

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SAN FRANCISCO GAS RELEASE AND FIRE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2019

\* Accident No.: PLD19MR001  
\*  
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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: COLIN CODD

San Francisco Police Department  
San Francisco, California

Tuesday,  
February 12, 2019

## APPEARANCES:

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National Transportation Safety Board

BENJAMIN ALLEN, Assistant General Counsel  
National Transportation Safety Board

SUNIL SHORI, Utilities Engineer  
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(On behalf of Mr. Codd)

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. EVANS: We're on the record with Colin Codd, C-o-d-d.  
3 Good morning. Today is February 12th, 2019. My name is Roger  
4 Evans. I'm an investigator with the National Transportation  
5 Safety Board out of Washington, D.C.

6 We're at the San Francisco Police Department in San  
7 Francisco, California. This interview is being conducted as part  
8 of the investigation into the PG&E gas release and subsequent fire  
9 that occurred in San Francisco on Wednesday, February 6th. The  
10 accident is NTSB Case No. PLD19M -- as in Mike -- R001.

11 The purpose of this investigation is to increase safety, not  
12 to assign fault, blame, or liability. NTSB cannot offer any  
13 guarantee of confidentiality or immunity from legal or certificate  
14 actions. This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed  
15 at a later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to the  
16 interviewee for review prior to being entered into the public  
17 docket.

18 Colin Codd, you are permitted to have one other person  
19 present during the interview. This is a person of your choice --  
20 supervisor, friend, family member -- or nobody at all. Please  
21 state for the record who you have selected.

22 MR. CODD: My attorney, Stephanie.

23 MR. EVANS: And, Stephanie, can you please introduce yourself  
24 and give us the spelling of your name and your association and  
25 your firm?

1 MS. KRMPOTIC: Yes, Stephanie Krmpotic, initial J, Stephanie  
2 Krmpotic, S-t-e-p-h-a-n-i-e, K-r-m-p-o-t-i-c. And I'm with Low,  
3 Ball, and Lynch. Address is 505 Montgomery Street, Seventh Floor,  
4 San Francisco. And I'm requesting that communication also come to  
5 me if a communication is -- if you want to communicate with Colin.

6 MR. EVANS: And can you spell the name, please, of your  
7 practice?

8 MS. KRMPOTIC: Sure. L-o-w, B-a-l-l and Lynch, L-y-n-c-h.

9 MR. EVANS: Okay, thank you.

10 Now, I'd like to go around the room and have each person give  
11 us the spelling of their name, the title and the agency or  
12 organization you represent. We'll start to my left and go around.

13 MR. KLEMM: Jason Klemm, that's J-a-s-o-n, Klemm, K-l-e-m-m,  
14 with PG&E.

15 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori, that's S-u-n-i-l, S-h-o-r-i, with  
16 California Public Utilities Commission.

17 MR. LANG: My name is Mike Lang, with PG&E. (Indiscernible).  
18 M-i-k-e, L-a-n-g.

19 MR. MULLIGAN: David Mulligan, D-a-v-i-d, M-u-l-l-i-g-a-n,  
20 and I'm with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
21 Administration.

22 MR. GIL-BLANCO: Jorge Gil-Blanco, J-o-r-g-e, G-i-l hyphen  
23 B-l-a-n-c-o. And I'm with PG&E.

24 MR. EVANS: And we also have in the room?

25 MR. ALLEN: Benjamin Allen with NTSB.

1 MR. EVANS: Okay, thank you.

2 Well, thank you, Colin. Thanks for agreeing to talk with us  
3 today.

4 INTERVIEW OF COLIN CODD

5 BY MR. EVANS:

6 Q. Before we begin asking questions about the events of that  
7 day, we'd like to know a little bit about your background, you  
8 know, what type of training you have, that type of thing.

9 A. Yeah. I've worked with other pipeline crews for, like the  
10 last 14-15 years, ever since I've been here in USA. So, it's been  
11 like training from day one, so it's like 15 years from the ground  
12 all the way up to operating.

13 Q. Did you serve an apprenticeship, either --

14 A. I did not serve an apprenticeship. First, I was in the  
15 laborers' union and then I was in the operators' union. But  
16 that's --

17 Q. And when you say you did pipeline work, did you do  
18 conventional transmission and distribution, cross-country kind of  
19 pipeline or city pipeline?

20 A. All city work, everywhere the city, like cities around the  
21 Bay Area. It was never really outside the Bay Area. It was  
22 always in the Bay Area.

23 Q. And has all your work been focused to gas, water?

24 A. Gas, water, electric, you know, sewer, every type of pipe,  
25 like every type of utility for a household, basically.

