



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

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Name: Michael Rose, Jr.

Department Atmos Energy / Mid-Tex Operations

Title: Operations Supervisor

Date of Interview: March 5, 2018

I have reviewed my transcript(s) from the above referenced accident and:

I have no comments to make.

My comments are submitted herewith.

My comments are marked on the attached copy.



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION OF \*  
RESIDENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS \*  
FEBRUARY 23, 2018 \*

\* Accident No.: PLD18FR002

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: MICHAEL ROSE, JR.

Hampton Inn and Suites  
Dallas, Texas

Monday,  
March 5, 2018

## APPEARANCES:

RACHAEL GUNARATNAM, Hazardous Materials Accident  
Investigator  
Emergency Response Group  
National Transportation Safety Board

STEPHEN JENNER, Ph.D., Human Performance Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

MICHAEL JONES, Accident Investigator  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
(PHMSA)

JOSE CHEVEREZ, Pipeline Inspector  
Railroad Commission of Texas

PHILLIP MURDOCK, Director of Engineering and Compliance  
Atmos Energy

COREY WRIGHT, Attorney  
Wilson Elser  
(On behalf of Atmos Energy)

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I N T E R V I E W

(8:45 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 MS. GUNARATNAM: Good morning. My name is Rachael Gunaratnam  
4 and I'm an investigator with the NTSB. Today is March 3rd -- no,  
5 March 5, 2013, and the time is 8:45 a.m. We are currently at the  
6 Hampton Inn in Dallas, Texas. We are here to interview -- we are  
7 here to investigate the house explosion at 3435 Espanola Drive in  
8 Dallas on Friday, February 23, 2018.

9 In this interview, we will be talking to Michael Rose. I  
10 would like to first go around the room and please introduce  
11 yourself, spell your name, and title. So my name is Rachael  
12 Gunaratnam, R-A-C-H-A-E-L, G-U-N-A-R-A-T-N-A-M, I'm with the NTSB.

13 DR. JENNER: Stephen Jenner, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, J-E-N-N-E-R. I'm  
14 a Human Performance Investigator with the NTSB.

15 MR. WRIGHT: Corey Wright, C-O-R-E-Y, W-R-I-G-H-T. I'm an  
16 attorney with the Law Firm of Wilson Elser, and will be  
17 representing Mr. Rose for this interview.

18 MR. ROSE: Michael Rose, Jr., M-I-C-H-A-E-L, R-O-S-E, J-R,  
19 and I'm Operations Supervisor, Dallas.

20 MR. JONES: Michael Jones with the PHMSA Accident  
21 Investigation Division. That's M-I-C-H-A-E-L, J-O-N-E-S, based  
22 out of Oklahoma City.

23 MR. MURDOCK: Phillip Murdock, P-H-I-L-L-I-P, M-U-R-D-O-C-K,  
24 Director of Engineering and Compliance, Atmos Energy.

25 MR. CHEVEREZ: Jose Cheverez, Pipeline Inspector for the

1 Railroad Commission of Texas, J-O-S-E, C-H-E-V-E-R-E-Z.

2 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Great. Thank you.

3 INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL ROSE

4 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

5 Q. So, Michael, can you tell us -- give us a little background  
6 about how long you've been with the company, positions you've  
7 held, that kind of thing/

8 A. I'm currently the operations supervisor out of Dallas. I  
9 started reading meters. I read meters for about 9 months and then  
10 I jumped into a construction role. Became construction senior and  
11 then construction crew lead, and then supervisor, so I have 10  
12 years of experience in natural gas.

13 Q. Okay. And sorry if you said this already, did you -- how  
14 long have you been in this position as operations supervisor?

15 A. Five months; 5, 6 months.

16 Q. Okay. All right. Okay. So tell us, going back to February  
17 23rd, or even before that, if you were on-site before that, tell  
18 us your day, tell us what, you know, kind of things you were  
19 doing, just start from there, the point where you heard about the  
20 accident, and so forth.

21 A. I got there, I got on the scene, about 11:45 prior to the  
22 incident.

23 Q. So Thursday night, February 22nd. Yeah.

24 A. Yeah. And I was going to ~~relief~~ <sup>relieve</sup> -- I was going to be  
25 relieving another supervisor that was there, it was Juan Gomez, we

1 currently had four grade 1s, we had four crews working those grade  
2 1s, and I was coming in to bring in two more crews to relieve  
3 those two crews, and then relieve, also, Juan Gomez.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And then when I got there, me and Juan kind of went over our  
6 notes, what was going on, we had, also, a guy surveying the area  
7 as we were working. I had three service techs working with me.  
8 They were also checking the houses, and sewer, and water, and just  
9 kind of surveying the area as the work was being performed. So we  
10 had our crews working, one on the end of the alley, at Larga, and  
11 then we had one crew working on -- in the alley between Durango  
12 and Espanola.

13 And it's pretty much what we were doing, just working. We  
14 had one crew still working on a grade 1, one was completed --  
15 well, two were completed, and then the one up here on Marsh was  
16 being -- was almost complete.

17 Q. Okay. And what kind of specific -- can you give more detail  
18 on the work?

19 A. We were just doing -- we were picking up, like, 2 percent in  
20 the alley on -- in-between Durango and Espanola, so we were  
21 digging up that, seeing what we were going to find there, and then  
22 I had the one crew down here on Larga at 9583, doing a dig up  
23 there. Of course, we had to have shoring everything because it  
24 was just constant rain and lightning during that whole process.

25 So we finally got the shoring and everything set up so those

1 guys could get in that hole and work, and we were just going to be  
2 replacing a service there.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. We were still in the process of doing the dig-up in that  
5 alley of Durango and Espanola.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And that's kind of where we were when the incident happened.

8 Q. So you were in the middle of replacing the service on?

9 A. On Larga.

10 Q. On Larga.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And that was around what time?

13 A. We were working on that when the whole -- from the time --  
14 actually, they were working on that prior to me getting there, so  
15 we were just continuing to do that work there. We started to work  
16 on the 2 percent leak in the alley when I got there.

17 Q. So where exactly where you when it happened?

18 A. When it happened, I was in the front of 3531 and actually, we  
19 were -- I was getting with the techs because me and one of the  
20 techs, it was Michael ~~Glass~~ <sup>Glaserapp</sup> and I, we had just come from the back,  
21 surveying a sewer cleanout behind 3531, we were performing that  
22 work, and it started -- I remember, it started raining and  
23 lightning pretty hard, so I told that crew, or the guy that was  
24 digging there, hey, come to the front real quick. We'll kind of  
25 go over our notes and our plans, because I had just gotten a



1 couple leaks from the survey guy and I was entering those on the  
2 computer.

3 Q. Mm-hm.

4 A. And that's when the -- we heard the boom and of course, I had  
5 no clue what it was at the time because we had just went to the  
6 front, and I was like, whoa, let me go check on my crew --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- that was down at the other end of the alley because, you  
9 know, between the airplanes coming over us all night, I didn't  
10 know if -- it sounded like a car wreck, so I jumped in my truck,  
11 drove around, and when I drove around is when I saw the house.  
12 And when I got to this crew, I just got everybody together and  
13 said, let's start coning off the area.

14 We started coning the alley and everything, and we ~~stared~~ <sup>started</sup> to  
15 evacuate homes.

16 Q. So just to go back, when you heard it, you were on Larga.

17 A. I was on Durango.

18 Q. Durango. Okay.

19 A. The front of the street.

20 Q. Okay. And so you heard a boom.

21 A. I heard the boom.

22 Q. Were you -- did you see any debris or anything?

23 A. I didn't see anything. It was dark. It's still dark at that  
24 hour. And I just remember that morning, it was real foggy. It  
25 was -- you know, so I had no idea what the noise was. I just --

1 immediately wanted to go check on the other crew, because I didn't  
2 know, you know, if something happened down on that end where they  
3 were working, did a tractor hit something, or did -- you know, was  
4 it a car wreck down there, or what? You know, it was kind of a  
5 loud echo.

6 Q. So you said you started evacuating.

7 A. Yeah. I guess we can take a couple steps back because --

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. -- as soon as the boom went off, I heard, like, fire trucks,  
10 and it was like, instance, you know. I heard emergency response  
11 coming, and this was before I even made the full block back around  
12 to the crew. And I seen them start, kind of, ~~conversing~~ <sup>converging</sup> in on  
13 that street, blocking it off, so I wanted to get with the crew,  
14 you know, by then, when I made the block back around to the curb,  
15 I knew something had happened at that residence, so I wanted to  
16 get those guys together and start kind of barricading off the  
17 alley and everything like that.

18 Q. So your crew was okay?

19 A. Crew was okay.

20 Q. Yeah. And so?

21 A. So then after that is when I got on the phone with my manager  
22 and director, and I let them know I was about to start evacuating  
23 these homes.

24 Q. Who was your manager?

25 A. Benny Rosenberg.

1 Q. Okay. Do you know where Benny was at the time?

2 A. At that hour, he's usually on the way into work. I can't be  
3 for sure exactly where he was at that time.

4 Q. Yeah. So, sorry, just to go back a little bit, you were  
5 talking to your crew. Oh, you went to go check on them, and did  
6 they tell you what they saw or?

7 A. They didn't know what was going on. They heard it, but they  
8 didn't know, and one of the crew leads that was down there, he  
9 said, I think it was a wreck down the street, because he saw some  
10 people standing down the street with the car door open.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. You know, and just thinking, he thought, oh, they must have  
13 had a wreck down there.

14 Q. Did you pass the house on your way to checking on your crew?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And what did you see?

17 A. I just saw -- it just looked like the house had just kind of  
18 fallen. Kind of like the front part of it was kind of falling in,  
19 but by then, the neighbors and stuff were out, and I assume that  
20 as soon as this happened, they called the fire department before I  
21 knew what had happened on that side of the street, because like I  
22 said, I was on the front of Durango.

23 Q. Right. Did you call 9-1-1?

24 A. They were already there.

25 Q. They were already there.

1 A. When I made it to the corner to try to park my truck, they  
2 were already blocking everything off.

3 Q. Right. All right. Did you smell anything while in the  
4 process of checking on your crew?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Didn't smell gas.

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. So you started -- you and your crew put the cones  
9 around.

10 A. Mm-hm. We wanted to barricade the alley and just, you know,  
11 around the area on both ends of the street because it's not  
12 abnormal for us to, if we evacuate, that I've seen where --  
13 instances where you may get somebody come out the front door, but  
14 they don't see the severity in it, and they sneak around the back  
15 to come back, you know, so we wanted to make sure that while we  
16 were doing the evacuation, that everybody was going to be away  
17 from the houses, or residence, you know, kind of in a safe place,  
18 and not be allowed to come back in, or move vehicles, or anything  
19 like that.

20 Q. Can you tell us exactly where the cones were?

21 A. Just on the -- in that alley, the mouth of the alley between  
22 Durango and Espanola, and then I think it's El Centro is the other  
23 street, and -- but in that mouth of that alley between Espanola  
24 and Durango.

25 Q. So just in the alley.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Because the fire department already had the front blocked.

4 Q. Okay. And how many -- like, did you put any tape or  
5 anything, or just cones?

6 A. Yes, tape and cones.

7 Q. Tape and cones? Okay.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. And so tell us what you did after you put the cones on the  
10 alley.

11 A. That's when we started to evacuate, so I had one half -- one  
12 crew evacuate one side on Espanola, and then we took the Durango  
13 side, and I started helping with getting that side, so we were  
14 working both sides of the street. And also, the fire department  
15 came and informed them to help us kind of make sure that we get --  
16 that nobody is left behind with the evacuation.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So they assisted us on that.

19 Q. And tell us, how did you go about doing that exactly?

20 A. Well, we just knocked, you know, we don't ring any doorbells,  
21 we let those folks know to, you know, don't get on the phone, no  
22 light switches, anything electrical. We're going to need you to  
23 come out and at least get out in the street by the curb. We'll  
24 notify you, don't move your vehicles, don't, you know, we'll come  
25 back through and notify you that, you know, when everything will

1 be safe for you to proceed from there.

2 Q. Okay. And how long do you think that took?

3 A. Didn't take very long. I mean, most of the people, they  
4 cooperated with us, so 12 to 15 minutes to get everybody out.

5 Q. Were there any challenges to that?

6 A. I just remember one. Out of all those homes, we had one  
7 where a lady was just trying to get her daughter dressed for  
8 school, and she had a hard time understanding English, but I had  
9 my Spanish-speaking crew lead, he talked to her and got her to  
10 where she understood what the process was, what we were doing,  
11 what we were trying to do, is get her and her daughter out.

