

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: SHAWN TURQUOISE, Welder
Sound Resource Group

Trident Seafood 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)

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:45 a.m.)

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2
3 CWO [REDACTED]: This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] with US
4 Coast Guard. The date is April 20th; the time is 10:45 local.
5 We're at Trident Seafood facilities investigating the fire on
6 board the *Kodiak Enterprise*. My last name is spelled [REDACTED].

7 And in the room I have, on the phone --

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

11 SA HELLER: My name's Greg Heller. I'm an ATF special agent
12 assisting with the fire investigation, and my last name is spelled
13 H-e-l-l-e-r.

14 LCDR [REDACTED] Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], chief of
15 investigation for Sector Puget Sound. Last name is spelled

16 [REDACTED]
17 MR. TURQUOISE: Shawn, working for SRG. Turquoise, my last
18 name, T-u-r-q-u-o-i-s-e.

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

21 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. Shawn, just for the record, you came here
22 on your own free will, you were -- this is voluntary, you weren't
23 coerced to come and talk to us?

24 MR. TURQUOISE: This is voluntary.

25 CWO [REDACTED] I'm sorry?

1 MR. TURQUOISE: Yeah, it's voluntary.

2 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. All right.

3 INTERVIEW OF SHAWN TURQUOISE

4 BY CWO [REDACTED]

5 Q. Okay, Shawn. How long have you been a temp welder?

6 A. A welder? This is probably my third week.

7 Q. Third week?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shawn, are you able to just speak up a
11 little bit? We just want to make sure that (indiscernible). This
12 is just for us to make sure we have this.

13 BY CWO [REDACTED]

14 Q. And just to clarify, you are not an employee with Trident,
15 correct?

16 A. No. No.

17 Q. Okay. All right. So third week. And what's your position?
18 What's your job title?

19 A. Pipe welder.

20 Q. Pipe welder? Okay. And how long have you been a welder?

21 A. A welder? I'd say about 13 years now.

22 Q. Thirteen years?

23 A. Um-hum.

24 Q. Okay. And what are your certifications?

25 A. I'm a structural welder and a pipe welder.

1 Q. Structural and pipe?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And is that through anybody?

4 A. No, we just do tests everywhere we go.

5 Q. Okay. So, and tests, you're talking about the different
6 positions of welding?

7 A. Yeah. We have certs papers, but they don't go by that.

8 So --

9 Q. Okay. And what positions are you qualified in?

10 A. Pipe welder -- pipe and structural.

11 Q. Okay. Just pipe and structural?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. All right. Okay. On April 6th, which was a Friday, you were
14 working on board the vessel?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. All right -- April 7th. Sorry. April 7th, Friday, you were
17 on there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And can you just tell us -- start us that morning,
20 come to work, and what's the process before you start working?

21 A. Before you get on board we do a safety meeting. So everybody
22 gets together and we talk about the hazards we're going to be
23 working with. Like, you know, like doing hot work. So if we do
24 hot work, you need to have a fire watch and you know where the
25 fire hose is at and the fire extinguisher. So we got to know

1 that. And before you start anything, you know, we all get
2 together to do a safety meeting and, you know, just get to talk
3 about the hazards. And, yeah, just set up, get ready.

4 Q. Okay. So you have a safety meeting and you're talking about
5 the plan for the day, what your job is, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And you said you talk about hazards. So the hazards,
8 meaning where you're going to be working and what hazardous
9 conditions that you might be facing in that job?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And then you also said, just to clarify, that you were
12 talking the fire hoses and fire extinguisher. So you're verifying
13 the fire watch there and --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- their equipment --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- is that correct? Okay. All right. And is there any
18 training that you receive through Trident or anybody else?

19 A. Just SRG.

20 Q. Okay. And I'm going to show you a couple documents and see
21 if you've seen this or not. Right here is Appendix A. It's the
22 hot work training. Have you seen that from Trident?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And you've reviewed that and -- all right. And did
25 you sign anything to say that you received that training?

1 A. Oh, no. We just read through it.

2 Q. Just read through it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And then this is Appendix B. It's the fire watch
5 training. Are you familiar with that document?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. All right. And is that a training course that you go through
8 or just read it?

9 A. We just read it.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And then so you're saying the company that you work for, they
13 have their own --

14 A. Yeah, they have their own.

15 Q. -- their own training?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Okay. All right. I'll take those so you don't have to --
18 CWO █████ All right. Go ahead, Greg.