1 Q. Okay. So, household piping.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And I guess, commercial pipe?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And right now, the company you work for, can you tell us a  
6 little bit about your company?

7 A. Me -- myself and William started it like 4 months ago.

8 Q. Excuse me. Anytime you use an acronym or a name, can you  
9 please spell it, the full name?

10 A. Of the company?

11 Q. Of your colleagues you work with.

12 MS. KRMPOTIC: Whenever you state a name, he wants you to  
13 spell it.

14 MR. CODD: Okay, sorry.

15 So, William, W-i-l-l-a-m (sic). He's my partner. So, me and  
16 William started Kilford, like 4 months ago, maybe a little more, 4  
17 or 5.

18 BY MR. EVANS:

19 Q. Okay. And how many people are in the firm?

20 A. It was, like from myself and William and Freddy. F-r-e -- I  
21 don't know how to spell his name for sure. F-r-e-d-d-y. And  
22 we're mainly the two in the firm for a good few months, and then  
23 it was, like we start adding people, you know, to our firm.

24 Q. And do you have -- to you own your own equipment, like  
25 mechanized digging and all that type of thing? Are those rentals

1 or --

2 A. We purchased them, which we haven't paid for them, as in we  
3 have purchased, but on loan basis.

4 Q. Okay, yeah. But you do have your own construction equipment  
5 in the company.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And what types of work scopes do you perform besides  
8 what -- I know you're excavating lines like that, but what other  
9 types of work scopes did you perform since you've been in  
10 business?

11 A. Other types just since we've been in business?

12 Q. Yeah, since you've been in the business, yeah. Just in the  
13 last 4 months, what other types of work scopes have you done?

14 A. We've done, like the same type of work installing the fiber  
15 lines downtown Mission Street, downtown Hawthorne Street, downtown  
16 14th - Harrison, a lot of utilities even for other. Alameda, we  
17 did work in Alameda. We did loads of different locations since we  
18 started.

19 Q. Okay. And do you have horizontal drilling experience as  
20 well? Do you do that?

21 A. No. No horizontal drilling.

22 Q. I know this might be an odd question, but I do need to ask  
23 it. In the 4 months you've been in business, have you had any  
24 other lost-time accidents?

25 A. We actually do on Hawthorne Street, yes, one.



1 Q. And what was the nature of that accident?

2 A. It was a water line.

3 Q. Can you describe what happened?

4 A. It was imbedded in the bricks and concrete and it was very  
5 shallow, and got struck, like when we were trying to get through  
6 the bricks and concrete. It got struck when we tried to get  
7 through that top layer.

8 Q. All right. Did you have like hospital visit type of --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- injury, nothing like that?

11 A. No, no injuries, no, nothing. Just an accident, like we  
12 ruptured water --

13 Q. Oh, ruptured, okay.

14 A. -- trying to get through the concrete.

15 Q. Okay, so the mishap that you had was a ruptured --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that's the only thing you've had besides this other one.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And was that a -- I have to ask it, was it newsworthy  
20 type of --

21 A. No. It was --

22 Q. -- just a local small, type thing, shut the water off?

23 MS. KRMPOTIC: Slow down a little bit.

24 MR. CODD: Sorry.

25 No, it was nothing --

1 BY MR. EVANS:

2 Q. Okay. So let's talk about how you secured your contract to  
3 do the work on the day of the accident. First off, let's talk  
4 about how that contractually happened that you end up getting this  
5 scope of work and you go through who you -- who were your contacts  
6 for that and who you talked to, that type of thing.

7 A. Yeah. So we got our contract off of Advanced Fiber and  
8 Andrew, I'm not sure of the second name. So any time any scope  
9 of work would be, you know, put out to us, I'd go to Andrew. He'd  
10 tell us and we'd go do it.

11 Q. I see. So, as far as the work that you were doing that day,  
12 was that competitively bid or is this just a, you know, fixed-  
13 price kind of job?

14 A. It's a fixed-price.

15 Q. Fixed-price, okay. So you weren't bidding against other  
16 people.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. And how do you know Andrew?

19 A. I don't really know him. It's my partner William that deals  
20 with him more so. I'm more the field guy than the office guy. I  
21 don't be dealing with him -- I would be dealing with him on a  
22 regular basis, but not as much as William.

23 Q. And the work that you've done for Advanced Fiber, have you  
24 done -- in the last 4 months, have you done quite a bit of work  
25 with them?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Like every week?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Like maybe not the full 4, maybe, like 2½.