12 Q. So as you were evacuating, did the residents talk to you or  
13 ask you questions, anything like that?

14 A. No, ma'am. We just -- once we got those folks out, we seen  
15 that they were out, we moved to the next one.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. You know, and then we got with the fire department at the end  
18 of the block to kind of go around and kind of help us explain, and  
19 we had some servicetechs helping us as well, because like I told  
20 you, we had three service techs there that night, they also helped  
21 with that process, so they were kind of, you know, filling the  
22 customers in, you know, what we were doing.

23 Q. Okay. So you did those 2 blocks, and the fire department  
24 helped you do that, and service techs, tell us what, after the 15  
25 minutes, you did -- pass by, what'd you do after that?

1 A. I got both crews, had them meet on Larga, where we were,  
2 because that was kind of our designated spot for us all to meet  
3 and plan, and so once we got all back there, I called my director  
4 and let him know, we've got everything evacuated, and his orders  
5 were to start to isolate -- start the isolation process.

6 So we turned valves ~~on~~ <sup>off</sup> at Larga and Marsh, between Durango  
7 and Espanola, and we got the isolated first, and then I can't  
8 remember all the street names, but we went north one alley, which  
9 would have been Espanola and -- I can't remember the other street  
10 name, and then we went back south, which would be --

11 Q. Let me get a map.

12 A. -- Durango and Cortez.

13 Q. Yeah. One second. Let me just see if I can -- I actually  
14 have a written map. Here you go. So the house -- is this the  
15 alley?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. We isolated this alley first, Durango and Espanola, and then  
19 we did Espanola and I can't really see what that street at the --  
20 it may be Fontana, isolated that one, then we went back south and  
21 got Durango and Cortez alley. Then we went one more north and  
22 isolated that before I was called off to go do a drug test. But  
23 before I left, I made sure the other supervisor came in and I  
24 filled him in on what we were doing, the process of what we were  
25 trying to get done.

1 Q. Any challenges to shutting off the valves?

2 A. I would say there were because it had rained, and rained, and  
3 rained, we had gotten so much rain, so I knew that those valve  
4 boxes, which would be the manhole, would be full of water. So  
5 once we got back and met with everybody on Larga, after we got  
6 everybody evacuated, I called in our vac truck, which sucks the  
7 water out of holes, and we use it to do a lot of spot checking,  
8 like, when we doing bores or anything like that.

9 I had him in route and I would say he got there 7:15-ish, to  
10 help us start vac'ing those out so we could start turning those  
11 valves.

12 MR. MURDOCK: Excuse me, what time was that?

13 MR. ROSE: About 7:15, when he got there.

14 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

15 Q. So you started the work around then; shutting down the  
16 valves?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. When he arrived?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. Right. Okay. So go ahead and -- how long did that take?

21 A. To just isolate -- or the whole process?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. Oh, I'm not sure. I know we had the -- we had our first two  
24 or three alleys isolated before I left at 11, took the drug test,  
25 so after that, I don't --



1 Q. Okay. At 11? And your portion, so before you left, you were  
2 able to shutoff every -- sorry, before 11:00, what was shut off?  
3 On the map.

4 A. Durango, Espanola, that alley, Durango, Cortez, that alley,  
5 and Espanola and Fontana, we had one off before I left, and they  
6 were going to be moving here --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- to get that off.

9 Q. So how many, in total, before you left?

10 A. Five.

11 Q. Five. Okay. So after that, you -- continue. You can --

12 A. I just did my drug test, came back, by then we had our  
13 command center set up, and I went and talked to my manager there,  
14 and he relieved me to go home.

15 Q. Oh, okay. Did any other operations supervisor come?

16 A. Yeah. Before I left to go do my drug test, I had Brice  
17 Cassell came, which, he was going to be relieving me, so he was  
18 already -- he was there. He probably got there about 7:20, 7:30-  
19 ish, somewhere in that area, and he took over my duties there.

20 Q. So why did you have to leave at that time?

21 A. Drug test.

22 Q. They said -- okay.

23 A. But I made sure that he got there first, gave him the plans  
24 of what we were doing, so that way I could go do that.

25 Q. Okay. Who scheduled the drug test?

1 A. I'm not sure. One of the other supervisors called me and  
2 told me, hey, you need to get over here as soon as possible to go  
3 do your drug test.

4 Q. Okay. How long was your shift supposed to be?

5 A. I got there, I was supposed to relieve Juan at 12, right? I  
6 got there about 11:45, kind of got a little early, and then at 8  
7 in the morning, I was going to be relieved.

8 Q. Okay. But you stayed on for a few more hours?

9 A. Mm-hm. Well, because I had to go do the drug test and I was  
10 also helping in the process of isolating the --

11 Q. Right. Okay. So let's go back to when you first heard the  
12 boom, what was your -- describe to us the interaction you had,  
13 your first interaction, with the fire department and then --

14 A. My first interaction with the fire department would have  
15 been, really, I saw one of the firemen and I had him kind of help  
16 go behind and make sure that we didn't have anybody still in those  
17 homes, and then I went to their command center, which was set up  
18 right in front of the house of the incident. I went there to try  
19 to let them know that I was the supervisor on that job and I gave  
20 him my name and my number.

21 He said, you know, I don't really have time to talk now.  
22 We'll write your name, get your information, and everything down,  
23 and as soon as we get done with our investigation, he asked me  
24 would I still be there, I told him yes, and he said, I will call  
25 you.

1 Q. Okay. Do you remember his name?

2 A. I do not remember his name. He was the commander.

3 Q. Okay. And did he ask you any questions?

4 A. At that time, when I talked to him, he said -- he asked me  
5 about if we were going to be isolating the area. And that's what  
6 we were in the process of doing when I -- when we -- so that's  
7 what I told him, we were in the process of isolating. At that  
8 time, I knew for a fact we were going to be isolating Durango and  
9 Espanola from Larga to Marsh.

10 Q. Okay. All right. And so what else did he -- conversation-  
11 wise --

12 A. That was it.

13 Q. That was it?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. So did he know what you were in the process of doing?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. Okay. And the evacuation came from, when you started  
18 evacuating, who asked you to evacuate or was that just something -  
19 -

20 A. That was my decision.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I kind of, simultaneously, was calling my director, letting  
23 him know that, evacuating these homes.

24 Q. All right. Okay. And what did your supervisor say when you  
25 told him that?

1 A. That's the right thing to do.

2 Q. Okay. And so what other interactions did you have with the  
3 fire department after that first one?

4 A. That was it.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. That was it. I didn't really get to speak to them again  
7 before I left.

8 Q. For the drug testing?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Okay. Did you -- oh, so you didn't speak to anybody -- other  
11 firefighters?

12 A. Mm-mm.

13 MS. GUNARATNAM: No? Okay. All right. I will start going  
14 around the table.

15 DR. JENNER: Hi. This is Steve Jenner. Thank you for your  
16 story. I just have a couple questions just fill-in information.

17 BY DR. JENNER:

18 Q. Just going back a bit, after you heard a boom, you -- I think  
19 you mentioned you called your manager and the director, your  
20 manager is Benny Rosenberg?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. Who was the director?

23 A. Kyle Slaughter.

24 Q. Were they on the phone together?

25 A. I'm not sure if they were on the phone together. I didn't

1 call on -- I was calling different -- like, I would call Benny, we  
2 would talk, and then, from my understanding, he was calling Kyle,  
3 letting him know what, you know, the plan was. Now, once we  
4 started the isolating the mains, those two were in a room together  
5 looking at a map, given us the orders, in which order we were  
6 supposed to start isolating the --

7 Q. Okay. So initially, you made two separate calls, one to  
8 Benny and one to Kyle?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. And then, you don't know how much those two were  
11 interacting, because they were at a different location?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Okay. Did they remain at a remote location?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. okay. And where was that?

16 A. At the Dallas service center.

17 Q. And their reason for -- do you know their reason for  
18 remaining there?

19 A. Because they were helping us go over the maps, you know, they  
20 were helping us with the isolation method, you know, and because  
21 on -- at the time, I didn't have the time to be, like, plugged  
22 into my computer, looking to see -- checking maps and --

23 Q. Right.

24 A. -- making sure that, you know, we're doing the right thing,  
25 so that's kind of -- they were kind of my eyes at the system.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. And then kind of telling me where I needed to go and how I  
3 needed to --

4 Q. Did you -- how much contact did you have -- after your  
5 initial call to them, how much contact did you have until you  
6 departed the scene?

7 A. Oh, quite a bit.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I mean every, I would say, 10 minutes, you know, let me know  
10 when you get that one off, let me know when you get that valve  
11 shut, I would let them know.

12 Q. Was it with both of them or just one of them?

13 A. With both then, because they were together.

14 Q. Because they were together. Okay. So was it like a  
15 conference call? I mean, they were on speakerphone.

16 A. Kind of like a conference call. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. Were you the -- before the 23rd incident, were you the  
18 highest-ranking person on scene?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. Was there ever -- did Benny or Kyle ever show up on  
21 scene before the incident, during your, let's say, midnight to  
22 8 a.m. or midnight to the time of the boom, did they ever show up  
23 on scene?

24 A. They didn't show up on scene.

25 Q. Okay. Overall, how were things going during the night when

1 you're doing the repairs and things like that? How are things  
2 going?

3 A. It was pretty rough on us because it was just so much rain,  
4 you know, and trying to get -- our survey techs were surveying and  
5 of course, checking on them, and it's just a slower process, you  
6 know?

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. It was hard to do any digging or anything, because of course,  
9 as we were digging in the alley there, the hole would get full of  
10 water.

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. There was no way for us to really get a truck in the alley,  
13 without it being stuck, to get our pump, you know?

14 Q. Right.

15 A. So it's -- you know, he's trying to scoop water out with the  
16 bucket and trying to -- we were just against all odds.

17 Q. Right. Okay. Just as a heads-up, I won't get into great  
18 detail about what you're doing now, but at a later time, we'd like  
19 to talk to you about more specifics about your activities during  
20 the night, so this is more like post-incident kind of thing.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Thank you. Okay. Were there any other officials that you  
23 were talking to besides Benny and Kyle on -- who were at a remote  
24 location?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. And the decision to start isolating process, I'm not sure if  
2 that was asked already, was that your decision or who did that  
3 officially come from?

4 A. Kyle Slaughter, the director.

5 Q. So was your communication with them, sort of, the logistics  
6 of doing that when, every 10 minutes, you're saying you're talking  
7 to them, they were sort of walking you through the process?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 DR. JENNER: Okay. One other thing, just for the record,  
10 just during the introductions, Mr. Wright, you are -- are you  
11 representing -- what's your purpose for being here today?

12 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Rose's representative for this interview.

13 DR. JENNER: Okay. Just want to get that on the record.

14 MR. WRIGHT: Sure.

15 DR. JENNER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. GUNARATNAM: Sorry.

17 DR. JENNER: That's all the questions I have. Thank you.

18 MR. CHEVEREZ: Jose Cheverez, Railroad Commission of Texas.  
19 Just a few clarification questions.

20 BY MR. CHEVEREZ:

21 Q. You had five mains isolated by the time you had left for your  
22 drug and alcohol, those all ran from Larga to Marsh?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. And then that's four mains, and then between -- the  
25 valves on Larga, that had already been isolated, would be the



1 fifth main?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. When you started the evacuations, you were on Durango?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. So which -- and then the other crew started on Espanola. Did  
6 you guys start on the west moving east, east moving west?

7 A. West moving east.

8 Q. And that was starting from Centro? I'm sorry, Larga to --  
9 did you go all the way to Centro or to Marsh?

10 A. To Centro, El Centro, down to Larga.

11 Q. At the time you heard the explosion, you were speaking to a  
12 leak survey technician regarding some more leaks he found, was  
13 that correct?

14 A. No, I was talking to a service tech. We had just --

15 Q. Service tech.

16 A. We had just come back to the front because he was just  
17 checking the sewer cleanouts and stuff in the alley.

18 Q. Okay. And then in the process of the night, you had leaks  
19 that were found by the leak survey and survey techs, do you know  
20 how many or were those written up at the time or?

21 A. Yes. I met with ~~Joe~~ <sup>Joel</sup> Reyes (ph.) and he had, I believe there  
22 were nine leaks. And so I plugged up my computer and started to  
23 make sure that those nine leaks were all written up on to our CM  
24 Plus (ph.) to make sure that all those leaks were written up.

25 Q. Okay. Were those all done all at once or as they came in?

1 A. He started his survey and as he was writing those up, he  
2 would just make a note, so he just brought me the note of the  
3 leaks that he had written up.

4 Q. Okay. And then you left at approximately 11:00 to go for  
5 your drug and alcohol test.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Were you contacted or did anybody call you after that for  
8 information or for updates?

9 A. I got a call from my manager and he just had me come meet him  
10 over -- I guess we were setting up our command post over at Webb  
11 Chapel and Larga, right in that area, and he just had me come over  
12 there and that was it. He just give me orders to leave and that  
13 Brice would be taking over, and that was it.

