

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: DANIEL GUZMAN, Welder
Tradesmen International

Trident Seafoods Facility
Tacoma, Washington

Thursday,
April 20, 2023

APPEARANCES:

CWO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigating Officer
United States Coast Guard

LT [REDACTED], Investigating Officer
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)

MR. MARTIN, Interpreter

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:53 p.m.)

1
2
3 CWO [REDACTED]: This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED], US Coast
4 Guard. Last name is spelled [REDACTED]. The date is April 20th; the
5 time is 1:53 local. We're at Trident facilities to investigate
6 the fire on board the *Kodiak Enterprise*.

7 On the -- or in the room with me I have --

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

10 LCDR [REDACTED]: Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], Chief of
11 Investigation, Sector Puget Sound, [REDACTED].

12 MR. GUZMAN: This is Daniel Guzman (indiscernible). I'm an
13 employee from the Tradesmen International, and I'm a welder
14 (indiscernible) *Kodiak Enterprise*.

15 CWO [REDACTED]: Okay. Can you please spell your last name?

16 MR. GUZMAN: Oh, my last name is G-u-z-m-a-n, and
17 P-a-l-a-n.

18 CWO [REDACTED]: Thank you.

19 MR. ALTENBRUN: My name's Larry Altenbrun. I'm the attorney
20 for Trident Seafoods. My last name is spelled A-l-t-e-n-b-r-u-n.

21 CWO [REDACTED]: David?

22 CAPT FLAHERTY: My name is David Flaherty. Last spelled
23 F-l-a-h-e-r-t-y. I'm the inspector in charge with the National
24 Transportation Safety Board.

25 CWO [REDACTED]: And the interpreter on the phone is?

1 MR. MARTIN: My name is Martin and my interpreter ID is
2 16630.

3 CWO [REDACTED]: All right. Thank you.

4 So you came here on your own free will? Nobody coerced you
5 to come and talk to us?

6 MR. GUZMAN: No.

7 CWO [REDACTED]: "No" you came on your own freewill?

8 MR. GUZMAN: Yes.

9 CWO [REDACTED]: Okay. All right. Just to clarify.

10 (Whereupon, Mr. Martin translated the questions from English
11 to Spanish and Mr. Guzman's answers from Spanish to English when
12 requested by Mr. Guzman.)

13 INTERVIEW OF DANIEL GUZMAN

14 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

15 Q. And are you a Trident employee?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No?

18 A. I'm a subcontractor.

19 Q. Okay.

20 (Phone interruption)

21 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

22 Q. All right. So were you on board the *Kodiak Enterprise* on
23 Friday, April 7th?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And what was your job that day?

1 A. My job is remove part of the deck, there's a couple pipe --
2 that job before, they had a couple of pipes for the -- okay, I
3 ask it --

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. GUZMAN: *Hola.*

6 INTERPRETER: *Si.*

7 MR. GUZMAN: (Through interpreter) Okay. So I had to remove
8 that part of the deck that has residues of hydraulic connections.

9 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

10 Q. Okay. So is your job welder?

11 A. (In English) Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. All right. And how long have you been a welder?

13 A. I believe like 10 years.

14 Q. Ten years?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. And do you have any certification?

17 A. Yes, sir, I do have --

18 Q. What is your certification? Do you --

19 A. Oh, I have a certification for structural, my own
20 certifications, so as far as structural, any kind of structural,
21 (indiscernible) WS.

22 Q. WS?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And structural, right?

25 A. Structural, yeah. And I have an ABS certification by the

1 company. They provide inspector and I do the certification here,
2 too.

3 Q. Okay. And those are?

4 A. ABS.

5 Q. ABS. And ABS meaning the different positions to weld in?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. The (indiscernible) rules all that stuff, yeah --

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. -- the welding procedures.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And I had a -- my -- like a diploma about Publication 2. I
15 go in the college in CCD in San Diego.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And I do Publication 2, yeah, work plans and all that stuff.

