

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: MARGARITO "PRIMO" VASQUEZ, Lead Pipe Fitter  
Trident Seafoods

Trident Seafoods 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, [REDACTED] Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

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

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Margarito "Primo" Vasquez:

By CWO [REDACTED]

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:28 a.m.)

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2  
3 CWO [REDACTED] This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] with US  
4 Coast Guard. My last name is spelled [REDACTED] Today's date is  
5 April 20th and the time is 10:28 local. We're here at Trident  
6 marine facilities investigating the fire on the *Kodiak Enterprise*.

7 And in the room I have --

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

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

12 MR. VASQUEZ: My name is Margarito Vasquez.

13 MR. ALTENBRUN: Spell your last name.

14 MR. VASQUEZ: V, as in Victor, a-s-q-u-e-z, as in zebra. And  
15 first name is M-a-r-g-a-r-i-t-o.

16 MR. ALTENBRUN: Thank you.

17 My name is Larry Altenbrun. I'm with Nicoll Black Feig.  
18 We're the attorneys for Trident Seafoods.

19 David, go ahead.

20 CAPT FLAHERTY: Hi. My name is David Flaherty. Last name is  
21 spelled F-l-a-h-e-r-t-y. I'm the investigator in charge for the  
22 National Transportation Safety Board.

23 CWO [REDACTED]: And do you go by Primo?

24 MR. VASQUEZ: Yeah, I go by Primo.

25 CWO [REDACTED] Okay.

## 1 INTERVIEW OF MARGARITO "PRIMO" VASQUEZ

2 BY CWO [REDACTED]

3 Q. So Primo, what's your position -- let me step back here. Are  
4 you an employee with Trident?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And you're here voluntarily, correct?

7 A. Voluntarily?

8 Q. Nobody told you, you had to come?

9 A. No, no, no.

10 Q. So you're here on your own free will? Yes? Can you say it  
11 out loud?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Thanks. For the recording, I just need yes and no  
14 answers. Okay? Because they can't see your head bobbing up and  
15 down. Okay.16 All right. So a Trident employee. And how long have you  
17 been with Trident?18 A. I been with Trident since Trident bought Tyson's Food. So  
19 that's maybe 20 years.

20 Q. Twenty years?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And we receive more work with Tyson than (indiscernible), so  
24 Trident (indiscernible).

25 Q. Okay. And you were on -- you're fishing on the --

1 A. I was fishing before.

2 Q. Okay. So you were a crew member on the vessel?

3 A. I was to be a -- I was a crew member and then I stay in the  
4 yard to, you know, do welding, you know, (indiscernible).

5 Q. Okay. And what's your position now with Trident?

6 A. I'm a welder lead.

7 Q. Welder lead?

8 A. Yeah, well, pipe fitter lead, pipe fitter too.

9 Q. Okay. Welder/pipe fitter?

10 A. Yeah. I think now, I think my title is a pipe fitter lead.

11 Q. Pipe fitter lead?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay. And how long have you been in this position?

14 A. I been over there I think a year.

15 Q. Okay. And on April 6th, were you on board *Kodiak Enterprise*?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 CWO █████ All right. Greg, I'll --

19 MR. ALTENBRUN: Let me just make it clear to Primo. Primo,  
20 your native language is Spanish; is that correct?

21 MR. VASQUEZ: Spanish?

22 MR. ALTENBRUN: That's your native language --

23 MR. VASQUEZ: Yes.

24 MR. ALTENBRUN: -- your original language, your first  
25 language?

1 MR. VASQUEZ: Yeah.

2 MR. ALTENBRUN: If you have difficulty understanding today,  
3 let us know, okay, and we'll stop the interview and we'll do this  
4 again when we have an interpreter.

5 MR. VASQUEZ: Okay.

6 MR. ALTENBRUN: This is pretty informal, but I want to make  
7 sure that you understand, okay? It is being recorded. This is an  
8 important interview. So if you're having any difficulty, let me  
9 know, we'll stop it and we'll get an interpreter for you, okay?

10 MR. VASQUEZ: I think (indiscernible) -- I think we going to  
11 have help with, yeah, then it should be okay everything, because  
12 we have other two Spanish people. I understand a little bit more  
13 than (indiscernible). I think (indiscernible). So if there's any  
14 way we can bring an interpreter for me and for the other two  
15 workers, I think that they're going to need one.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who are those?

17 MR. VASQUEZ: Gonzalo Rivera.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Gonzalo Rivera?

19 MR. VASQUEZ: Um-hum. And Daniel Guzman. He sounds -- he  
20 speaks good English, but I don't if he needs one, you know, but  
21 Gonzalo Rivera, I know he going to need help.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. I already --

23 MR. VASQUEZ: (Indiscernible), yeah.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have Gonzalo marked as needing an  
25 interpreter.

1 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. Well, at this time we'll stop the interview  
2 and we'll make plans to have an interpreter here so we can do this  
3 once. Everybody okay with that?

4 SA HELLER: Yeah, if he's not comfortable going forward,  
5 that's fine.

6 CAPT FLAHERTY: Yeah, that's fine.

7 CWO [REDACTED] All right. Okay. Then we'll stop the interview.  
8 The time is 10:33.

9 (Whereupon, at 10:33 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 Margarito Vasquez

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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Kay  
Tran

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. A horizontal line extends from the right side of the box, ending in a small arrowhead pointing towards the signature text.