14 Q. That was at 11:00, though, correct?

15 A. Somewhere around there. Approximately, yeah.

16 Q. All right. So who was the manager?

17 A. Benny Rosenberg.

18 Q. Okay. So he called you by phone.

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. Okay. So then when you went to your drug test, and any time  
21 after that, you weren't contacted until your next shift?

22 A. That's correct.

23 MR. CHEVEREZ: All right. That's all for me. Thank you.

24 MR. ROSE: Thank you.

25 MR. MURDOCK: Phillip Murdock, Atmos Energy.

1 BY MR. MURDOCK:

2 Q. Back to the five -- the number five, were five mains isolated  
3 or were five valves closed when you left?

4 A. Five valves closed.

5 Q. Five valves closed.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Not five mains.

8 A. Right. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. Okay. So five valves had been closed when you left to  
10 go to your drug test, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Tell me, you described some interaction with Dallas Fire and  
13 Rescue at the time of the incident, the explosion, you said that  
14 the fire official took your name and number and said he would get  
15 back with you. And you identified yourself as whom to the Dallas  
16 Fire and Rescue personnel?

17 A. I was the supervisor on-site.

18 Q. Okay. And did you, in any way, say that if they had any  
19 questions, to call your number?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And did they ever call you back at your number and ask  
22 you any questions or follow-up conversations with that particular

23 --

24 A. They did right before I left --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- but I was instructed by Brice that he would kind of handle  
2 -- he would be, kind of, taking over my duties there.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And he would get with them and --

5 Q. So when the Dallas Fire and Rescue official called you right  
6 before you left, and you were going off shift, and turning it over  
7 to Brice --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- did you tell the Dallas Fire Department that you were  
10 going to be off shift and Brice was coming on shift?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And gave them -- do you know if they had Brice's number?

13 A. Yeah, actually, Brice walked straight to their command post  
14 and started getting with those guys about the information.

15 Q. Okay. And at that point, their command post was where?

16 A. In front of the incident.

17 Q. Okay. So at the time you left for your drug test, the  
18 command post was still in front of the house.

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And Brice walked over and identified himself.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And exchanged numbers.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you. You said after the drug test, did you go  
25 back to the Atmos command post in the field?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you met the supervisor there?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And he told you what?

5 A. I met my manager there.

6 Q. Okay. Met your manager there. Okay. And he told you what  
7 at that time?

8 A. He told me where I needed to take my, which would have been,  
9 I guess the receipt for my drug test.

10 Q. Uh-huh.

11 A. To the Logan Street.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. So I went to the Logan -- I went to the Dallas service  
14 center.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Gave my -- dropped off my receipt from my drug test, and then  
17 he told me I could go home from there.

18 Q. Okay. So you went back to the command post, back to Logan  
19 Street, and then you were relieved, and you went home.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. About what time did you leave Logan Street?

22 A. Around there, it might have been 1:30, 2:00.

23 Q. Okay. So Logan Street is the Dallas service center, correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 MR. MURDOCK: Okay. All right. I think that's all the

1 questions I have.

2 MR. JONES: This is Michael Jones, PHMSA accident  
3 investigation.

4 BY MR. JONES:

5 Q. So I have some questions regarding the night of the 22nd, the  
6 leak surveys, and all that, but I'll hold off on details until we  
7 come back around to them. Just a couple quick clarifications for  
8 that, though, you mentioned nine total leaks that you were trying  
9 to make sure were put into the system?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Who were these survey specialists that you were speaking to  
12 then?

13 A. It was just one and it was --

14 Q. Just one.

15 A. -- Joel Reyes.

16 Q. Joel? Okay. And you didn't interact with any of the other  
17 surveyors that night?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. Got you. And then, moving forward to after the  
20 evacuations and into the isolating of the lines, in previous  
21 interviews, we were made aware of certain operations or conditions  
22 that made closing the valves difficult, and so short stops were  
23 performed. Are you familiar with that?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Could you describe that process in greater detail?

1 A. Yeah. Right there outside the manhole, we can take some of  
2 that concrete out, right, get on top of the main, weld a, it's  
3 like a weld on top of the main, where you're able to put a valve  
4 on that and shut that main off.

5 Q. So it was basically, installing a new valve.

6 A. Exactly.

7 Q. On top of the main.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. Okay. And is that covered in procedures?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Is that a -- and, you know, I know conditions would  
12 have hampered any type of paper documentation at that time, but is  
13 that something you keep on you, those procedures, or is that  
14 something you reference online?

15 A. Yes, we keep them -- we have them on our computers.

16 Q. On the computers.

17 A. And everybody has a docking station where they can put their  
18 computers and pull up manuals, and service manuals --

19 Q. Got it.

20 A. -- construction manuals, survey corrosion manuals, safety  
21 manuals.

22 Q. Got it. And then, so how many short stops were performed  
23 while you were on scene?

24 A. None.

25 Q. None?

1 A. Not while I was there.

2 Q. Not while you were there. Do you know when they -- when or  
3 where they would have been done?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Can you describe the -- why a short stop would be  
6 performed? Because I'm sort of unfamiliar with the process, I  
7 guess.

8 A. In that particular instance, if one of those valves may have  
9 been seized shut or we just couldn't get the tool on it.

10 Q. Okay. And so the conditions of the valves that you operated  
11 were pretty good?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I mean, just provided that you got the water of them and --

15 Q. Yeah, so that was the only hindrance --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- was the water.

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. How deep are these boxes? Are they, like, more manholes, or  
20 boxes, or what's --

21 A. Manholes.

22 Q. Manholes?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. Okay. Roughly, volume, or dimensions?

25 A. About 3-feet deep and maybe 5 x 5, maybe 5 x 4, something



1 like that.

2 MR. JONES: Okay. So that's all I had for post-incident, at  
3 least.

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: So I just have a few follow-up questions.

5 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

6 Q. Going back to when you heard the boom, and you went to go  
7 check on your crew, what did you think -- when did you recognize  
8 it involved the house?

9 A. When I rode around to the front, I saw the house.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. You know, I wasn't for sure if that had already been that  
12 way, because when I got there at night, I didn't -- I wasn't able  
13 to tell if, you know, something had already -- if there was  
14 already something there. I just -- you know, that was just my  
15 assumption, like, oh, no, something has happened here.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. You know?

18 Q. What did you think happened?

19 A. I mean, that first initial boom? It sounded like a car wreck  
20 or something like that.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. So that's why I wanted to go check on that crew on the end,  
23 because it had been raining, you know, and we had the streets  
24 blocked off, we had traffic control and everything, but I just  
25 wanted to make sure that, you know, nothing had happened to those

1 guys on the Larga jobsite.

2 Q. Right. So when you saw the house there, what did you think?

3 A. I think, oh, something has happened here, and like I said,  
4 before I could get off of the street and back to the corner where  
5 these guys were, fire trucks pulled right there and started  
6 blocking everything off, so --

7 Q. Right. Did you see the house before the fire department  
8 arrived?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So when you saw the house for the first time, fire department  
11 was on scene.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. And so when you saw the house, you said something happened,  
14 what does that mean? Like --

15 A. It looks like something has happened there. I mean, like I  
16 say, it was a lot of fog, it was still kind of dark, so that was  
17 just my thought, like, oh, what happened here, you know? But at  
18 the same time, I'm -- people were starting to come out to the curb  
19 and everything. I'm sure those residents around heard it, heard  
20 the same thing I heard, and, you know --

21 Q. Did you think it was gas-related?

22 A. No, I didn't even think -- I couldn't even think that deep  
23 into it. It was just all kind of reaction at that point.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. You know, I didn't know what had happened.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. That's why our first instinct was to make sure that we got  
3 everything coned off as far as the safety aspect of it, because I  
4 wasn't for sure what had happened.

5 Q. So what made you want to start evacuating the homes?

6 A. Because I was -- to me, that's just the safest thing to do if  
7 -- you know, I don't know what has happened, what's going on,  
8 let's get these folks out until we can properly investigate and  
9 see what's going on.

10 Q. Yeah. So to evacuate, you were trying to -- what were you  
11 trying to protect them, like, what were your -- what concerns were  
12 you communicating to the residents?

13 A. Saying we just had an incident in the alley, because I was on  
14 this side --

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. -- Durango side, just had an incident in the alley behind  
17 your homes --

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. -- and I'm going to need you guys to come out until we  
20 further investigate what's going on.

21 Q. Okay. So did -- so how many, in total, interactions did you  
22 have with the fire department?

23 A. One to ask for help to make sure that we got everybody out  
24 after we had done our evacuation, and then one with the commander,  
25 kind of letting him know we were about to start the isolation

1 method, and then the phone call later, when he was going to talk  
2 to me, I guess get some information from me, because I was  
3 supervisor on-site, you know, after I had given him the  
4 information.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And he got that information during the same time I was  
7 letting him know about isolating the main. That's when I gave him  
8 -- I let him know who I was and my phone number --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- at that time.

11 Q. So you interacted with him first when you exchanged  
12 information.

13 A. No, second.

14 Q. Second.

15 A. Well, that particular guy; the commander.

16 Q. The commander, right. Oh, before that wasn't --

17 A. Before that, it was just a fireman that had the street  
18 blocked off. He was on the corner.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. And I said, hey -- and there might have been two or three  
21 guys there, and I said, hey, you guys, if I could get a hand on  
22 helping us make sure that we get these people out of the homes.

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. Make sure we didn't, you know, that everybody's coming out,  
25 staying back, and kind of help us keep -- because I guess they

1 were -- their duty was to make sure that the streets were blocked,  
2 and no cars were coming in and out, so I kind of had them help us  
3 out and make sure that there were no people still ~~handing~~<sup>hanging</sup> out in  
4 the yard, or at the house, or on the porch, you know, help us make  
5 sure everybody in a safe place.

6 Q. Right. And did you -- okay. So then you exchanged -- after  
7 the evacuation with the firefighter, you spoke to the incident  
8 commander and exchanged information? Is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then you said there was -- he called you, the third  
11 interaction?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. And what did he say?

14 A. He said, I'm commander, I understand that you're operations  
15 supervisor on-site, if you could, come to our command post. And  
16 we were, if I remember right, on Cortez, somewhere in there,  
17 shutting off some valves, Cortez and Durango.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And by that time, that's when Brice said, oh, I called him  
20 over, and I told him, hey, I have to go do a drug test, could you  
21 help out and, you know, let them know that you're the supervisor  
22 on-site now, and any information that they need from -- as far as  
23 Atmos Energy, you're to handle that.

24 Q. Okay. So he called you around, right before your drug test?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. Close to 11?

2 A. Yeah, because I'm not too sure what time that she called me  
3 in for my drug test. I know it was around 11. And so that's the  
4 time that -- it could have been minutes before, could have been  
5 minutes after, I'm not sure.

6 Q. Sure. So you didn't go, Brice went?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Okay. All right. And did you tell Brice what he wanted?

9 A. I didn't know what he wanted.

10 Q. Oh, okay.

11 A. He just said, meet us over here at the command -- at their  
12 command post.

13 Q. Oh, okay. So Brice went to the command post. You never went  
14 to the command post/ ?

15 A. No.

16 Q. The initial command post. Sorry, where was that again; at  
17 the Durango and --

18 A. Their command post was on Espanola in front of the --

19 Q. Okay. In front of the house?

20 A. -- incident. Yeah.

21 Q. Oh, okay. All right. Okay. What emergency response  
22 training have you had?

23 A. I've been through all of them and just from being in  
24 construction, we always went through M13, which would be OQ-  
25 qualified first responder training. I've been to our training

1 facility, state-of-the-art training facility, over in Plano at the  
2 Charles K. Vaughan Center, where they teach you, you know, first  
3 responding techniques.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Who are the first responders, what's your job there, and how  
6 to go about, you know, identifying hazards and stuff like that, so  
7 I've been through all those -- all that training.

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. And as well as all my employees.

10 Q. So what, in that training, helped you with this incident?

11 A. Well, it taught me to try my very best to protect life and  
12 property, and gas facilities, you know, as far as making your work  
13 area safe, so that was my first instinct, was to make sure that  
14 all of our folks were safe, so that way that we can keep that  
15 neighborhood safe.

16 So once I checked on my guys, and everybody was good, now  
17 let's start to make sure we keep these folks safe and help with  
18 evacuations, help with coning off the area, help with, you know,  
19 just keeping people in a safe area while we perform our work.

20 Q. So keeping the people safe meant to evacuate them  
21 immediately, to you?

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. Yeah. Okay. Have you ever had to evacuate neighborhoods  
24 before?

25 A. We've had to evacuate -- not full neighborhoods, to this

1 extent, but we've had apartment buildings where we were getting  
2 gas, so it's not out of the ordinary that we would, if we get gas  
3 there, and we feel that the hazard is great enough to, we're going  
4 to err on the side of safety and get those folks out until we can  
5 get the issue fixed.