18 CWO ██████ Okay. All right. Okay.

19 BY SA HELLER:

20 Q. Okay. So on Friday, April 7th, the day before the fire, what
21 specifically were you working on, on the boat?

22 A. I -- the first stuff is we doing the -- finish the -- remove
23 the foam on the room underneath. We remove the foam, we place the
24 blankets, all that stuff, and wet the blankets, too. And check
25 with the bosses, Tony and Primo, on all that stuff that

1 everything, the information that they give me is correct before I
2 start working and all that stuff. And check the regulations,
3 the -- I ask for the -- when the ABS inspectors come, when I have
4 to get it done, and like the setup of the -- it's a plate I have
5 to put in, all that stuff. Because if they tell me it's going to
6 be coming Monday, I can like make it slowly and (indiscernible)
7 fire and all the other plates and all that stuff, you know. If
8 they say, no, just take your time, you know, the time that you
9 have and it's correct and all that stuff, that's what we do.

10 Q. And you said you're cutting a plate. Can you show us on here
11 where you're talking about? On there, either way.

12 A. Yeah, it's right here.

13 Q. Okay. So that's on the -- that's on the 03 deck just in
14 front of the skiff?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. It's labeled job number 2. Okay.

17 A. (Indiscernible) hot work.

18 Q. How big of a plate were you cutting out?

19 A. The plate is -- I remember it's 18, 18 inches by 20,
20 something like that.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yeah. I remember it.

23 Q. And on Friday morning, was the plate already cut out or were
24 you just starting?

25 A. On the Friday morning, I don't touch nothing.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I don't cut nothing. I unplug the torch, nothing, everything
3 is disconnected.

4 Q. Okay. So when did you start working on it on Friday?

5 A. After lunch.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. All right. And had it already been cut some at that point
9 from the previous day?

10 A. On Friday or Thursday?

11 Q. On Thursday.

12 A. No. No, I just check it out, the foam was removed and what
13 areas we have to put a fire watch area or something like that and
14 all that stuff. And all the cables, all the hoses.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. Set up everything on the site.

17 Q. Okay. When you did start cutting on Friday after lunch, what
18 tools did you use?

19 A. I use acetylene torch. Yeah, we had it on the deck, but the
20 torch is short, is not too long. And then I check with Tony and
21 check it out if we can put it on top. And he said, yeah, we have
22 a (indiscernible), we can put it on top. Yeah, and then they use
23 a crane and put it on top for the --

24 Q. Okay. How long -- what time did you stop working on this
25 site? If you remember.

1 A. I stop at like 3:20. Yeah, because I have to let 1 hour cool
2 down and check that nothing is smoky or smell like a burning, you
3 know. And then I (indiscernible) everything.

4 Q. Had you cut all the way around at that point? Had you
5 finished the cut or was there more to do?

6 A. No, I do the process like in steps, you know? Like I cut
7 first like 10 inches, and then wait and check with my fire watches
8 inside, and they have to -- we have like a code. They have to
9 knock the metal three times to let me know that everything is
10 good, they already checked the room and under the fire blankets
11 and all that stuff. And then I keep going.

12 Q. Okay. So did you make it all the way around the square or
13 was there more to do the next day, more cutting?

14 A. Yeah, I had to cut, because the first step that I do I
15 mistake the first cut. Because my first cut has to be the radius
16 from ABS procedure, but when they give me the measurements, I
17 completely forget the radius, you know, and then I cut a square
18 and later, like 10 minutes after I finish the square, I remember,
19 oh, it's ABS, I have to cut it on the radius. And then I talk to
20 my boss, hey, you know, I mistake in this cut and I need to make a
21 little bit longer or make the radius in the corner. And he said,
22 okay, just -- it's not exactly measurement. Just we need to check
23 that part, that space right there. Just make a couple inches on
24 the other side. That's why it's 20, you know, because at first --
25 the first cut had to be 18 by 18, that's why I had to do the other

1 2 inches because I forgot the radius.

2 Q. Okay. So did you use any tools other than the acetylene
3 torch that day? Grinder or any -- Sawzall?

4 A. No. We use a needle gun to remove the paint. We remove the
5 paint with a needle gun. We use a grinder for -- because I made
6 the radius bevel, the beveling of the plate that I going to place
7 right there. I bevel it over there, too. I use the grinder. And
8 we use like a rules (indiscernible) for mark the (indiscernible)
9 and all that stuff. And that's it.

10 Q. Did the job -- were there any issues with it or did the job
11 go smoothly?

12 A. Went smoothly, yeah. Yeah, because I -- the people consider
13 me like the person who follow the rules at the point, you know,
14 and I will do it step by step. Like if something -- like if we
15 didn't have (indiscernible), and then I start and I say, okay,
16 make a plan with the fire watches and say, okay, well, you're
17 doing it this like this, like this. I going to cut one side
18 first, you have to notify me if everything is good, you have to
19 check that nothing is smoking, you knock the metal three times and
20 I keep going and all that stuff. We make it (indiscernible) step
21 by step.