6 Q. Okay. Has that been your sole client thus far?

7 A. Yes. Like, yes and no. We have other clients.

8 Q. Are they the largest client you have?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Could you describe some of the other clients that you have?

11 A. Small business owners, I have two small business owners. One  
12 called -- it's not even a business owner, just homeowner.

13 Q. Oh, okay. And these scopes of work you've done over the last  
14 2 months, have they all involved mechanized equipment?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So when they -- when Advanced Fiber gave you this contract,  
17 did they give you a work package?

18 A. They gave a set of plans, is that what you mean?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And the plans, were those -- from other work, since you've  
22 been in this industry for a long time, were those plans consistent  
23 with what you had expected the plans to look like?

24 A. Yes, like depth-wise and --

25 Q. And all the information --

1 A. Yes, everything was -- the pipe was a little more larger in  
2 this situation, because there was more conduits going in.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So they're all basically the same, but --

5 Q. So did you get any sort of safety briefing? Did you get any  
6 sort of packet that says these are our rules of the road, and did  
7 you get anything like that from Advanced Fiber?

8 A. Not off Advanced Fiber that I can recall. I don't -- maybe  
9 William did.

10 Q. How about a confirmation that you had a dig ticket?

11 A. William took care of all the digs.

12 Q. He took care of all that stuff.

13 A. Was William that did all the paperwork for digging.

14 Q. Now, on the day of that accident, did you see Andrew? Did  
15 you talk to Andrew that day?

16 A. No. The previous day.

17 Q. Okay. And did he brief you on the job on the previous day or  
18 is that would be -- is it W-i-l-l-a-m, Willam?

19 A. William, yeah.

20 Q. William?

21 A. Yes. William briefed us on the job, briefed me on the job.  
22 We did a walk-through, like the week before.

23 Q. Okay. And at that time, did you have the 811 tickets in your  
24 hand?

25 A. No. I believe that they were called in when -- they could

1 have been -- (indiscernible) no, they were, yes.

2 Q. They were.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So we'd require them.

5 A. I'm very sure they were, yes.

6 Q. Okay. We'll research that out. Okay. So who else was --  
7 you know, during that time when you started this work, you know,  
8 the walk-through work, was anybody else there besides Andrew?

9 A. No. Just me and William at the walk-through.

10 Q. So there was nobody there from Verizon. There was nobody  
11 there from MasTec. There was nobody there from --

12 A. No, when we started the work, then there would have been.  
13 When we start saw cutting --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- there would have been people there from MasTec.

16 Q. So we'll get to that in a minute here. But generally, the  
17 briefing you had was just with Advanced Fiber, not anyone else  
18 like PG&E or MasTec or anyone.

19 A. We obviously had meetings with utility guys for -- to get  
20 marked. But for job briefing, you always have to have -- like  
21 William would have dealt with all that, and then me and William  
22 did a walk-through. And then, I did a walk-through with all my  
23 employees before we did the job.

24 Q. So let's talk about the Kilford people that you have in your  
25 organization, the names of those people that were there on the day

1 of the dig.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you give us that?

4 A. Kevin Browne, K-e-v-i-n, B-r-o-w-n-e; there was an Emmett, I  
5 don't know, Emmett Blee, E-m-m-e-t-t, B-l-e-e, he only started  
6 with us; there was Mark White, M-a-r-k, W-h-i-t-e; and Federico  
7 was the last. I don't know how to spell Federico's name, sorry.  
8 I don't know how to spell it.

9 Q. And these are all your employees?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And all four of these people had a role in that day?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. With the shoveling or what have you?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. So what would Kevin Browne's duties have been that  
16 day? Shoveler, handler maybe --

17 A. He was hand digging, and then once we got far enough past all  
18 the utilities that had to be exposed, he was back putting in pipe,  
19 putting the pipe in for the --

20 Q. He was installing the pipe?

21 A. Yeah, he was installing the pipe.

22 Q. And how about the next person, Emmett?

23 A. Emmett, same thing. He was helping us out, even he was up  
24 helping us out in the morning with the job briefing and he was  
25 helping us out with safety stuff and just, you know, we're getting

1 them clued in on everything like that, because it was his first  
2 day.

3 Q. Was he -- did he end up being one of the guys with the hard  
4 hat and gloves and out using a shovel?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay, I just wanted to make sure. And then, Mark White, what  
7 was his role?

8 A. Again, it was Mark's first week as well, so he was one of the  
9 guys on the shovel, too.

10 Q. Okay, and Federico?

11 A. Federico has been with me since the start. Freddy has been  
12 there since day one we started. Freddy's job is to find the pipes  
13 and stay with me with the excavator as we go along.