6 Q. And in those cases, do you wait for the fire department to  
7 assist you or to, like, what's the procedures for evacuating?

8 A. Every incident, every case is different. You know, ~~the~~ <sup>they</sup> train  
9 us to go in and evacuate folks without having the fire department.  
10 In some cases, we do have the fire department there to help with  
11 that process, and it just depends on how many residents we got to  
12 get out. If it's quite a bit, if there's a big apartment complex,  
13 with a lot of units, we have the fire department to assist us.

14 If it's just a house, you know, me and my crew can evacuate  
15 them and there's no issue, or we'll have the fire department come  
16 in and help us block the street, keep traffic, keep -- because,  
17 you know, you'll get the customers want to come up to the jobsite  
18 and ask, you know, sometimes we may have them help keep those  
19 folks back, you know?

20 Q. So you guys can do evacuations without the help of emergency  
21 responders?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Has that ever been an issue?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. And have you -- does that training -- when you



1 evacuate, has there been training to evacuate?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Yeah. How often do you get that training?

4 A. We get it once a year for OQ purposes to make sure that  
5 you're qualified to be doing that task, and then we also have  
6 something that we call -- that's on our learning center, that we  
7 go through once a year as well, and it just kind of keep us  
8 refreshed on that process. Any new employee that comes in,  
9 they'll have to go through that training --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- to become an emergency first responder.

12 Q. Okay. Was there anything unique about this incident that was  
13 different from your other times where you've had to evacuate?

14 A. I mean, everything was going -- I'll tell you this, there was  
15 nothing abnormal about the situation, all the way up until the  
16 incident occurred. We constantly had surveyors checking, we had  
17 our crews working on our emergency leaks, we had service techs  
18 constantly checking, you know, kind of helping with the surveys,  
19 you know, right where we're digging, where we're working, they're  
20 keeping that area safe, they're checking, they're constantly  
21 monitoring that situation.

22 Q. Mm-hm.

23 A. So up until the incident, nothing had -- nothing was out of  
24 the normal for what we normally go through.

25 Q. Right. In this case, though, you were already on-site before

1 the incident, so you're usually called to the site before -- after  
2 the incident happens, right?

3 A. I'm having a hard time following you.

4 Q. Well, I'm saying, in this case, it was a little unique,  
5 because you were already there prior to the explosion occurring,  
6 right?

7 A. Right. Right.

8 Q. Yeah. So your response time was very quick.

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. We were on scene, yeah.

12 Q. Other evacuations, you were called to the scene after the  
13 accident.

14 A. Right. Right.

15 Q. Yeah?

16 A. Usually a customer or somebody walking their dog, walking by,  
17 they smell gas, we come out, we do our investigation, and then we  
18 determine it to be a hazard, then we evacuate.

19 Q. Yeah. Do your procedures for emergency response involve  
20 calling the fire department, you know, when you're responding to  
21 the scene from a caller that's not the fire department?

22 A. They're there to help us, you know, so in most cases, we  
23 would -- we will call the fire department.

24 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Steve?

25 DR. JENNER: No questions.

1 MS. GUNARATNAM: No questions?

2 MR. COLLINS: I have two follow-up questions.

3 BY MR. COLLINS:

4 Q. One to clarify the location of the five valves that you and  
5 your crew had shut off beforehand, or before you left site, could  
6 you describe those or the locations?

7 A. First ones were at Larga and Marsh, between Espanola and  
8 Durango. That was our first set; one, two. And so then we went  
9 here, Larga, Marsh, between Durango and Cortez, that should be  
10 four, right? So then we went up one north and we had gotten  
11 Espanola and Fontana, that one off, before I left, so that was the  
12 five.

13 Q. Okay. Okay. The second question is, for Atmos operations,  
14 you were the highest rank at the location before the incident, and  
15 you had two construction crews, several service techs, and one  
16 survey technician. In an emergency, does all responsibility, or  
17 all authority, fall on you as the senior ranking?

18 A. I mean, no, because we're all qualified. And actually, those  
19 guys are all qualified first responders, so they're able to take  
20 action as they see need. They don't have to wait for me to make  
21 that call. They have the authority to make any call that they see  
22 in the field, you know?

23 Q. Okay. You had, previously, before the incident, made contact  
24 with a Joel Reyes, did you make contact with any of the other  
25 service techs or the leak survey tech?

1 A. Yes. I had all three of those techs, they're in the area  
2 where we were -- where I was parked, actually, on Durango. I was  
3 parked on Durango in front of 3531, because that was the address  
4 we were working on. So we met there and we -- so that way  
5 whenever they kept checking, they would, hey, Rose, I got, you  
6 know, that sewer clean, still clear, and he was checking it all  
7 throughout the night. All three of those guys checking all  
8 throughout the night, those service techs that were there with me.

9 Q. Okay. So during normal operations, they all report to you  
10 and do you designate where they go or what they check during the  
11 normal operations?

12 A. No, they just kind of -- they're trained service techs. They  
13 know what they're supposed to be checking. And you could check  
14 here, I mean, you could check right behind that address and get --  
15 you know, your investigation may lead you to go further, you know  
16 what I mean? So if you check there and you get something, you  
17 start investigating more. They report the findings back to me,  
18 just, you know, to let -- you know, just in case if I need to move  
19 a crew. If now, this becomes a grade 1, I may need to call in  
20 another crew to go jump -- to go work on that grade 1, you know?  
21 So they're constantly surveying and checking, and, you know,  
22 filling me in on what they're getting.

23 Q. And it's essentially the same for the survey technician as  
24 well?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 MR. COLLINS: That's it for me. Thank you.

2 MR. MURDOCK: Phillip Murdock, Atmos Energy. Couple of  
3 follow-up questions.

4 BY MR. MURDOCK:

5 Q. When you drove around the block, when the explosion occurred,  
6 and you say the Dallas Fire Department was on scene, could you  
7 tell how long they had been there? Had they laid hoses, were they  
8 just unpacking their equipment, how long had Dallas Fire Rescue  
9 been on scene? Could you tell from what you saw?

10 A. They had just gotten there, you know, and like I said, I was  
11 just -- when I pulled around, saw the house, I was pulling over to  
12 park, and they had already pulled in and started block -- they  
13 pulled in, kind of, simultaneously blocking the area, so it was  
14 all --

15 Q. Okay. And when you saw the house, did you observe -- you  
16 said, I think, the front had blown in or was caved in? Had you --  
17 did you see any fire, or smoke, or any indication other than a  
18 house that had pretty much was in that state?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. So you didn't see any fire or smoke --

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. -- coming from the dwelling. Okay. So a follow-up on  
23 something you said about nothing abnormal prior to the explosion  
24 occurring, can you explain that a little bit; why you don't feel  
25 anything abnormal was taking place prior to the explosion

1 occurring?

2 A. Well, I think everything was kind of going as protocol. We  
3 had our grade 1 leaks that were written up, we had crews working  
4 on those, our survey guys were out, they were getting -- he wrote  
5 up, I think, nine grade 2s, which, once we got those grade 1s  
6 completed, they were going to be instructed to working those grade  
7 2s as, you know -- we're starting to do our work, kind of, as a  
8 severity of them, so it's nothing abnormal for -- you know, as  
9 long as we got people on our grade 1 leaks working those, trying  
10 to get those fixed, and as they start to complete those, we start  
11 sending those crews to do our grade 2 leaks, in that order.

12 We got guys surveying, we have service techs checking, you  
13 know, and as these guys get repaired and they need relights, we  
14 have service techs in the area to relight those homes. Nothing  
15 abnormal was -- it was pretty normal up until the incident  
16 happened, so --

17 MR. MURDOCK: Okay. That's all I had.

18 DR. JENNER: No follow-ups for me.

19 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Just one more couple follow-up on  
20 your emergency response procedures.

21 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

22 Q. And what are -- in time of an emergency, and you're in --  
23 what are the procedures there that Atmos has for responding to an  
24 emergency?

25 A. You just -- you have to be there within the hour, you have

1 to, you know, protect life and property, you survey, you know, and  
2 a lot of things could be -- I mean, is there blowing gas? You  
3 have to determine the hazard. Is there blowing gas, is there just  
4 the smell of gas, is there, you know, a fire or an explosion,  
5 overpressure in our system? You have to be able to, kind of,  
6 determine what our hazards are and react as follows there.

7 Q. Do you -- is there any distinction between a minor or major  
8 incident in your response procedures?

9 A. I think every -- it's for that first responder, kind of, to  
10 determine what -- you know, what's the hazard there, what are we  
11 dealing with, and then they investigate and they make that call as  
12 to what, you know, we need to be doing.

13 Q. Okay. Do you -- in your protocol or procedures for emergency  
14 response, is there anything about how to interact with other  
15 emergency responders?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you want to elaborate?

18 A. Just, you know, we can call them to help us. You kind of  
19 work hand-in-hand with them, you know, depending on what it is.  
20 You know, sometimes you could get called on something that's not  
21 even gas-related, you end up there, and you need the fire  
22 department to kind of help you out with different chemicals or  
23 anything like that, you know, and that's where they kind of come  
24 in and help with that, and we work hand-in-hand with the fire  
25 department as far as anything like that.

1           If we need to help evacuate, you know, if we need to get  
2 streets blocked, if we, you know -- each case is very different.

3 Q.    Right.  And who makes those calls?

4 A.    Supervisor.

5 Q.    So it would be -- okay.  So your level?

6 A.    Mm-hm.

7 Q.    Okay.  Can the technicians do that too?

8 A.    Yes.

9 Q.    Okay.

10 A.    Anybody OQ-qualified in M13, which would be emergency  
11 responder.

12 Q.    Okay.  And in your procedures, is there anything regarding,  
13 you know, who is in charge when on scene, kind of thing?

14 A.    The first responder is who's in charge.

15 Q.    First responder from Atmos or the fire department?

16 A.    Well, if it's a natural gas hazard, and they determine it's  
17 natural gas-related, that person is in charge of -- as far as if  
18 it's, you know, like I said, determining the hazard, is this a cut  
19 line, is this a fire, is it an explosion, is it over pressurize in  
20 the system, you know?

21 Q.    Okay.  So you -- okay.  So when you say, that person is in  
22 charge, that person from Atmos?

23 A.    Mm-hm.

24 Q.    Oh, okay.  When it's gas-related.

25 A.    Yeah.  If it's gas-related.



1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. Our first responder is taking the lead on that job.

3 Q. Got it. Okay. So February 23rd, for that incident, the  
4 explosion, was it assumed that you were in charge of the incident?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. For with -- and you were to coordinate --

7 A. Yeah, coordinate equipment that's needed --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- personnel, if needed, you know, if we were to get another  
10 grade 1, call out another crew if they need, you know, whatever --

11 Q. Needed to be done.

12 A. -- those guys need for support, you know, because those guys  
13 are all trained to do their job. I'm there for support, help  
14 record keeping, you know, if they need anything out there that's  
15 not there, or if I need to make a call to, you know, change up the  
16 situation, that's what I'm there for.

17 Q. Okay. So how does the fire department, then, fall under --  
18 in that framework?

19 A. I work --

20 Q. All right. Go ahead.

21 A. Normally I would work with the commander, get with him, you  
22 know, like, say we get hit lines, you know, you work with the fire  
23 department on helping getting information, they also help, like I  
24 say, keep the area safe, you know?

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. They can get those trucks in there and block streets down,  
2 and kind of notify the public, and kind of help us out in a  
3 greater aspect of things.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And just, you know --

6 Q. So are you instructing the fire department in that process?

7 A. No, we're hand-in-hand.

8 Q. Hand-in-hand? Okay.

9 A. We're working hand-in-hand.

10 Q. Okay. That is -- and is that a reflection of -- you say,  
11 hand-in-hand, is that what's said in your emergency response  
12 procedures; in accordance with that?

13 A. Depends on, if it's natural gas, we have that jurisdiction.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. We -- but as far as getting help from them to, you know,  
16 other stuff that we may need to do our job, we just work hand-in-  
17 hand.

18 MS. GUNARATNAM: Got it. Okay. That's all I have.  
19 Does anybody -- you good? You guys good? Well, thank you so much  
20 for coming in. We really appreciate it. You've really helped us  
21 understand what was going on that day. Okay?

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF:           NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION OF  
RESIDENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS  
FEBRUARY 23, 2018  
Interview of Michael Rose

ACCIDENT NO.:                PLD18FR002

PLACE:                         Dallas, Texas

DATE:                         March 5, 2018

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Smith  
Transcriber



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

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Name: Michael Rose, Jr.