22 Q. Okay. And you've already kind of mentioned it when you
23 talked about someone being down below. Where was the fire watch
24 for this job?

25 A. Okay. I had two fire watches here.

1 Q. So up on the deck?

2 A. Yeah, up on the deck right there. And the room -- the room
3 is right here.

4 Q. Okay. And for the recording, you're pointing to stateroom
5 02-0.

6 A. Yeah. Right there.

7 Q. In that stateroom?

8 A. Yeah. In that room is the other fire watch, Steve, the guy
9 that's sitting now right there outside. And there's other guy on
10 the hallway. But this guy doesn't stay there for like -- I don't
11 know, like 2, 2 p.m. Yeah. Because he had to move the other
12 boat, the other ship. But we have like the seaman in the room and
13 the two girls on top.

14 Q. Okay. And were there fire hoses and fire blankets and that
15 sort of thing in the state room here?

16 A. Yeah. All around the room is fire blankets on the floor,
17 too. And on top we have -- of the hatch, we have a fire blanket,
18 too. And we fire hose right here and fire extinguisher, and this
19 room, too, it has a fire hose and has an extinguisher, too. It
20 has two extinguishers.

21 Q. Did they have to put out any fires that you know of? Were
22 there any issues?

23 A. Nothing. No, the only issue that I found, I was on the boat
24 before I remove the foam, it's already burned. It was like
25 something -- a char or something, I don't know. And I report it

1 to, I take a picture, so -- and my boss, Tony, is coming and take
2 a video and reporting with the chief and all that stuff. Because
3 all the foam -- before I (indiscernible) anything, no cords, no
4 nothing, just explain the fire watches, they remove the foam. All
5 that's burned.

6 Q. Do you remember where in the room that was?

7 A. Yeah. I seen it in the room underneath that I go to cut --
8 right here is like a restroom, and on top of the restroom is like
9 a structure --

10 Q. I'm sorry. It's been marked up already. All right. So
11 we're in -- stateroom 0220. Okay. So about where was the --

12 A. Yeah, right here, and just when you get into the room, you
13 find like a restroom, right?

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. And the restroom on top it's like a structure, but I don't
16 know -- what is the name?

17 MR. GUZMAN: (Speaking Spanish) Hello?

18 INTERPRETER: Forgive me, sir.

19 MR. GUZMAN: (Through interpreter) It had a bathroom
20 structure fan.

21 (In English) Oh, structure fan.

22 BY SA HELLER:

23 Q. Ventilation, okay.

24 A. Yeah, the ventilation fan. Right there, when I at the time
25 looking the foam, I see that that's really touching the metal and

- 1 right there it started like a -- it's marking foam.
- 2 Q. Okay. So by the ventilation fan in the bathroom?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. And the bathroom is in this corner here?
- 5 A. No, inside the room.
- 6 Q. Okay. So where was the -- can you show me where the bathroom
7 was? You can draw on there.
- 8 A. Okay. This is the right room or --
- 9 Q. This one. This would be -- if you look here, this is the
10 crane that goes down, so I believe this would be the --
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. -- the room. Yeah.
- 13 A. Okay. This is like -- the entrance is right here
14 (indiscernible) wall. And located right here, right here is the
15 restroom.
- 16 Q. Okay. And --
- 17 A. And the ventilation is right here.
- 18 Q. And that's also where you saw the burned areas?
- 19 A. Yeah. All this right here around on the ventilation and all
20 this part right here is burned, completely black.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. So we're sort of just inside the door to the left.
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Okay. Or to the aft. Okay. All right.

1 Was there -- were you able to tell if it appeared new or old
2 burn? Is there any way to tell?

3 A. No. I just saw -- I just see all the black and I just notify
4 my boss, you know.

5 Q. Okay. And you said someone came and took pictures of it?

6 A. Yeah. And I take pictures, too.

7 Q. Okay. So that was the only issue you said you encountered
8 regarding that?

9 A. Yeah. Before the -- doing my job, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. And then you said on top, on the deck here, you had
11 some fire blankets on this hatch. Was this hatch open or closed
12 or what was the --

13 A. It's like a gap like this, like 3 inches something. They put
14 a couple piece of wood, because it's like an air conductor coming
15 out --

16 Q. Sure.

17 Q. -- a plastic one. And then I put that on the side, put a --
18 the wood is right there and I just put a blanket on top and put a
19 piece of wood on top of the blanket.