14 Q. He's kind of like your spotter?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So you're in the excavator and he's -- do you use hand  
17 signals or just --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Oh, you do use hand signals? Do you use word of mouth as  
20 well?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. On that day, were you using both?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Word of mouth and hand signals?

25 A. Yes. I'd be up and down out of the machine and I'd be

1 talking to him and -- we have a very good working relationship, so  
2 yeah.

3 Q. Okay. So you have identified the people who were there, who  
4 gave you the contract. Now, let's go ahead and start the cutting  
5 of the concrete. Tell us about that. Who did that, the jig  
6 subcontract on it?

7 A. Yes, we have a Joe Sullivan's his name, Sullivan Saw Cutting.

8 Q. And was that just one person showed up with a --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- power saw and --

11 A. Yeah. We helped clean up, so we would have been there  
12 helping with the cleanup.

13 Q. So when the sawing was done, did you have these -- pretty  
14 much all these guys there that day?

15 A. No, only Federico.

16 Q. Okay. So one guy from this Sullivan Saw, and then plus  
17 Federico.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And how long did all that take? When was that done?

20 A. Monday and Tuesday.

21 Q. Okay, so the saw's cut. Now you have to break up the  
22 concrete and get it put into a truck. And where does that happen?  
23 Who do you have for that?

24 A. I was the one up -- I just want to do more excavating.

25 Q. Okay. Jackhammer?



1 A. The hammer on the machine.

2 Q. Oh, on the hammer on the machine, okay. So that was on  
3 Tuesday as well?

4 A. That was Wednesday.

5 Q. Wednesday, okay. Just need all these little details, sorry.

6 A. No, that's fine.

7 Q. Okay, so once the concrete has been removed and now we're at  
8 the soil, you start -- you must have -- this would be early on  
9 Wednesday or afternoon on Wednesday? Or in the morning?

10 A. Early in the morning, once we start breaking and removing the  
11 concrete, straightaway, the lads have to dig for all the pipes.  
12 And that's marked.

13 Q. Okay. So the accident happened at 1-something in the  
14 afternoon on Wednesday, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So what time did you get to the scene on Wednesday morning?  
17 What time did you get there?

18 A. We were there at, like 7:30.

19 Q. Do you recall if you had a safety briefing with your own  
20 people that day?

21 A. We did, yeah. We did, 7:30 to 8:30, 9:00, was the safety  
22 briefing. We couldn't start until 9:00. So the traffic was ready  
23 to go at, like 8:30. We started at 9:00 on the morning.

24 Q. Can you describe to us what types of topics you discuss in  
25 your safety meeting?

1 A. About finding utilities, about PPE, about damage to more  
2 tools, about -- you know, general safety meeting, you know, it's  
3 about going over everything that'll happen on a day-to-day basis.

4 Q. Do they sign a piece of paper? Do you -- is this all --

5 A. Yes, we sign a piece of paper, yes.

6 Q. Does Andrew get a copy of that paper?

7 A. Yes, but --

8 Q. Was it destroyed in the fire?

9 A. No. We have it.

10 Q. Oh, it wasn't? Okay.

11 MR. EVANS: We'd like to get that as a document we'd like to  
12 get.

13 MS. KRMPOTIC: Okay, I'll make a notation and then --

14 MR. EVANS: And this is who speaking?

15 MS. KRMPOTIC: I'm sorry. Stephanie Krmpotic speaking. I  
16 will make notations as we go along.

17 MR. EVANS: Okay. So we're going to officially ask for the  
18 sign-off sheet for the safety meeting, (indiscernible).

19 BY MR. EVANS:

20 Q. So from 7:30 to 9:00, you start work at 9:00 -- now, you had  
21 -- there must have been -- I know Geary Street. I used to live  
22 here myself. Geary's pretty busy, so you must have had traffic  
23 control.

24 A. Yes, they were there at 8:30.

25 Q. 8:30, okay.

1 A. They were there 8:30 to set up and then it was just a matter  
2 of them moving cones out so we could start at 9:00.

3 Q. So who did you see from traffic control and what was the  
4 entity that that person represented? Who was it?

5 A. City -- I'm not sure, City West or City -- I'm not sure.

6 Q. Okay. Do you --

7 A. City-something. I know --

8 Q. Okay, City-something, but do you know --

9 A. They were employed by MasTec.

10 Q. Okay. A company named City-something, employed by MasTec.  
11 Do you know how many people were representing them?

12 A. There was two there.

13 Q. And do you know those people, by chance?

14 A. No.

15 Q. No names of recognition? Okay. I think the company's City  
16 Rise.

17 A. City Rise, yeah.

18 Q. Did you have conversations with City Rise while you were  
19 getting ready to start your work?

20 A. Yes, we talked about where we were going to, about what we're  
21 going to try to get completed for the day, and, you know, their  
22 schedule.

