

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: LUIS GONZALO RIVERA, Pipe Fitter  
Sound Resource Group

Trident Facilities  
Tacoma, Washington

Thursday,  
April 20, 2023

APPEARANCES:

CWO [REDACTED], Investigating Officer  
United States Coast Guard

LCDR [REDACTED], Chief of Investigation  
Sector Puget Sound  
United States Coast Guard

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

CAPT DAVID FLAHERTY, USCG, Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

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

MR. MARTIN, Interpreter

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Luis Gonzalo Rivera:

By CWO [REDACTED]

5

By SA Heller

6

By LCDR [REDACTED]

8

I N T E R V I E W

(1:00 p.m.)

1 CWO [REDACTED] This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED]. Last  
2 name is spelled [REDACTED]. The date is April 20th; the time is  
3 1 o'clock local. We're here at Trident facilities to investigate  
4 the fire on board the *Kodiak Enterprise*.  
5

6 And in the room I have --

7 SA HELLER: Special Agent Greg Heller with ATF. My last name  
8 is spelled H-e-l-l-e-r.  
9

10 LCDR [REDACTED] Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] chief of  
11 investigation, Sector Puget Sound. [REDACTED]

12 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: My name is Luis Gonzalo Rivera,  
13 G-o-n-z-a-l-o.

14 MR. ALTENBRUN: My name is Larry Altenbrun. I'm the attorney  
15 for Trident Seafoods. Last name is spelled A-l-t-e-n-b-r-u-n.

16 CWO [REDACTED] And on the phone we have --

17 CAPT FLAHERTY: This is David Flaherty. Last name is spelled  
18 F-l-a-h-e-r-t-y. I'm the investigator in charge for the National  
19 Transportation Safety Board.

20 CWO [REDACTED] And we also have an interpreter online. Please  
21 introduce yourself.

22 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. My name is Martin, M-a-r-t-i-n.

23 (Whereupon, Mr. Martin, interpreted the questions from  
24 English to Spanish and Mr. Gonzalo's answers from Spanish to  
25 English.)

## 1 INTERVIEW OF LUIS GONZALO RIVERA

2 BY CWO [REDACTED]

3 Q. Okay. So, Mr. Gonzalo, you're here on your own free will,  
4 you have not been coerced to come and talk to us?

5 A. (Indiscernible).

6 Q. Okay. Are you an employee with Trident?

7 A. (In English) No.

8 Q. No?

9 A. It's --

10 Q. Let's go ahead and let the interpreter interpret.

11 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

12 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: (Through interpreter) No.

13 BY CWO [REDACTED]

14 Q. Who is your employer?

15 A. Fabricator.

16 Q. Fabricator? Were you on board the *Kodiak Enterprise* Friday,  
17 April 7th?

18 A. (In English) Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. What was your job that day?

20 A. (Through interpreter) I do not understand.

21 Q. What was your job -- what were you there to do that day?

22 INTERPRETER: Okay. This is the interpreter speaking. I was  
23 just asking for a clarification.24 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: (Through interpreter) So I was going to  
25 put a plate on the boat, but I was just going to present it and

1 put some stuff on it.

2 Q. Okay. Where was that work being done on the vessel?

3 INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. Can you please repeat?

4 BY CWO [REDACTED]

5 Q. Where was the work being done on the vessel?

6 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

7 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: (Through interpreter) On the cabin next  
8 to the captain's door.

9 BY SA HELLER:

10 Q. Can you ask -- he has a diagram in front of him. Could you  
11 ask him to point out on the diagram where the work was being done?

12 A. (In English) In this area. This area.

13 Q. Okay. Okay. Thank you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And just for the record, the witness  
15 pointed to job number 3 on that diagram.

16 BY SA HELLER:

17 Q. Were you the one directly doing the cutting and welding?

18 A. (Through interpreter) The cut was already made. I was just  
19 presenting the plate on Friday.

20 Q. Okay. Was he working on both sides of the pilothouse or just  
21 one?

22 A. No, only one.

23 Q. Was it the port side or starboard side?

24 A. Left side.

25 Q. Okay. Were there any issues with the job or did it go

1 smoothly?

2 A. No problem.

3 Q. Were there --

4 INTERPRETER: And there was -- I'm sorry.

5 BY SA HELLER:

6 Q. Were there other employees doing fire watch while he was  
7 working?

8 INTERPRETER: Sir, you are breaking up a little bit. Can you  
9 please repeat?

10 BY SA HELLER:

11 Q. Were there other employees doing fire watch while he was  
12 working?

13 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

14 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: (Through interpreter) Yeah, they had one  
15 on top and one on the bottom.

16 BY SA HELLER:

17 Q. Did they have to put out any fires during the day?

18 A. There was no fire. Everything was fine. There was no spark  
19 or anything.

20 Q. What time did he finish the work that day?

21 A. I stopped at 12:30.

22 Q. Okay. And then did he do other work on the vessel that day  
23 or did he leave?

24 A. No, only that.

25 Q. Did fire watch employees remain on the vessel after he left?

1 A. They were still there. They were cleaning.

2 Q. Okay. When he and others are working on the boat is there a  
3 break room or a place where they eat their lunch or snacks?

4 A. We don't. We eat at the company canteen.

5 Q. Okay. Did he see anyone on the -- does he smoke and did he  
6 see any -- or did he see anyone else smoking during the day he was  
7 working?

8 A. I really don't know because I don't smoke.

9 Q. Did he go down to the galley, mess, or dry stores area at all  
10 on Friday?

11 A. I was all the time on that plate. I didn't do anything  
12 anywhere else.

13 Q. Okay.

14 BY LCDR [REDACTED]

15 Q. As a worker on the boat, what activities do you do?

16 A. Nothing more. That was the only job that I was going to do  
17 that day and, on Monday, they were going to check it and solder.

18 Q. What other type of jobs does he do?

19 A. I'm a welder and a fitter.

20 Q. And how long has he been doing this?

21 A. About 30 years.

22 Q. A long time. Does he have any certifications for welding?

23 A. Yes, I do have certifications.

24 Q. While he works at Trident, what type of policy does he have  
25 to follow regarding safety?



1 A. So I know almost (indiscernible) you cannot cut if you don't  
2 have permission to cut, certification to cut; you cannot weld if  
3 you don't have a permission to weld, everything regarding welding  
4 and cutting.

5 Q. Are you familiar with Trident's hot work policy?

6 INTERPRETER: Sir, you are breaking up. Can you please  
7 repeat?

8 BY LCDR [REDACTED]

9 Q. Are you familiar with Trident's hot work policy?

10 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

11 MR. GONZALO RIVERA: I work in several places. I never --  
12 this never has happened to me. I don't know what happened.

13 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay. David?

14 CWO [REDACTED] David, do you have any questions?

15 MR. FLAHERTY: No. I don't have any questions. Thanks.

16 CWO [REDACTED]: We're going to -- I think we're going to end the  
17 recording. So no further questions, we'll conclude the interview.  
18 The time is 1:15 local.

19 (Whereupon, at 1:15 p.m., the interview was concluded.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 Luis Gonzalo Rivera

ACCIDENT NO.:                DCA23FM026

PLACE:                         Tacoma, Washington

DATE:                          April 20, 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.

  
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Ka  
Transcriber