20 Q. Okay. Was the blanket covering the entire hatch or just part
21 of it, or how did that work?

22 A. Just the front of the part that I want to work.

23 Q. Okay. Towards the aft, that part of it?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Was it propped up on all sides or just on some, do you know?

- 1 A. What was the question?
- 2 Q. I'm sorry. That was too fast.
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. Was the hatch propped up on all sides, just raised up, or was
5 it --
- 6 A. Oh, no, just -- like the front, like this.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. So when you say the front, towards the front of boat --
- 10 A. No, this side.
- 11 Q. This part was propped up?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Okay. And the blanket was on which side?
- 14 A. Right here. Blanket laying -- from the aft half of the hatch
15 coming down.
- 16 Q. Okay. So the aft of the hatch was propped up and the blanket
17 covered the aft portion of the hatch?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Where was the hose that came out?
- 20 A. The duct? The air duct?
- 21 Q. Air duct, yes.
- 22 A. Yes, coming out from this side.
- 23 Q. Okay. So from the port side?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. Do you think anything could have gone down that hatch

1 or would the blanket have stopped it?

2 A. I really don't think so because when I doing the cut, I
3 (indiscernible) down, and the torch -- the pressure pushed any
4 kind of flame down. It cannot go down and it's a lot of
5 (indiscernible).

6 Q. Yeah. When you were cutting, did you see slag or debris on
7 the deck or did it all go down?

8 A. No, everything go down.

9 Q. Do you know where this hatch goes?

10 A. I don't think -- I don't know. I never go down. I just go
11 my room. It's underneath of the area that I come to work. I just
12 remember the first day I had to -- my safety inspector for the
13 view that I can see from the hatch, he is in the bottom, check
14 everything like that. And I just joking to him, I say, hey, I can
15 see you from here, and that's it.

16 Q. That was on Thursday?

17 A. Yeah, last Thursday.

18 Q. So you never -- have you ever been down to the mess, galley,
19 or dry stores area on the boat?

20 A. Never.

21 SA HELLER: In relation to that job, any questions? Anything
22 else?

23 BY UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER(S):

24 Q. Did you remove the foam on the overhead in that stateroom?

25 A. I -- my personal, no. My fire watches did. And I check with

1 them that they doing correctly. They remove the -- first, like
2 they remove the foam and later the paint, and then everything is
3 clean for doing the work, yeah.

4 Q. Okay. And how much foam did they -- how far back did they --

5 A. The other thing, the regulations have to be 4 inches left and
6 right of the space that you're going to cut. I removed all,
7 because I like it --

8 Q. All right.

9 A. I like be sure everything, you know. And then I tell them
10 remove all of it and they remove everything.

11 Q. Okay. And was there any other products removed -- so you
12 removed the overheads and that had the wood paneling on there.

13 A. Yeah, they have -- they remove the wood panels, but the
14 (indiscernible) guys remove it, you know. And then they just
15 coming late. Because supposed to be I going to start Wednesday
16 but they take time for the -- remove all the panels and all that
17 stuff, and the walls, too. Because they don't want something
18 escape from -- on the back of the wood panels, you know, and they
19 remove the wood panels from the walls and the roof, too. And then
20 that's why they tell me, no, go tomorrow, and Wednesday they tell
21 me, no, just go tomorrow. And I say, hey, make it ready.
22 Everything here, my machines and all that. And then Thursday
23 morning I go there and I start check, and I wait a couple hours
24 before they give me the fire watches for I start explain how we're
25 going to work. And that's it.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. That's how we start.

3 Q. All right. And were there fire blankets down below in that
4 state room utilized, do you know?

5 A. Yeah. I -- even I put a couple fire blankets, because one of
6 the guys that they -- the fire watches that I have first, he don't
7 know how to put the fire blankets. I think he knows how to do it,
8 but the other guy that help him, he don't know that much, you
9 know. And then I go there and I start explain the fire blanket
10 had to be touch the -- closer to the area that's going to be full
11 of the sparks and goes (indiscernible) to the bottom, you know.
12 Because he hanged them to the wall wood that's right there. I
13 said, no, that's not right. You have to stick it on there on the
14 roof and (indiscernible). And that's why -- that's what he do.