23 Q. Were there any documents that were signed and passed between  
24 you and the City Rise Company?

25 A. No. Like, maybe at the end of the day or something. Like I

1 would have signed, maybe a signup sheet or something.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. But I don't think I did, because they were still there, too,  
4 while --

5 Q. Okay, that's right, yeah. So once you had the concrete  
6 removed and you are going to start getting down to where -- your  
7 task at hand was to remove a section and replace with a new -- I  
8 guess you should tell me what your scope of work was. Let's get  
9 that from you.

10 A. To dig a T trench, so the trench we were digging was one  
11 foot, so we called it 3-foot wide. We removed 3-foot concrete,  
12 and install three conduits from one box to the corner on Geary and  
13 Parker, and then it was two continuing conduits going up Geary  
14 Street. So it was only three coming to Geary/Parker, and then two  
15 continuing. So we had to install three conduits, 36 inches,  
16 minimum cover. So we were like 3½ feet back inside of the box.

17 Q. Okay. And if we use the 4-inch pipe as the -- kind of like  
18 our reference point, and we have the T with the 2-inch line going  
19 off of it, do you recall seeing that?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. If we use that as the reference, in which direction were  
22 these conduits going, parallel to that? At an angle?

23 A. At first it was -- coming off the T or the 2-inch or the 4-  
24 inch?

25 Q. I mean, where the conduits had -- you're talking about

1 electrical conduits, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Electrical conduits that you were going to put in the ground  
4 at that point.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You were going to put those physical conduits -- you're  
7 excavating to put those conduits in there, is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Yeah. So the conduits you were going to place in the area,  
10 were they -- I mean, if this is the (indiscernible) and this is  
11 the T (indiscernible) and this is the corner where the Chinese  
12 restaurant is over here --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- which way do those conduits go? What direction were you  
15 trying to get them to --

16 A. One to -- down Parker a little bit to a pole and one down --  
17 two down Geary. Is that what you mean?

18 Q. Two going down Geary and two going this way.

19 A. One.

20 Q. One. One going this way and two going that way. So is that  
21 --

22 MR. EVANS: Can somebody help me with the logistics?

23 BY MR. MULLIGAN:

24 Q. So this is the Chinese -- I'm sorry, David Mulligan, with  
25 PHMSA.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. So here's the Chinese restaurant, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You were starting here with two conduits and going this way?

5 A. Down Geary.

6 Q. Down Geary.

7 A. Going -- I started on the west side and I went east, yes.

8 Q. Okay, west to east.

9 A. West to east, and then I went south from Geary down Parker,  
10 and went to the pole on Parker, the first pole that was on Parker.

11 Q. And this is Parker right here.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. This is Geary.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. So you were going that way on Parker.

16 A. Yes. That way would have been --

17 Q. One conduit.

18 A. -- south, one conduit.

19 BY MR. EVANS:

20 Q. Okay. This is Roger Evans again. We just discussed the  
21 scope of work, and it appears that there were three conduits going  
22 in. One of the conduits was going to be running perpendicular to  
23 the Geary Street, and then two conduits were going to go parallel  
24 with Geary near the junction of the 4-inch and 2-inch. Just so we  
25 have that clear for the record, because they see what -- okay, so

1 at this point, your goal when you first started your excavating,  
2 what were you going to go and try and get installed first?

3 A. We installed the box, the junction box first.

4 Q. And the junction box was going to go?

5 A. That was at the start. That was from the start of the  
6 contract, the very first, there was one junction box.

7 Q. And the junction box was over there by the corner by the  
8 restaurant?

9 A. Further down, like 70 feet down Geary where we started.

10 Q. Okay, 70 feet down going --

11 A. Going west.

12 Q. West.

13 A. Yes, back west of -- where we started, where we initially  
14 started. We put in a 4 by 4 box.

15 MR. KLEMM: Jason Klemm. Right across from Mel's, it's all  
16 plated up, correct?

17 MR. CODD: Yes.

18 MR. EVANS: Okay, thanks for that clarification.

19 BY MR. EVANS:

20 Q. So the work that you were doing that day, how many days did  
21 your contract cover? I mean, what other tasks did you do besides  
22 this particular scope of work? Did you have several with  
23 Advanced?

24 A. Several locations?

25 Q. Several scopes of work, many days, you know, of work that you

1 were doing with Advanced, or was this your sole task that you had  
2 ever done with Advanced? Had you done a bunch of others for them?

