27, 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.



Caro
Transcriber