



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: LT. [redacted] Employer Name: United States Coast Guard
Street Address: [redacted] Employer Address: [redacted]
City/State/Zip: [redacted] City/State/Zip: [redacted]
Phone No: [redacted] Phone No: [redacted]
Position: Investigation Officer License/Doc. # N/A.

I conducted a telephone interview with Jeffrey Behne in August 2022. Mr. Behne has been associated with New Orleans Steam Boat Company since the 1990s. He had worked for their food/beverage department, had separated and then came back to New Orleans Steam Boat Company as a dock hand, line handler and deckhand. He has been a deckhand for approximately six years. His training has included weekly fire fighting and man overboard drills. He has also received private CPR training.

Mr. Behne stated that his work also included working as a security watchstander on the NATCHEZ. He was there to maintain a physical presence, observe for issues and call local first responders/the vessel captains if a situation was identified.

Mr. Behne stated that he would walk through each space of the vessel during his rounds. He stated there was not a policy stating the required frequency to conduct security rounds on the NATCHEZ.

On 03 MAY 2022, Mr. Behne stated the Craig Morvant was the last person to leave the generator compartment between 1800-1830. Mr. Morvant was there to install a new generator.

On 03 MAY 2022, Mr. Behne had walked into the generator compartment on a security round at approximately 1745. Mr. Behne walked the engine room compartment as well. He did not observe smoke in the generator compartment, or any other issue on the NATCHEZ during his security round.

Mr. Behne did not recall the lighting configuration inside the generator compartment on 03 MAY 2022.

Mr. Behne recalled observing a cloud of black smoke through the starboard side window in the Captain's Saloon between 1945-1950. He did not recall seeing smoke on the port side of the NATCHEZ. From shoreside he observed smoke and flames coming out of the starboard side entrance (on the main deck) of the engine room compartment. The smoke and flames were coming from within the generator compartment. The flames were approximately chest high. The fire department was contacted at approximately 2000.

I have read my statement as documented above (and, if applicable, on continuation pages), and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.

//S//LT. [redacted], U.S.C.G
SIGNATURE

16 NOV 2022
DATE