3 A. We've done --

4 Q. Related to Geary Street?

5 A. The same type of work, but we have -- did we not -- didn't  
6 ask me this question earlier, though?

7 MS. KRMPOTIC: And tell him if you don't understand --

8 MR. CODD: Yeah, I don't really --

9 MS. KRMPOTIC: -- what he's asking, so you can --

10 BY MR. EVANS:

11 Q. Yeah, I'm just trying to find out if this was the first scope  
12 of work you've ever done for Advanced.

13 A. Advanced Fiber, no. No.

14 Q. You had done other sorts of work for Advanced Fiber that were  
15 related to this scope of work?

16 A. Yes, same type of work for -- not the first job for Advanced.

17 Q. Okay, but under the same contract?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So you have one contract to do multiple locations.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And how many locations have you done thus far? That's what  
22 I'm trying to get at.

23 A. Like we went over this at the start. What was it, like four,  
24 five, six --

25 Q. Okay.



1 A. -- seven, eight?

2 Q. And then, after this scope of work, did you have another  
3 scope of work that was planned as well with Advanced?

4 A. I'm not sure, but I'm sure it was more to come. I didn't  
5 hear much about where we were going next, because I knew we had,  
6 like a couple of months' work there.

7 Q. Okay. So let's get to the -- we have concrete removed and we  
8 have your scope of work, you have to install conduits, and now  
9 you're going to excavate. So who was in the -- how many people  
10 did you have on shovels?

11 A. Like --

12 Q. When you started.

13 A. Everyone, except me.

14 Q. Okay. So everyone there was -- at least four other people  
15 were working the shovels and you were at the mechanized.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And did you do quite a bit of work with the mechanized before  
18 you -- I mean, quite a bit of shoveling before you touched the  
19 mechanized?

20 A. Me?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. No, because I had to strip the concrete. When I had all the  
23 concrete stripped they were --

24 Q. Yeah, but once the concrete was moved, though, and you just  
25 had a soil --

1 A. Yes, I did find a lot of stuff myself, too, yes.

2 Q. Okay, so you were excavating with the bucket before the  
3 shovels, is that correct?

4 A. No. I was on the shovel myself, too.

5 Q. Oh, the shovel yourself. I'm sorry.

6 A. I was finding stuff with the shovel myself.

7 Q. Okay. And then, when you completed -- once you had found the  
8 lines and located them, what all did you have uncovered when you  
9 stepped out of the pit, the excavation area? Did you have the 4-  
10 inch completely uncovered? Did you have the 2-inch completely  
11 uncovered?

12 A. I had the 2-inch, which was deeper. I uncovered and I seen  
13 we were, like way (indiscernible), so we were want to go over the  
14 top. We had that uncovered.

15 Q. And had you used the mechanized to uncover the 2-inch at that  
16 time?

17 A. No.

18 Q. All shovels.

19 A. We found everything. Found the 4-inch by shoveling, found  
20 the 2-inch by shoveling.

21 Q. Now, if we talk about -- let's just say that this piece of  
22 paper here is the -- a rough estimation of the excavation area.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Let's do that. And the line -- let's just put a -- it goes  
25 like this. And this is the outline of the whole pit. Did you

1 have -- uncover all this piping, this 2-inch, and all this by  
2 hand?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. No mechanized?

5 A. No, no mechanized. Like, at the start of the 2-inch where we  
6 crossed it --

7 Q. Right.

8 A. -- the 2-inch where we crossed it, we uncovered it.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. And then, we knew we were above it with the pipes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So that was at, like 4 feet deep, the 2-inch and the 4-inch.

13 Q. Okay. So were there -- when the -- once you found these, did  
14 you pull people out of the pit and say, okay, we're going to do  
15 more with mechanized and not do more shoveling or --

16 A. Yeah. It's kind of like a bit of both as we go. You know,  
17 we walk together as we --

18 Q. Right. Okay. So you did a little bit of shoveling, a little  
19 bit of mechanized, little bit of shoveling, little bit of  
20 mechanized, like that?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. And let's talk about the actual impact. Let's get to  
23 that point, where the piece of equipment -- where the gas line  
24 breaks.

25 MS. KRMPOTIC: I'm not sure I understand the use of the term

1 "impact." I'm not sure what you're saying.

2 So if you don't understand that.

3 MR. EVANS: I'll clarify.

4 MR. CODD: Okay, when --

5 MS. KRMPOTIC: He's not -- he's going to clarify.

6 MR. CODD: Okay.

7 BY MR. EVANS:

8 Q. So at the -- some sort of event occurred at this accident  
9 scene --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- for gas to escape from plastic piping. We all know that.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That gas came out of the pipe on that day. When this gas  
14 came out of the piping, did you have people in the pit with  
15 shovels?