Department Atmos Energy / Mid-Tex Operations

Title: Operations Supervisor

Date of Interview: March 8, 2018

I have reviewed my transcript(s) from the above referenced accident and:

- I have no comments to make.
- My comments are submitted herewith.
- My comments are marked on the attached copy.

A redacted signature, appearing as a solid black bar with some blue ink bleed-through visible above it.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION OF \*

RESIDENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS \* Accident No.: PLD18FR002

FEBRUARY 23, 2018 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: MICHAEL ROSE, JR.

Hampton Inn and Suites  
Dallas, Texas

Thursday,  
March 8, 2018

## APPEARANCES:

ROGER EVANS, Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

STEPHEN JENNER, Ph.D., Human Performance Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

MICHAEL JONES, Accident Investigator  
Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration  
(PHMSA)

JIM COLLINS, Regional Manager  
Railroad Commission of Texas

JOHN McDILL, Vice President of Pipeline Safety  
Atmos Energy

THOMAS W. TOBIN, Attorney  
Wilson Elser  
(On behalf of Mr. Rose)

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. EVANS: On the record with Mike Rose, Jr. This is the  
3 second interview of Mike Rose.

4 Good morning. Today is March 8th --

5 DR. JENNER: February.

6 MR. EVANS: Excuse me?

7 DR. JENNER: Oh, I'm sorry.

8 MR. EVANS: Today is March 8th, and the time is 11:18. We  
9 are in the Hampton Inn in Dallas, Texas. My name is Roger Evans.  
10 I'm the investigator in charge with the National Transportation  
11 Safety Board out of Washington, D.C.

12 This interview is being conducted as part of the  
13 investigation into the Espanola Drive -- E-S-P-A-N-O-L-A Drive --  
14 accident that occurred in Dallas, Texas on February 23, 2018 at  
15 approximately 6:45 p.m. This Case Number for the NTSB is P-L-D as  
16 in dog-18FR002.

17 This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a  
18 later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to the  
19 interviewee for review prior to being entered into the public  
20 docket.

21 Mr. Mike Rose, we understand you have representation today.  
22 And who is your representation today, please?

23 MR. ROSE: Thomas W. Tobin.

24 MR. EVANS: Okay. And, Mr. Tobin, can you introduce yourself  
25 and spell your name, please?



1 MR. TOBIN: Yes. My name is Tom Tobin, T-O-B-I-N. I'm an  
2 attorney with the Wilson Elser Law Firm at 1133 Westchester Avenue  
3 in New York. My telephone number is [REDACTED].

4 MR. EVANS: Okay. Now I'd like to go around the room and  
5 have each person identify themselves with their -- who they work  
6 for and their job title, spelling of their name. And I'll start  
7 to my left.

8 MR. McDILL: John McDill, M-C-D-I-L-L, vice president of  
9 pipeline safety for Atmos Energy. My business address is [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]. Business contact phone number:

11 [REDACTED].  
12 MR. EVANS: And excuse me. I'd rather you not give any  
13 telephone numbers --

14 MR. McDILL: I'm sorry.

15 MR. EVANS: -- during this session, if you don't mind.

16 MR. McDILL: Okay. Thank you. Excuse me.

17 MR. COLLINS: Jim Collins, J-I-M, C-O-L-L-I-N-S, with the  
18 Railroad Commission of Texas, a regional manager. Business  
19 address: [REDACTED].

20 MR. EVANS: Okay.

21 MR. JONES: Michael Jones, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, J-O-N-E-S, with the  
22 PHMSA Accident Investigation Division. We're based at [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED].  
24 DR. JENNER: Stephen Jenner, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, J-E-N-N-E-R,  
25 human performance investigator with the NTSB.

## INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL ROSE

1  
2 BY MR. EVANS:

3 Q. Well, thank you, Mike Rose, for agreeing to speak with us  
4 today as your second interview. And I know since -- I know you  
5 interviewed with Ravi Chhatre before with the NTSB, and you  
6 probably told him some of the background information. But since  
7 this is my first interview with you, I would like to get some  
8 background information: how long you've been with the firm, what  
9 your job title is and education level, and what you did before you  
10 started work at Atmos.

11 A. Michael Rose, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, R-O-S-E. I work for Atmos  
12 Energy, 2601 Logan Street. Operations supervisor. And I was  
13 working on diesel trucks before I joined Atmos Energy. I guess,  
14 maybe about 2 years, I worked for a company called Kaffenbarger,  
15 and we just added accessories and stuff, air supply and  
16 everything, on those trucks, outfitted those trucks.

17 And then I came to read meters with Atmos Energy at the  
18 Garland service center here in Texas. I read meters for about 9  
19 months, and then I transferred from that position onto Dallas  
20 construction, Operator 1. Did that for 2 years and become a  
21 senior construction operator. And then on from that -- and my --  
22 and the job was still, pretty much had the same job duties, the  
23 same responsibilities. I went into a senior construction role,  
24 which I just supported the crew lead, handled paperwork, did a  
25 little bit of operating.

1           And then I went from that to construction crew lead. There,  
2 I just -- jobsite was my responsibility, taking care of all the  
3 guys on the crew and working in maintenance on Atmos Energy gas  
4 facilities. And then from there I just become an operations  
5 supervisor. And I've been at it about 5, 6 months.

6 Q.    You've been at that position for 5 or 6 months?

7 A.    Yes, sir.

8 Q.    Okay. And the actual date that you started at, you know,  
9 your company, Atmos?

10 A.    February the 2nd, 2008.

11 Q.    Okay. The training that you've had thus far, not so much --  
12 let's not go all the way back, but I would like to hear maybe --  
13 which of these roles here did you spend the most time where you  
14 had an abundance of training, let's say, in the last -- I see  
15 you're ops supervisor. I would imagine you've had a lot of  
16 training prior to that before you got this, that --

17 A.    Absolutely.

18 Q.    -- you could slide right into ops supervisor without having a  
19 whole lot more training; is that --

20 A.    Absolutely.

21 Q.    -- an accurate statement? Okay. So can you just go down the  
22 training background that maybe is from, let's say, when you went  
23 to senior construction role? Just some of the things that you've  
24 -- like have you been operator qualified and --

25 A.    Operator qualified, confined space -- well, had a state-of-

1 the-art facility over at the Plano service center, which is called  
2 the Charles K. Vaughan. I've spent a lot of time there, and we  
3 get a lot of hands-on training there. We have simulators where we  
4 can do backhoe training as well there.

5 And we had classes that we went to that kind of coincide with  
6 our OQs. So that kind of went by the class, and so when I became  
7 a senior construction operator, I had per se -- I had to go to  
8 advanced construction. So that's a 7-week course. We went there.  
9 They taught us and we gained our OQs to get the -- to do those  
10 tasks at that time. Which you work through gas essentials,  
11 advanced construction, service essentials, service -- advanced  
12 service. And then we also had hands-on training back at the  
13 office, OJT, to where we had to go out with a qualified person at  
14 that task to make sure that we were completing that task right out  
15 in the field.

16 Q. So how about hands-on training with, you know, gas detection  
17 tools like CGI and -- have you had all that as well?

18 A. We had some of that over at the --

19 Q. OQ and all those types of things --

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. -- to detect gas? Okay.

22 MR. EVANS: And just for the record, I was handed from  
23 Mr. Tom Tobin, the attorney representing Mr. Rose today, a book  
24 called "Focus on Your Future: Catalogue Course for Atmos" dated  
25 2018 to 2019, and it details a bunch of courses.

1 MR. TOBIN: And that's been uploaded onto the site, just for  
2 your reference. Kind of the full panoply. And we had also  
3 extended an offer to come visit the training center to Ravi --

4 MR. EVANS: Okay, very --

5 MR. TOBIN: -- and we'll extend that to you as well. Or the  
6 company will. I won't.

7 MR. EVANS: Okay. That's great.

8 MR. TOBIN: Encourage you to come out and spend time there.

9 MR. EVANS: And for the transcriber, that was Mr. Tobin  
10 speaking. So --

11 BY MR. EVANS:

12 Q. Okay. So I understand you were part of the response side of  
13 this, right?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And we're going to refer to first incident, second incident,  
16 and then third would be the accident where the fatality occurred.  
17 That's how we're going to -- in the interviews today, I'll kind of  
18 refer to those in that manner.

19 So can you, from the post-emergency response side of things,  
20 can you detail your involvement in each one of those -- let's  
21 start with the first incident. Any involvement you had at all  
22 with the post-emergency response side of that?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. So you had no involvement at all post-emergency response?

25 A. Oh, before the incident occurred? I'm having a hard time --

1 MR. EVANS: Can we go off the record a second?

2 (Off the record.)

3 (On the record.)

4 MR. EVANS: Back on the record with Mike Rose. This is Roger  
5 Evans speaking. I would like to make a correction to using the  
6 word "incident." That word should have been stated as an "event."

7 BY MR. EVANS:

8 Q. So where I would like to go is just -- so this interview can  
9 stand alone by itself, you know, 6 months, 9 months later when I'm  
10 looking at this item, I'd like to get, maybe, a recap of those  
11 days, beginning on the -- from the first event forward, what  
12 activities you had, and then we'll go from there.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. This is a very summarized version because we know that you  
15 went through this with the last interview.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. But we don't want you to repeat the last interview. Just  
18 high-level topics: I was on this on this day, this that day.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. This is Wednesday, February 24th. I had no --

22 MR. TOBIN: Twenty-first.

23 MR. ROSE: Twenty-first. I'm sorry. Sorry. I had no -- I  
24 wasn't into any of that.

25 BY MR. EVANS:

1 Q. On the Wednesday?

2 A. On the Wednesday.

3 Q. Okay. And then on the 22nd?

4 A. No, sir. No involvement.

5 Q. Okay. Now let's go to the 23rd.

6 A. I was there on the 23rd.

7 Q. Okay. So what --

8 A. And actually, if we can back up a second, February 22nd I  
9 arrived at 3531 Durango relieving two -- well, relieving one  
10 operations supervisor, Juan Gomez, J-U-A-N, G-O-M-E-S [sic].  
11 Relieving his duties at about 11:45 p.m.

12 Q. And once that person was relieved, what were your duties for  
13 that?

14 A. I had two crews relieving two crews that we had working an  
15 emergency leak. We had two separate emergency leaks: one at -- I  
16 think it was 9583, and then we had an emergency leak at 9551. And  
17 then we were to do a -- we were going to start working our grade 2  
18 leaks at 3531. So I had -- we had a crew working at 9551,  
19 completing that job --

20 Q. Can I -- just so we can make this --

21 MR. EVANS: The witness has been given a document that shows  
22 a layout of the neighborhood. And can we first -- before we  
23 begin, can we just put X's by the home that -- where we had the  
24 first event, the second event, and the fatality location? Can you  
25 go ahead and mark that such?

1 MR. TOBIN: He may not --

2 MR. ROSE: I'm not aware of event one. And event two, I  
3 don't know.

4 MR. TOBIN: And, Roger, just so you know, this document has  
5 been used by almost every other witness.

6 MR. EVANS: Right. Okay. That's good.

7 MR. TOBIN: So it's well known in the interview process.

8 BY MR. EVANS:

9 Q. So we have the first event home marked on this sheet, the  
10 second event home marked, as well as the fatality accident scene.  
11 Now the addresses that you were saying earlier, do they correspond  
12 to those particular sites where you had these crews?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Okay. So let's go back, then, to where you were. Go ahead  
15 and give us the addresses where you said that you relieved the two  
16 crews that were working.

17 A. Here. 9553. 9551.

18 MR. TOBIN: Larga.

19 MR. ROSE: Larga. 9553 Larga, 9551 Larga. I came at 11:45  
20 of February the 22nd, and found out when I got there that 9551 was  
21 being completed. So we had a crew going to go dig up at -- I'm  
22 sorry -- 3531 Durango, where I was told we were getting 2 percent,  
23 but we were going to dig it up to see what we found there at 3531  
24 Durango.

25 BY MR. EVANS:



1 Q. And just to insert, the 3531 Durango address, the 9553 Larga  
2 address, the 9551 Larga address are not any of the event or fatal  
3 accident locations, correct?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Thank you. So when you went there, did you do bar  
6 hole testing and --

7 A. We had surveys and service techs in the area doing survey in  
8 the whole area here.

9 Q. And what class leaks were you after at these three locations?  
10 The reports of the class of leak, do you recall what that might  
11 have been?

12 A. Two grade -- at 9553 Larga, 9551 Larga were both grade 1's.

13 Q. Grade 1's.

14 A. And they were being worked.

15 Q. Okay. And the one at 3531? Do you --

16 A. I'm not sure what it was -- I know it was a grade 2, but I'm  
17 not sure if it -- what classification it was as far as if it was a  
18 1 -- if it was 2-30 or ~~2-18~~ <sup>2-180</sup> or anything like that. That's where  
19 we were, when I got the plan from Juan Gomez -- J-U-A-N, G-O-M-E-  
20 Z -- we needed to begin our work there with that second crew that  
21 we had coming.

