

Summary of interview with Kennedy Huang and Tran Tuyen, 25May2022, approximately 1140 EST

In attendance: Mr. Anderson, LTJG [REDACTED] USCG, Walter P. Maestri, Duetsch Kerrigan LLP lawyer representing Dixie Marine and Arthur Anderson, Project Superintendent Dixie Marine.

Both declined to allow the interview to be recorded.

Position: Mr. Kennedy Huang was the welder and Mr. Tran Tuyen was the fire for watch during the replacement of the generators onboard the Natchez. They are independent contractors and are not employees of Dixie Marine.

Both have extensive experience, approximately 40 years, conducting hot work at shoreside facilities as onboard commercial vessels.

They both worked in the generator space for approximately three weeks cutting pipes and foundations to remove the old generators and welded a foundation plate for one of the new generators.

On 03MAY22, the electrical panel (located on the Port side) was ready for removal. Mr. Huang utilized an acetylene torch to cut the metal frame while Mr. Tuyen stood fire watch. He had a bucket of water, charged fire hose and a CO2 extinguisher nearby to put out a fire if one started.

We started work around 0800 to 0830. Took a half an hour for lunch.

Had blower blowing towards the area of the hot work from forward to aft towards the door to engine room.

There were no problems with the removal of the metal frame.

They put a cover over the generator to protect the fuel lines. Nothing around the boxes.

Stopped working at 1530.

Cleaned up the work area “swept it up”, collected tools and checked for any hot spots around the area of the frame. Left a grinder in the space and a light. Did not see fire or smoke.

A mechanic was still working in the generator space when they were departing the vessel.

Departed vessel around 1630.

Neither of them was aware of the OSHA safety requirements for welding and hot work.

They did not have a written safety check list to follow to determine if the space is safe prior to initiating the hot work.

There was no contract between Dixie Marine and Natchez vessel owner on what safety precautions Dixie Marine had to take during the work onboard.

Interview concluded.

Sign [REDACTED] / 25MAY22
Date