16 A. Yes, I had Freddy in the pit.

17 Q. Okay, Freddy was in the pit at that time. And at that time,  
18 were you on the mechanized?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. That's what I want to make sure I understand. Where  
21 were the other gentlemen standing?

22 A. Putting the pipe.

23 Q. Pardon me?

24 A. Putting in the pipe on Geary.

25 Q. Okay, the 70-foot --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So when the -- what were you doing exactly when -- up  
3 to the point when the gas released? What was happening?

4 A. We were digging from the pole back to the other trench, like  
5 we were joining the two trenches together.

6 Q. Right. And was there some sort of a -- did your guy hit the  
7 pipe with a shovel?

8 A. No. We were, like -- we were 30 inches deep the whole way  
9 coming across. We weren't even down anywhere near 4 feet with the  
10 equipment. We were at, like 30 inches all the way.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It was electric conduit and (indiscernible) that we could go  
13 over the top, so I said, it's safer to go 30 inches instead of  
14 going down to the 36-inch cover what it calls for. We just do 30  
15 inches because electrical (indiscernible). And we'd be way  
16 higher, so it's way safer from the gas.

17 Q. So you decided to do 30 inches instead of 36 to be safe, to  
18 be further away from the gas.

19 A. Because there was an electrical (indiscernible) there, right  
20 there is a --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. We couldn't go underneath, so it would have been too  
23 dangerous to excavate underneath.

24 Q. So at the time when you were there and you had Federico in  
25 the pit, all of a sudden gas starts flying out of the pipe. What

1 is your understanding of how that happened?

2 A. I couldn't believe it, because I was, like back, way back.  
3 The gas pipe was here and I was back at this (indiscernible). And  
4 all I could see was gas going up here, spraying.

5 Q. So you're saying -- where was your bucket at that time?

6 A. Back behind the close for the trench in front of me. Not  
7 anywhere the gas was broke. Not even 3-foot deep, 2 -- 30 inches  
8 deep.

9 Q. So you're saying that your bucket was nowhere near where the  
10 gas escaped?

11 A. That's what I'm saying. Like, maybe 3 feet away.

12 Q. So what had you done previous to being 3 feet away? What  
13 were your moves with the mechanized equipment?

14 A. Like take and expose everything, thin out where you can.

15 Q. Near the pipe, though?

16 A. We exposed the pipe for, you know, we figured where it was,  
17 and -- you know, we didn't put the machine anywhere it shouldn't  
18 have been.

19 Q. So let me get this clear and I'll ask the question. Make  
20 sure that we all understand this. Is your memory that there was  
21 no impact of the bucket to the top of the pipe?

22 A. When I was -- the last bucket that I took out was same as any  
23 other bucket that I took out. It was no impact.

24 Q. So --

25 MR. EVANS: Okay. That's all the questions I have now.

1 Introduce yourself.

2 BY MR. KLEMM:

3 Q. Yeah, Jason Klemm, PG&E. Do you have a written excavation  
4 procedure?

5 A. Written excavation procedure?

6 Q. Just your practices, what's safe, what's -- how you comply  
7 with government laws?

8 A. We just comply with government laws, that's it.

9 Q. Can you give me an example?

10 A. Hand dig and expose and proceed with caution is the  
11 government law.

12 Q. Switching back to the excavation part of it, you said that  
13 you had exposed the utilities, is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What utilities did you expose?

16 A. Exposed everything that was marked all the way down.

17 Q. And how deep was the service?

18 A. Which service? There was multiple --

19 Q. The gas.

20 A. The main was 4 and the laterals going to the house were, like  
21 2 feet. There was multiple gases.

22 Q. So the gas was 4 feet and you were going to install the  
23 conduit at about 30 inches, is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. After you had exposed the gas line, what did you do?

1 A. After we had the gas line exposed?

2 Q. Which one did you expose first?

3 A. The 2-inch first, because we took off Geary first. I found  
4 that and we saved the one on top. We started on Parker. We said  
5 we want to meet the one on Geary. Went to 30 inches the whole way  
6 out.

7 Q. So the 2-inch Ts into the 4, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And after you exposed the two, what did you do?

10 A. We (indiscernible) -- like what?

11 Q. So you exposed the 2-inch gas line, right?

12 A. Yeah. Two-inch gas was exposed, and we were digging at the  
13 other side of it cleaning out the end of the trench, like back 3  
14 feet away from it.