19 BY SA HELLER:

20 Q. So on April 7th, on that Friday, where were you assigned to
21 work on the vessel?

22 A. Well, right by the engine bay on the port side.

23 Q. Okay. On that diagram, are you able to point out where you
24 were, where you were working? And there's a few other diagrams if
25 that would be more helpful. I think this is the engine room right

- 1 here.
- 2 A. Okay. We was by the boilers.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Yeah, (indiscernible) the boilers.
- 5 Q. And what were you doing by the boilers?
- 6 A. Replacing pipe.
- 7 Q. Okay. And was that hot work or something else?
- 8 A. It was hot work.
- 9 Q. So it's on the -- everything is aft of the cargo hold area,
10 the area that you're talking about?
- 11 A. Yeah. Um-hum.
- 12 Q. Okay. Was it welding, cutting with a torch, grinding, or all
13 of the above?
- 14 A. Just welding and I just was cutting with Sawzall.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. You don't want -- I mean, grinding, you don't want all that
17 sparks to go everywhere, so we try to use everything with a
18 Sawzall. Usually with (indiscernible).
- 19 Q. Okay. And you said there were fire watch personnel --
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. -- assigned to that, right? What kind of precautions -- were
22 there fire blankets, fire hoses, that sort of thing?
- 23 A. Yeah, there was fire hose here and then there was some fire
24 blankets laid out.
- 25 Q. Okay. Any issues that day? Fires, problems?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. And was the job complete at the end of the day or still had
3 more to do?
- 4 A. I still had more to do.
- 5 Q. And what time did you stop work that day?
- 6 A. 3:20.
- 7 Q. Okay. And do you know, did the fire watch stay after that?
- 8 A. Yeah, for an hour.
- 9 Q. Okay. So no issues with that job that day?
- 10 A. No issues.
- 11 Q. Did you work anywhere else on the vessel?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Okay. All right. And then just a couple questions about was
14 there a space on the boat that was being used as like a break room
15 or a place to eat or anything like that? That you know of.
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Did you take a lunch that day?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you recall where you ate?
- 20 A. Up --
- 21 Q. So you came off the --
- 22 A. Yeah, I wasn't on the boat.
- 23 SA HELLER: That's all I have.
- 24 BY CWO [REDACTED]
- 25 Q. When you secured for the day -- you were saying you're

1 grinding and Sawzall-ing -- what did you do with that equipment?

2 A. The equipment? I rolled everything up and put it in my
3 bucket.

4 Q. In your bucket? And did that come off the vessel or did it
5 stay in your work area?

6 A. It stayed in my work area.

7 Q. Okay. And was it -- so were they still connected to -- I'm
8 guessing you had extension cords?

9 A. No. I -- we usually undo everything and we do housekeeping.

10 Q. Explain housekeeping to me.

11 Q. Housekeeping is rolling back all weld leads, make sure
12 everything's off, rolling back all your extension cords, roll your
13 tools up, your grinders, everything, and then put into the bucket
14 we -- they give us. We put everything in there, our welding bits
15 and grinders and tools.

16 Q. Okay. And then that area that you were working at, was there
17 any documentation or did you -- verbal that it was safe to work
18 there?

19 A. There was a hot work permit that was signed --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- that was put there, so --

22 Q. All right. And do you, as the lead, talk with the safety
23 competent persons?

24 A. Before we start work?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And do they tell you that the atmosphere is good or do
3 they document it somehow where you can check it?

4 A. Yeah. Before we start work, they look around and check if
5 there's anything flammable around. Yeah, they take a look around
6 before we start. And usually they tell us, you know, we need to
7 do this before you start cutting, grinding, or welding. So --

8 Q. Okay. But how do you verify just for you that the oxygen
9 level's good and all that? Or do you just rely on them?

10 A. Everything is just all in the open, so -- as long as, you
11 know -- things that -- they test stuff that's like in a confined
12 space. That wasn't a confined space.

13 Q. Okay. So they -- there was no documentation to say that the
14 oxygen level is 20.8, there's no LELs, no hazards in the air?

15 A. No. They only do that when you're working in the fuel cell
16 or, you know, or the engine room, that kind of stuff.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yeah, that's the only time they do that.

19 Q. Okay. All right.

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

21 CAPT FLAHERTY: No, I don't. Thanks.

22 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. Nobody has anything? We'll secure the
23 interview then. Time is 10:56.

24 (Whereupon, at 10:56 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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 Shawn Turquoise

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.



Ka
Transcriber