22 MR. EVANS: Okay. For the record, I was just handed a  
23 document. It's a leak report for the address of 3531 Durango  
24 Drive. And the date of this is 2/22/2018, and it says that it's a  
25 grade 2 leak.

1 BY MR. EVANS:

2 Q. So concerning these three, were there any evacuation notices  
3 given for any of the -- at this point on the 22nd, had any  
4 evacuations been ordered and had you talked to residents?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay. So let's go down the calendar, time and all this.  
7 What was the next thing?

8 A. The next thing was we were working. We started digging up at  
9 3531. And I was kind of going back and forth between 3531, and we  
10 had a crew also at 3583 who were actually doing dig-ups there.

11 Q. 3583?

12 A. Or -- I'm sorry -- 9583 Larga.

13 Q. 9583 Larga. L-A-R-G-A, correct?

14 A. Right. So we currently had a crew there and at 3531 Durango.

15 Q. And the class of leak for the 9583 Larga?

16 A. That was a grade 1.

17 Q. Okay. So at -- in the wee hours of the evening -- was it  
18 raining that night?

19 A. It rained the whole entire time I was there.

20 Q. It was raining the entire time. Okay. So you had these four  
21 addresses. Were these -- none of these were odor complaints? Or  
22 these were just the results of surveys?

23 A. I'm not sure about that. I came in after these were  
24 already --

25 Q. Okay. So we understand that -- which Larga was the

1 complaint? Which address, if you have that?

2 MR. TOBIN: Yeah.

3 MR. McDILL: I believe it was 9583. This is John McDill.

4 MR. EVANS: Okay.

5 MR. TOBIN: But it wasn't an odor. It was a bubble-up in the  
6 street. The customer call.

7 MR. EVANS: And that was Tom Tobin speaking.

8 MR. TOBIN: Sorry.

9 BY MR. EVANS:

10 Q. So at the 9583 Larga Drive, it was a grade 1, and this was a  
11 complaint from a resident that talked about bubbling up in the  
12 soil, and that's the reason they made the complaint, the call.  
13 And the motivation to send people out to this neighborhood period,  
14 what was the single -- what was the address that started this  
15 entire process?

16 A. I'm not, I'm not certain. I'm not certain. I know we had --  
17 I kind of came in after the fact once these were already being --

18 Q. And the person that you relieved, if we wanted to talk to  
19 him, who would that be?

20 A. Juan Gomez.

21 MR. EVANS: Okay. Is he on our list?

22 DR. JENNER: We've talked to him.

23 MR. EVANS: Okay, okay. Juan Gomez. Okay, great.

24 BY MR. EVANS:

25 Q. Okay. So as you went through the night and you addressed

1 these, can you describe what kind of work you did with these --  
2 1,2,3 -- four addresses that we've -- that we have captured thus  
3 far?

4 A. At 9551 Larga, once it was complete, I had a service tech  
5 that was with me over at Durango, parked in front of 3531 Durango.  
6 I told him to go ahead and handle the relight on that, get those  
7 customers back on.

8 We're still working at 9583 Larga, and we're still working at  
9 9531 [sic]. Our shoring equipment had finally showed up to work  
10 at 9583, so we were starting to put our shoring equipment in at  
11 9583 Larga, when it started -- when the rain is just -- we're  
12 getting hammered by the rain. So what we had, I had the service  
13 techs that I had in front with me, we keep monitoring in this  
14 alley back here where -- at 3531. We're monitoring this area  
15 checking sewer cleanouts, and they're kind of reporting to me, you  
16 know, if we find anything. Crew is still digging up at 3531. And  
17 that's pretty much -- we didn't get 3531 complete before the  
18 incident happened. And we were -- we had just retired the service  
19 at 9583.

20 Q. So you were in close proximity to the accident when it  
21 occurred?

22 A. Yes, sir. I was actually parked right out on Durango in  
23 front of 3531.

24 Q. Okay. And on the sewer side of things, at any time during  
25 the evening did you see any detection or gas in any sewer?

1 A. No. No, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Have you heard since that time that -- from anyone  
3 else that -- if there was any sewer that had gas in it with -- you  
4 know, from the detection?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay. So one of the areas I would like to kind of go around  
7 -- go down is, with regard to the -- a night like this and it's  
8 raining and all that good stuff. But here you have a rather --  
9 it's a post-World War II neighborhood. I know that; I looked up  
10 the records. 1947. Did you find it unusual that you would just  
11 be hopping from location to location finding -- have you had this  
12 problem before in your career, where you would actually be  
13 challenged by multiple locations in the same evening and you go  
14 from lot to lot to lot to lot?

15 A. No, sir. We've had this before.

16 Q. You have had it?

17 A. We've had cases like this before where we've had -- where  
18 we've found multiple leaks in areas, and we survey and bar, and we  
19 send crews and techs as needed. Anything that's deemed to be an  
20 emergency grade 1, we send a crew right away.

21 Q. Right. What was your corrective action when you said, well,  
22 we're going to go ahead and get this taken care of, and once we  
23 had that taken care of, we were going to go to the next site? But  
24 like on the one site -- I'm not sure what the address was; I don't  
25 recall what you -- which one you were talking about. You just

1 made the statement that, we had taken care of this and then we  
2 went to the next. When you say "taken care," describe what that  
3 taking care -- what you actually did to take care of that  
4 situation.

5 A. Well, we fixed the leak here, replaced the service at 9551  
6 Larga. So we were to get those customers back on as far as relit  
7 and relight all their appliances and everything. And then after  
8 that, we would have that crew work the next leaks of importance.  
9 So they would begin, start working grade 2's like the -- this  
10 other crew we had at 3531 Durango.

11 Q. So when you say though that you fixed the leak, excavated and  
12 put a coupling on it or a -- well, describe what you did when you  
13 fixed the leak.

14 A. Well, we replaced the service. So we retired the old service  
15 line. We had a welder weld on a new tap and run new poly service  
16 line, a new piping system.

17 Q. And the old service line was of what material?

18 A. Steel.

19 Q. Steel. Okay. Okay, so your fix for the 9551, to fix that  
20 leak, was replacement of the service line?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And on the other lines that you had -- or the other  
23 properties that you were addressing, did you also do service line  
24 replacements on those as well that night?

25 A. We didn't get them finished.

1 Q. Oh, you didn't get them finished. Okay. Was that what you  
2 suspected was most likely the problem? Had you just -- you know,  
3 just fixed this one at 9551. Were you thinking more than likely  
4 this is a service line thing and --

5 A. We had to bar and monitor and make sure it's not anything on  
6 the main service. Could be a fitting on the main. We have to bar  
7 and make sure we know what is actually the cause of the leak.

8 Q. Okay. So once the accident occurred, you then went into, I  
9 guess, emergency response mode with your guys and --

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And that's the interview that we did previously and you --  
12 that's all been captured.

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. The people that you had in your crews that night, can  
15 you give us the -- go down the line of the, you know, the names of  
16 the employees that you had with you and their job titles?

17 A. That night I had Roderick Lewis, Zach Halluin --

18 Q. Okay, and --

19 A. And -- I'm sorry -- Roderick Lewis is the crew lead.

20 Q. Spell it.

21 A. R-O-D-E-R-I-C-K.

22 Q. Roderick. Yes.

23 A. Lewis, L-E-W-I-S. And he had John Flores, J-O-H-N, F-L-O-R-  
24 E-S; Zach Halluin, Z-A-C-H, H-A-L-L-I-U-N. And that's the first  
25 crew that was working 9583 Larga.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Now for the second crew we had working 3531 Durango, would  
3 have been Luis Ramos, L-U-I-S, R-A-M-O-S; Jose Cabrera, J-O-S-E,  
4 C-A-B-R-A-R-E [sic] -- I can't spell his name.

5 Q. That's okay. We'll get that. Cabrera, I think that's a  
6 proper name, so --

7 A. Yeah. And then Jesus Enriquez, J-E-S-U-S, E-N-R-I-Q-U-E-Z.

8 Q. Okay. So those are the crews from the 3531, correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. And then there's yourself. Was there anybody else out  
11 there besides these gentlemen?

12 A. Michael Robinson. Keith Patrick.

13 Q. And what were their -- what were they doing?

14 A. They were my service techs for that shift.

15 Q. Michael Harrison and Keith --

16 MR. TOBIN: Michael Robinson.

17 MR. EVANS: Robinson.

18 MR. ROSE: Michael Robinson, Keith Patrick, and Michael  
19 Glasenapp.

20 BY MR. EVANS:

21 Q. And Keith's last name again?

22 A. Patrick.

23 Q. Patrick. Okay. And these are your service techs?

24 A. Um-hum.

25 Q. Let's see -- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 -- 10 people on scene at the



1 time of the explosion, correct?

2 A. Two of the crew members had to leave from Roderick's crew,  
3 and they left just before the incident occurred. So they weren't  
4 on -- they weren't in the area when the incident occurred.

5 Q. So those two gentlemen left.

6 A. We were trying to line up relief for those guys because they  
7 were to be on call the following day so they needed to have rest.

8 Q. Had you been in this neighborhood doing this in the past? Is  
9 this a -- I mean, as soon as you heard this location, had you --  
10 was it right fresh in your mind that, I know where this is and  
11 we've been there before?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Was this kind of new in your -- was there any discussions  
14 from others in your crews that say, hey, I know about that  
15 neighborhood and -- something like that?

16 A. No, sir. I mean, when I called in, I was calling them from  
17 the house to go -- just telling them, giving them addresses that  
18 we needed to meet up and go and work. This is after hours, per  
19 se.

20 Q. Okay. Is this a -- let's say, have you had experiences in  
21 the past where you've had this many people in a neighborhood for,  
22 you know, repairs like this, where you have multiple, or was this  
23 kind of like a one-off kind of unusual set of circumstances?

24 A. Nothing abnormal about it. We've had -- we've encountered  
25 this before.

1 Q. So you've had multiple crews in a neighborhood before when  
2 there was something going on, and you start bar holing and you  
3 find --

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. EVANS: That's all I have for right now.

7 DR. JENNER: This is Steve Jenner with the NTSB. Just a  
8 couple questions.

9 BY DR. JENNER:

10 Q. You mentioned earlier that you had service techs keep on  
11 monitoring.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. When did they begin their shift?

14 A. Same time. It was about 11:45. That was when we were going  
15 to make all of our, kind of like our crew switch. We wanted two  
16 new crews when I came, new supervisor. And then those techs that  
17 were on that shift, they were --

18 (Phone interruption.)

19 MR. EVANS: I apologize for that. It was supposed to have  
20 been turned off. (Indiscernible) turn it off.

21 DR. JENNER: Okay.

22 MR. EVANS: I hope you all have your phones silenced, by the  
23 way.

24 DR. JENNER: Do as I say, not as I do.

25 BY DR. JENNER:

1 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. Service techs arrived 11:45 and you had  
2 them --

3 A. Right.

4 Q. -- and you instructed them to continue to --

5 A. Continue to monitor in that area right there at Durango where  
6 we were working. So we were checking sewer cleanouts and whatnot  
7 right in there.

8 Q. How far did they expand their monitoring geographically?

9 A. I'm not too sure how far. You know, because when we all met  
10 up and I relieved Juan Gomez, from my understanding, we had all  
11 the way down that alley east towards Marsh, I would say, in that  
12 alley, and then we started to zero out I guess a few feet from  
13 this address, from my understanding. And so we were just kind of  
14 checking that area, general area in there.

15 Q. Okay. So all three of the service techs are pretty close  
16 together?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Okay, and --

19 A. Because we had a survey. We had one of our guys surveying  
20 the rest of the area. And so those guys were mainly there with me  
21 just checking sewer cleanouts there, and also having to restore  
22 any of these appliances that we may need, restore on these leaks  
23 we were working.

24 Q. And what you're pointing to, the page, on what street are you  
25 referring to?

1 A. Oh, off Larga.

2 Q. Okay. So they're there as service techs during the  
3 appliance --

4 A. And also checking while we were digging up.

5 Q. Okay. So how do they go about their jobs? How are they  
6 checking? What equipment are they using and --

7 A. CGIs.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MR. TOBIN: Steve, I don't know if you want the bar hole  
10 surveys that show where the checks were done --

11 DR. JENNER: Sure, sure.

12 MR. TOBIN: -- if you're interested.

13 DR. JENNER: Well, during his -- during your shift is --

14 MR. TOBIN: (Indiscernible)?

15 DR. JENNER: Yeah, I'll --

16 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

17 DR. JENNER: Sure, sure. Thank you.

18 MR. TOBIN: They go like this.

19 DR. JENNER: Okay.

20 MR. TOBIN: This map, they're like this. They're running --  
21 but those are the bar hole surveys, and this has all been provided  
22 to you.