15 Q. Okay.

16 At the end of the day, did you leave the fire blankets or did
17 you collect them and take them --

18 A. No, we leave it. But we wet it, we put water on it and check
19 underneath, check the back.

20 Q. The hatch here, did you leave a blanket on that or did that
21 get taken --

22 A. No, I leave it.

23 Q. You leave that. And then the hole that you cut, was it just
24 open or did you put something on top of that?

25 A. No, I don't remove the whole plate. I just remove a square

1 where I can see down and I can speak with the fire watch over
2 there. And I -- because it's like a -- (indiscernible) of the one
3 angle and one bent plate, you know, the front plate, and it's like
4 this and the plate is welded, you know, those pieces, my plan is
5 come in on Saturday and cut inside, the side of the angles and
6 remove the plate. That's why I just cut one portion that I can
7 see the bottom.

8 Q. Sure. But did you put like a blanket or a tarp or anything
9 on top of the hole or was it just open?

10 A. No, it just open. Yeah.

11 Q. The hatch -- where is it? Right there. So you were cutting
12 on the deck, all the way down on the deck.

13 A. Yeah, all the way on the bottom.

14 Q. And the hatch, does the hatch sit up?

15 A. Yeah. It's like -- I think it's -- the hole that you can see
16 is like a -- right here.

17 Q. Right. And then the cover sits on top of that, right?

18 A. (Indiscernible) there with a fire blanket.

19 Q. So you're welding down here and the hatch sits up another
20 like 3 feet or so, right?

21 A. Yeah, something like that.

22 Q. Okay. And then there was a fire blanket over the top of it?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. That's all I have. Thanks.

25 CWO [REDACTED] David, do you have anything?

1 CAPT FLAHERTY: No. I don't have any questions. Thank you.

2 BY CWO [REDACTED]:

3 Q. There's two documents right here in front of you. Or maybe
4 just -- yeah, there's two documents. Have you seen those before?
5 They're labeled Appendix A, hot work policy, and Appendix B, fire
6 watch training.

7 A. Yes. This is -- well, the first day -- like the first days
8 that I come here, they giving us these documents. And in the
9 classroom they show a lot of videos with those informations, too,
10 and they giving the copies of the papers. Yeah.

11 SA HELLER: Did you take some photographs of the work you
12 were doing?

13 MR. GUZMAN: Yes. Yeah, I have a couple pictures.

14 MR. ALTENBRUN: Those are the ones that you sent to me
15 yesterday, correct?

16 MR. GUZMAN: Yeah. Right. I sent those, yeah.

17 SA HELLER: That's fine. We'll talk to Larry -- you've
18 already sent them to Larry, that's fine.

19 MR. GUZMAN: Yeah, he has it, yeah.

20 SA HELLER: But you took those photographs to show -- was it
21 before and after your cuts?

22 MR. GUZMAN: Yes.

23 MR. ALTENBRUN: I'll be happy to provide those to you.

24 CWO [REDACTED] Okay.

25 MR. GUZMAN: Yeah, I will do, I take the pictures before and

1 after.

2 SA HELLER: The damage in the -- the damage of the burn in
3 the ceiling, did you take photos of those, too?

4 MR. GUZMAN: Yeah, I have the pictures, too.

5 BY UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

6 Q. Your understanding is that that fire that -- the damage that
7 you saw and that you took pictures of, that had occurred a long
8 time ago, right?

9 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's not the same (indiscernible) day,
10 because that's underneath of the panels. But I just -- for
11 precaution -- precaution?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Precaution, I just notified my boss and take a picture for
14 that. Because I have other jobs in like a lot of places and
15 somebody doing a damage and later say, oh, no, that's right there.
16 You know what I mean? And I don't want to -- maybe they say, hey,
17 why this is burnt? You burn it? I say no.

18 CWO [REDACTED] Yeah.

19 MR. GUZMAN: And, you know, like --

20 CWO [REDACTED] Sure. Yeah. Exactly.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was smart.

22 MR. GUZMAN: Yeah.

23 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. Well, if nobody else has any questions,
24 that'll conclude the interview. The time is 2:21 local.

25 (Whereupon, at 2:21 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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 Daniel Guzman

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.



Kay Maurer
Transcriber