23 DR. JENNER: Great.

24 BY DR. JENNER:

25 Q. So what are they finding there during their monitoring?

1 A. Nothing. Glasenapp, you know, he went -- and I don't have  
2 the times exactly, each time he -- you know. But he kept  
3 reporting back, you know, still zero. Same thing with Robinson,  
4 you know, zero. Then, you know, we're checking, you know,  
5 constantly throughout the night.

6 Q. And Keith Patrick --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. -- what was he reporting to you?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Also zero?

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. And how often would you get updates?

13 A. Every 30 minutes.

14 Q. Were there surveyors doing their job in the middle --  
15 throughout the night?

16 A. There was one surveyor that I had who was running the area  
17 from 4, who reported to me. And I don't have that time, but he  
18 gave me a list of leaks that he found during his survey.

19 Q. Okay. Can -- do you remember what -- can you summarize that  
20 list?

21 A. I think there was nine total leaks, and there were -- I want  
22 to say seven of them were grade 2's and two of them were like  
23 grade 3's. And so I started kind of making sure all those were  
24 going to be on our system, so that way whenever these guys  
25 complete, I could kind of route them to the next --

1 Q. So you physically put it in the system?

2 A. No. He draws them up --

3 Q. He did that.

4 A. -- and puts them in the system. Yeah. I just have to make  
5 sure that they are on the system.

6 Q. Okay. Did you go and check out any of these leaks, any of  
7 these nine? Did you yourself?

8 A. No. I just stayed in support of those two crews. I just  
9 kind of was walking back and forth between the crew we had at 9583  
10 Larga and 9530 -- or 3531 Durango.

11 Q. Okay. Do we have those nine -- okay.

12 MR. TOBIN: Do you want them? I have them with me.

13 DR. JENNER: Yeah. That would be --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's all there.

15 DR. JENNER: Please. That's in the pocket -- the packet  
16 you've already given us, I'm sure.

17 MR. TOBIN: Correct. There's all the leak reports that have  
18 been sent. If you give me an address, I'm happy to pull it out  
19 for you.

20 DR. JENNER: Well, I don't know what the address is right  
21 now, so --

22 BY DR. JENNER:

23 Q. So you're learning of nine new leaks during the night that --

24 A. Right.

25 Q. -- detected. What is your thinking in terms of big picture?

1 You're working on some right now, and now you're hearing of some  
2 seven grade 2's. So are you thinking I need more help? Or are  
3 you thinking things can wait and we can address them, you know,  
4 one at a time?

5 A. To me, nothing abnormal. We'll just keep working, you know.  
6 We're going to keep working those leaks as we complete the other  
7 ones.

8 Q. Did your level of -- did you become concerned when you -- was  
9 that a surprise to you, that you found -- that they found nine  
10 additional leaks?

11 A. No, I wasn't surprised. I just knew that it was work that we  
12 needed to make repairs on. So we were just going to be sending  
13 crews to keep working those leaks and making those repairs.

14 Q. Okay. Did you have to report that information to anyone who  
15 wasn't on -- you were the highest ranked person on scene?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. So did you need to report those to anyone back at your  
18 headquarters or any one of your supervisors or managers?

19 A. No. At the time I wouldn't have, you know -- I got those  
20 kind of late at night. They're going to be on the system and then  
21 whenever -- you know, if I was to get relieved, I would make a  
22 notification to that person relieving me: hey, we got these and  
23 our plan is to keep working, you know, these in that order.

24 Q. Right. If you did need to talk to a supervisor or a manager,  
25 who would you have reported to?

1 A. Benny Rosenberg. He's my manager.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know what time you received -- did you get like  
3 one report saying this is what we found in the last few hours  
4 and --

5 A. Yeah. That was one report, and I don't have the time that I  
6 got those given to me.

7 Q. Do you -- okay. Without asking a specific time, was it close  
8 to the third house incident? Or was it close to the start of your  
9 shift or close to the, you know, incident time, third incident?

10 A. Couldn't be sure. Only thing I could tell you is sometime  
11 after 12.

12 Q. Okay. I could have told you that.

13 MR. EVANS: I think I could have told him that.

14 BY DR. JENNER:

15 Q. Okay. Besides weather, challenges working through the night?  
16 Did you -- what challenges did you have?

17 A. Just rain. Just nonstop rain and lightning. And where the  
18 challenges were, you know, especially digging those holes and  
19 trying to get shoring and making everything safe for the guys who  
20 were going to have to get in those holes, and getting water pumps.  
21 And it was -- that's what we were kind of up against.

22 DR. JENNER: Okay. Great. Thank you.

23 MR. JONES: Yes, this is Michael Jones, accident investigator  
24 with PHMSA. I have a couple questions here. Sorry, let me pull  
25 back up --



1 BY MR. JONES:

2 Q. So when you arrived on scene, was that when you were made  
3 aware somehow of the previous two incidents? I'm sorry. I  
4 apologize. The previous two events on the 21st and the 22nd, were  
5 you aware of both of those when you arrived on scene?

6 A. No.

7 Q. No. Were you aware of them at any time during the night?

8 A. Yeah. Just with the service techs there, you know. But they  
9 were just, you know, there's a fire there.

10 Q. Fire there, fire there?

11 A. Yeah. But that was all.

12 Q. So with -- you have, you have two houses along one main. You  
13 know, not saying that there were any indications of unmetered gas  
14 being involved with it. But as just a general safety precaution,  
15 would one of the things that would be a prudent -- a prudent  
16 operator may go forward, going in and looking at at least the  
17 valves associated with that main, just in case maybe you decided  
18 you wanted to shut it in. Is that something that maybe you did,  
19 something that may be in operations?

20 MR. TOBIN: Could we back up and just have one question?

21 MR. JONES: Sure. Yeah. I'm sorry.

22 MR. EVANS: Introduction.

23 MR. TOBIN: I'm Tom Tobin. I'm sorry. I just --

24 MR. JONES: Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.

25 MR. TOBIN: -- didn't know what the question was.

1 MR. JONES: Very longwinded.

2 BY MR. JONES:

3 Q. So what I'm curious is, were you thinking of shutting in the  
4 line at any time --

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. -- that night? Okay. Did it cross your mind that maybe that  
7 would have been something that you would have had to do at some  
8 point that evening?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Yeah, okay. Did you think of -- what I'm trying to get at  
11 here is I know that those valve boxes flooded at some point for  
12 the next day, you know, after all that rain. Did you all have any  
13 vac trucks on-site assisting with any of you all's -- no?

14 A. We didn't have a vac truck on-site.

15 Q. Okay. What I'm trying to get at here is just how to have  
16 precautions moving forward once you have two events on the same  
17 main footprint, if there's any general guidelines upon arriving  
18 on-site, just to ensure that there -- that safety is maintained.  
19 I guess you were just looking for the safety of your crews in  
20 general, not necessarily the entire line, I guess. So yeah -- I'm  
21 sorry.

22 MR. TOBIN: Is that a question?

23 MR. JONES: No.

24 MR. TOBIN: Okay.

25 MR. JONES: It was me thinking out loud here. I'm going to

1 move on. I apologize for that.

2 BY MR. JONES:

3 Q. The remaining questions come from the hazmat tech, and Bobby  
4 Baker wanted me to run some things by you since he's not able to  
5 make it here today. What he's curious about is, if at any time  
6 any of the tech-level employees there on-site, if they felt it  
7 necessary to shut down the line, to turn those valves, is that  
8 something that they could do without running it up to either you  
9 or a manager?

10 A. As a first responder, they have that authority. And they  
11 will call and make sure the supervisor is aware, and the manager.

12 Q. Okay. Got you.

13 A. But they have --

14 Q. So generally they would call first just as a heads-up, or  
15 more to ask permission?

16 A. Just as a heads-up, depending on the, you know, severity of  
17 the -- I mean, the first responder has all that authority to make  
18 that call as they see fit.

19 Q. Sure. And then an additional question from Captain Baker.  
20 From your point of view, was -- is there anything that could have  
21 been done at that point when you arrived that should have alerted  
22 you to contact the hazmat side of the fire department?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Was there any indications that would have led you to believe  
25 that the interior of structures should have been surveyed for gas?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Is there any written procedures that tell you when  
3 that might be necessary, to check the interior --

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. -- of a structure? There is? Do you know what those are?

6 A. As a first responder and you get a call from -- it could be  
7 the customer of -- and they smell an odor. When the service tech  
8 or, you know, the first responder gets there, then they have --  
9 that's when they're -- they make that call.

10 Q. So from a customer standpoint, if they make an odor call,  
11 then that's when you would want to check the inside of the  
12 structure?

13 A. That's when they will.

14 Q. Okay. Is it -- would there be anything else, maybe if --  
15 with the customer not being involved? If the customer or -- may  
16 be oblivious, is asleep in the upstairs and there's a potential  
17 release into the basement?

18 A. Yeah. First responder will always check inside and out on  
19 leak investigations.

20 Q. Okay. And when -- what would lead them to be checking  
21 inside?

22 A. An odor. We do a pressure test on the house line and find  
23 leaks on it, they check that.

24 Q. To your knowledge, were any of the structures along that  
25 alleyway checked on the interior of them for presence of gas?

1 A. I don't have that.

2 Q. Yeah. Okay.

3 MR. JONES: That's all I have for now. Thank you.

4 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Jim Collins, Railroad Commission of  
5 Texas. How are you, Mr. Rose?

6 MR. ROSE: I'm pretty good.

7 MR. COLLINS: I know it's been quite a long interview and a  
8 long week for everybody, so I'll try to keep my questions as short  
9 as possible.

10 BY MR. COLLINS:

11 Q. Reflecting back on your first arrival and your initial  
12 meeting with Juan Gomez, was Salvador Sanchez there as well or had  
13 he already gone home at that time?

14 A. He had already went home.

15 Q. He had already left? Okay. In your conversation with Juan  
16 Gomez, was any notes or anything from the previous surveys or  
17 service techs on the scene passed along to you?

18 A. What he passed to me were just timestamps of when guys were  
19 coming and leaving. And that's -- you know, that was basically  
20 just for me to make sure that we had, you know, the right  
21 personnel there and as far as, you know, maybe getting guys when  
22 they're going to be getting time to be relieved for rest time and  
23 things of that nature.

24 Q. Okay. Kind of leads me to my next question, the timestamps.  
25 Is an Atmos employee only required to work a certain amount of

1 time before their mandatory rest comes into effect? This is the  
2 first we're kind of learning about it a little bit.

3 A. And especially our CDL drivers. You know, for that reason,  
4 they can't work past 16 straight hours. So, you know, we try to  
5 get them, you know, well before then. We want them home by then.

6 Q. Okay. And is that why the two left the crew at 9583?

7 A. Yeah, because they were going to be starting call the next  
8 day --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- so they needed to have enough rest time before they  
11 started their --

12 Q. And they drive the CDL, the bigger vehicles?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. Understood. Thank you for that clarification.

15 Let's see. The survey specialist that you had on scene was  
16 Michael Glasenapp?

17 A. No. He was a service technician.

18 Q. He's a service technician. Okay. Thank you.

19 The survey specialist was --

20 A. Joel Reyes.

21 Q. Joel Reyes. Okay. But he had been there -- from our  
22 previous interview with Joel, he had been on scene since  
23 approximately 4 p.m. that afternoon. Did he pass along  
24 information to you and to Juan Gomez at the same time, or was that  
25 done at -- like he talked to Juan first, and then Juan talked to

1 you when you arrived, and then he reported back to you?

2 A. Yeah, I arrived and he came and gave me his findings.

3 Q. Okay. And that was at -- do you remember where you were in  
4 reference to -- were you at your pickup or were you on Larga  
5 watching the other crew? Do you remember exactly where that was?

6 A. Actually, when he called I was down at 9583 Larga, but I told  
7 him I was going to be walking up to -- I'm parked up on Durango.  
8 I'm going to be walking up to the truck. If you could meet me --  
9 because he was coming up Larga from --

10 Q. Okay. He was headed north on Larga.

11 A. Yeah. Yeah.

12 Q. And you were headed south, so you all were going to meet at  
13 the intersection of Durango --

14 A. We were going to meet at that intersection. And he -- that's  
15 where he gave me --

16 Q. Okay. Did anything that he gave -- because he gave you a  
17 list of the nine leaks. And according to the timeline here, three  
18 of those leaks were grade 1's and two were grade 2's, is from what  
19 I understand. And that's -- no, that's Kyle.

20 So I was trying to match up the people involved, and I don't  
21 know if you've looked at this or not, to compare -- to fill in the  
22 details. And so if I get to the page with -- where is Joel Reyes?  
23 Right here. So these are the leaks. So the two grade 3's, and  
24 then all of these were grade 2's, if I'm correct, and I'd have to  
25 verify that. But --

1 MR. TOBIN: Jim, just -- this witness has never seen that  
2 document.

3 MR. COLLINS: Okay. I'm sorry. How do I ask this then?

4 MR. TOBIN: You could show it to him. He's just never seen  
5 it.

6 MR. COLLINS: So in this block right here. Do you perhaps  
7 remember -- I know you didn't write them down. Let's see --

8 MR. EVANS: Excuse me. This is Roger Evans. The witness has  
9 just been shown for the first time a document that's marked  
10 confidential. It's a timeline of the event.

11 MR. COLLINS: Correct. Thank you for that. Sorry.

12 BY MR. COLLINS:

13 Q. According to this document, this is the events as Atmos  
14 understands them, and its official timeline of the events. And so  
15 I'm trying to kind of fill in some of the gaps that I'm noticing a  
16 little bit in -- or understand the flow a little bit better. And  
17 so anything that you can help, you know, fill in anything in  
18 there, that would be beneficial.

19 But when you said -- I know it was a long day and an early  
20 morning for you. Is that your normal -- had you worked the day  
21 before, the Thursday morning? Because I know ops supervisors  
22 usually have a Monday through Friday, 7 to 4 work schedule. Had  
23 you worked Thursday morning till 4 and then came back on at  
24 midnight -- or 11:45 that night?

25 A. Right.



1 Q. Okay. So you had gone home and hopefully got some rest and  
2 then got called back out?

3 A. Um-hum.

4 Q. Okay. That's a long day. Let's see. You said you checked  
5 to verify that these leaks were in the system. So you have a  
6 computer in your truck to verify that the list that he hands you  
7 is in here?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. Did they hand you any other notes that said, you know,  
10 we found indications other where else that we need to investigate  
11 but haven't had time, or it was right at shift change or anything  
12 like that?

13 A. No, sir.

14 MR. COLLINS: Okay. That is all the questions that I have.  
15 Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

16 MR. McDILL: John McDill. Atmos Energy. Mike, I have just a  
17 few follow-up questions.

18 BY MR. McDILL:

19 Q. So the leaks that you may know about that were provided to  
20 you from Joel as he -- you have a map in front of you. Does that  
21 -- to your knowledge, does that kind of reflect the broader area  
22 he was surveying, where he may have found those leak indications  
23 to provide to you? It was -- that is a broader area than just  
24 where the three events occurred. So is that your understanding of  
25 where -- the geographic area of where he may have surveyed and

1 found results of those leaks?

2 A. It's just further south where we were.

3 Q. South of -- you were pointing to -- south of what?

4 A. Where I was. So if I'm here on Durango, I think he was  
5 picking up, you know, some gas in this area. One here.

6 Q. That's south of which street on the map that you're pointing  
7 to?

8 A. Of Durango. Or on Cortez, and then that south -- on that  
9 south alley. I don't know what the name of the street is here,  
10 but -- maybe some indications here and here.

11 Q. That's helpful that you're -- it's to an area that's a few  
12 blocks south --

13 A. South.

14 Q. -- of where the fires were. Okay.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. And you had mentioned a lot of your background of  
17 construction, and the crews that were on the scene -- and you may  
18 have described this earlier, but do construction crew leaders and  
19 other construction members, do they also receive training for leak  
20 investigation?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And they're qualified in leak investigation?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. You mentioned also the three service technicians who  
25 were out there assisting that evening in the alley between Durango

1 and Espanola.

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. They were -- were they bar hole testing as well in that  
4 alley, or were they --

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. Bar hole testing?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Monitoring the sewers?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Were they monitoring the sewers in the alley or at the  
11 structure, or do you know? Or both?

12 A. I know right where we were digging at 3531, kind of those --  
13 right in there in that general area, sewer cleanouts. And we had  
14 started -- we had barred, were barring in that area, you know,  
15 what we could. You know, we was getting a lot of water, but we  
16 were just making more holes, barring and checking, and they kept  
17 constantly kind of surveying the area there.

18 Q. Okay. Do you know -- and it might have been mentioned  
19 earlier and I just didn't -- but do you know how far back towards  
20 the east or El Centro they may have continued that monitoring? We  
21 had a bar hole test map. I don't know if that would be helpful,  
22 if that -- starting at Larga. So that's here. So it goes --

23 A. See, we were here at 3531, where I said we picked up the 2  
24 percent. We were digging here. And they went 50 feet the other  
25 direction and I want to say maybe two houses down.

1 MR. EVANS: This is Roger Evans. I would like to just  
2 mention that the witness is looking at a bar hole test layout of  
3 the neighborhood, of the bar hole testing that went on that night.

4 And this was provided by Atmos, correct?

5 MR. TOBIN: Correct. And this is Tom Tobin, and it's Atmos  
6 Bates numbers 279 and 278.

7 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. McDILL: Okay. John McDill again.

9 BY MR. McDILL:

10 Q. Mike, if you wouldn't mind just continuing. You said that  
11 you continued a couple of houses east of that?

12 A. East of that. Yes, sir. And we kept getting zero. Were  
13 checking sewer cleanouts here as well and, you know, we just kept  
14 getting zero. And they were letting me know each time they were  
15 checking. And, you know, and I was back in the back with the crew  
16 working on that for a while. And then I got -- when I got with  
17 Joel is when I went to my truck to start making sure that we were  
18 -- and then the crew was still back there working.

19 MR. McDILL: Okay. Okay. Thank you for the clarification.  
20 I have no other questions.

21 MR. EVANS: Okay. Excuse me. I trust that -- this is Roger  
22 Evans.

23 BY MR. EVANS:

24 Q. I trust during that night -- I think I -- you may have  
25 mentioned it earlier. Had you smelled odor in the neighborhood at

1 all?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Had anyone that you talked to, had they said, hey,  
4 we've got -- it's pretty strong over here, the odor?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the odorization process of  
7 natural gas? Is that part of your training?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And do you know what mercaptan is?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Are you told of the methods in which mercaptan can  
12 degrade on odors? The mercaptan odor can degrade in natural gas  
13 and the odor -- you can't smell natural gas anymore? Is that part  
14 of your training?

15 A. Mercaptan is in the gas --

16 Q. Right.

17 A. -- to help -- so we can kind of smell the gas.

18 Q. Correct. But are you aware of the fact that you can have  
19 mercaptan in gas that degrades such that the mercaptan odor is no  
20 longer visible in natural gas? Is that part of your training?

21 A. I don't (indiscernible) that.

22 Q. Can you repeat that, please? I'm sorry.

23 A. I haven't been told that.

24 Q. Okay. Are there occasions when you have a neighborhood where  
25 there are -- where you know there has been leaks, that you would

1 go in the home with a meter and get the percent LEL and that's  
2 part of your -- but the motivation to do that is what? That you  
3 would go in a home and check LEL?

4 A. Maybe some sickness. Maybe somebody got sick or they feel --  
5 or they've been feeling dizzy or lightheaded or something, will  
6 have us check inside that home.

7 Q. Okay. So by the way, just for clarification, we mentioned  
8 this name Joel early in my notes. What's Joel's -- the spelling  
9 of his name and what his job title is?

10 A. It's Joel, J-O-E-L, Reyes, R-E-Y-E-S. And he is a survey  
11 technician.

12 Q. Okay. And he was the person doing the surveys prior to your  
13 arrival on scene?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. I just want to clarify that and make sure I have that.  
16 So what I'd like you to do next -- I actually found a  
17 highlighter. I'm surprised that I found that. But anyway, I  
18 found a highlighter. I'd like you to mark -- I can't -- my eyes  
19 aren't (indiscernible) is I would like to have the properties that  
20 we've talked about -- 9553, 9551, 9531 [sic], 9583 -- can you mark  
21 those on this plot for me?

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Just highlight them. Just color in the whole box, if you  
24 could. That would be great.

25 MR. EVANS: Okay. The witness is highlighting the map that

1 we have to show the properties that we've identified where leaks  
2 occurred.

3 MR. TOBIN: The numbers are very hard to read.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 BY MR. EVANS:

6 Q. We should have four marked, correct? You've mentioned 9553,  
7 51, 9531, 9583; is that correct? Do I have the numbers right?

8 A. 83 -- 9583 Larga, 9551 Larga and 3531.

9 Q. So there's only three homes, not -- I must have taken bad  
10 notes. Anyway, so then can you go ahead and then take my -- take  
11 this red pen here and put an X through the accident home for us?  
12 The ~~3541~~<sup>3534</sup>, I guess it is. The home that blew up, where the  
13 fatality occurred.

14 MR. TOBIN: We can count how many properties down.

15 MR. EVANS: Okay. And the other two that have the events,  
16 the other two that had the events? The fires?

17 (Whispered conversation.)

18 MR. EVANS: Oh, that doesn't look correct to me.

19 MR. ROSE: Right there, (indiscernible) --

20 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay. Okay. Okay, so -- and put a circle  
21 around the home that exploded with the X in there, so I -- just so  
22 I know it. Yeah.

23 MR. ROSE: With the red?

24 MR. EVANS: Yeah, with the red; that's fine. Just put a  
25 circle around that X. Okay, perfect. Okay. If I could have that

1 back.

2 Does everybody in the room looking at this agree that this is  
3 correct? I want to make sure that we have agreement with that.  
4 This document's going to be used a lot in the next 6 months.

5 MR. TOBIN: Roger, can I have a copy of this?

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. TOBIN: Okay.

8 MR. EVANS: So, just to recap, that we had -- 1,2,3,4,5 --  
9 six properties in total where -- of the evening, six properties in  
10 total for the, for -- within those days where they were doing work  
11 on.

12 MR. TOBIN: No, that's not correct.

13 MR. EVANS: 1,2,3,4,5,6.

14 MR. TOBIN: Could we go off the record?

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah, off the record.

16 (Off the record.)

17 (On the record.)

18 MR. EVANS: Back on the record with Mike Rose. Just for a  
19 correction, the document that I have with highlighted in red marks  
20 represents those lots that are recognized by this witness, not the  
21 totality of all lots that were addressed during this period of the  
22 event. Okay.

23 Now just a couple more questions, Mike, and then we'll be  
24 done.

25 BY MR. EVANS:



1 Q. Have you in your career, when you've had multiple leaks like  
2 this and this, have you ever evacuated a neighborhood? Or have  
3 you evacuated individual homes when you had something like this  
4 occur in the past?

5 A. Yes, we've -- well, I have evacuated individual homes.

6 Q. But from -- were they from a gas odor where the person was  
7 inside and you went in with the meter and you said, it's too high;  
8 we got to get you out of here; was it that type? Or was it with  
9 this situation, where you're making a lot of repairs in the  
10 neighborhood and you felt that there may be problems and it's  
11 necessary to evacuate?

12 A. Just normal emergency leak and we're picking up a lot of gas,  
13 maybe a little bit of gas by the foundation or something, and I  
14 felt the need to make sure that we got those customers out of the  
15 home.

16 Q. But based on your time on the scene, you never felt that  
17 there was an urgency at all for any of the homes to even think  
18 about evacuating? I know it's late at night. You'd probably  
19 irritate somebody if you -- in the rain, and you evacuate somebody  
20 in the middle of the night. So in this case, there were no -- you  
21 had no personal feelings about, hey, I think I should evacuate  
22 people?

23 A. No, sir. I know we had somebody surveying. And had we got  
24 grade 1's, emergency leaks, we would have dispatched more crews  
25 out.

1 MR. EVANS: Okay. Okay. That's all I have.

2 DR. JENNER: No questions.

3 MR. COLLINS: One quick follow-up for you, Mr. Rose.

4 BY MR. COLLINS:

5 Q. Do you recall who was in the alley bar holing or checking the  
6 sewer cleanouts in the alley behind 3531 Durango? I believe you  
7 said you had Michael Robinson and Keith Patrick on scene. Do you  
8 remember which two -- which individual was in which location?

9 A. It was actually both of the -- both of those. You know, once  
10 I got there and before Juan Gomez left, we were barring that,  
11 that --

12 Q. Okay. And so both Michael and Keith were behind 3531 bar  
13 holing the alley and checking sewers. Okay.

14 MR. COLLINS: Thank you very much. That's all the questions  
15 I had.

16 MR. McDILL: No further questions.

17 MR. EVANS: If there are no other questions, then thank you  
18 very much for the time and your candidness and all that.  
19 Appreciate you coming today.

20 MR. ROSE: Yes, sir.

21 MR. EVANS: Off the record with Mike Rose.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF:           NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION OF  
RESIDENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS  
FEBRUARY 23, 2018  
Interview of Michael Rose

ACCIDENT NO.:               PLD18FR002

PLACE:                       Dallas, Texas

DATE:                        March 8, 2018

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.

  
Eileen Gonzalez  
Transcriber