15 Q. Did you also expose the 4-inch?

16 A. No. I exposed -- I didn't expose it right where it blew out,  
17 where it burst. I exposed it, like 4 feet away.

18 MR. KLEMM: No further questions for me, Jason.

19 BY MR. SHORI:

20 Q. Sunil Shori with CPUC. I'm just -- I'd like to discuss a  
21 little more on the -- while we're on this. I have other  
22 questions, but let's stay on this one on the -- on what you  
23 exposed. So, again, you said there's a 2 that comes off the 4.  
24 The 4 is -- do you recall which way the 4 runs that you exposed?

25 A. The 4 goes up Geary.



1 Q. So parallel?

2 A. Parallel to Geary.

3 Q. And you said you exposed a portion of it.

4 A. Yes, because I knew we were over the top.

5 Q. So what portion or what -- so, looking at it as a T, the 2  
6 and then the 4 --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- what portion of the 4 did you expose? And let's be clear  
9 on which way on Geary or, you know, where you exposed the 4.

10 A. As in?

11 MR. SHORI: May I draw a drawing?

12 MR. EVANS: This is Roger Evans. Don't you have a photograph  
13 of the -- (indiscernible) photograph of the street corner or  
14 something that we could use as an exhibit?

15 MR. LANG: This is Mike Lang. I'm going to just give you  
16 a -- show Colin a plat map of approximately where we're at. This  
17 is Geary here and this is approximately the excavation area right  
18 here.

19 MR. CODD: Yes, I understand.

20 MR. LANG: And this would be north, south, so --

21 MR. CODD: Yes.

22 BY MR. SHORI:

23 Q. So, now with the drawing, so again, just to rephrase my  
24 question.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. We get lost with a lot of questions. So, again, you got  
2 the T. Let's look at it at the T.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So the 2-inch is the leg of the T.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And the 4 is the top.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So, just in that regard, what portion of that 4 did you  
9 expose? Did you expose the entire 4?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You said, you -- a section.

12 A. I found the 4 and the 2, like within 2, 3 -- like right where  
13 we're turning. I found them, and like they're way deeper. And I  
14 said, we're going to go over the top with the pipe, so do as -- I  
15 proceeded with caution. I didn't dig it all out.

16 Q. Okay, so you didn't expose the entire length of the 4-inch  
17 within your excavation. You exposed a small piece.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And again, looking at Geary and towards Mel being west  
20 and the other way being east, what side of that leg, that 2-inch,  
21 did you expose?

22 A. The top of it.

23 Q. Right at the very top, so the -- did you see any --

24 A. Right where the trench was going over the top of it is where  
25 I exposed it.

1 Q. Okay, so for our use, you exposed the 2-inch all the way to  
2 where it connected?

3 A. I exposed the 2-inch right where the trench was  
4 (indiscernible). I exposed the 4-inch right where the trench was  
5 going to cross it.

6 Q. Did you see the connection, where the 2 connects to the 4?  
7 Did you expose it at that point or --

8 A. No, I didn't, no.

9 Q. You didn't.

10 A. I didn't see the connection, no. Because it was, like 4 feet  
11 where --

12 Q. Okay, so you did expose a small portion of the 4.

13 A. That was 4 feet deep, yeah.

14 Q. Okay. But again, if you didn't expose the entire 4 that  
15 crossed within your trench, what -- that's what I'm trying to  
16 understand is what portion of that 4-inch within your trench did  
17 you expose?

18 A. I must have been a bit away from where it's obviously T'd in.  
19 I didn't think I was as square to it as where, like I found a  
20 piece of it, like right there. Like I found the 4-inch.

21 Q. Usually for your jobs, when you call in or when the marks or  
22 when you call in for USA ticket, how do you -- what's your normal  
23 process for obtaining the USA ticket for providing the  
24 notifications of the dig? How does that work for your company?

25 A. It's all with William, so --

1 Q. So William calls it in?

2 A. Yes. It happens weeks before, like it's weeks of  
3 organization.

4 Q. And I'm sorry, I missed William's last name earlier. Repeat  
5 the -- what was William's last name?

6 A. Tobin, T-o-b-i-n.

7 Q. And are you the only one that actually uses the heavy  
8 equipment or uses your excavating equipment other than shovels?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you had four or five folks that you mentioned. You're  
11 the only one that actually utilizes that equipment.

12 A. I'm the only one that excavates around the utilities, yes.

13 Q. When Freddy was in the pit, you said he was in the pit when  
14 the gas released?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Could you see him? Was he providing spotting for you at that  
17 time, too, or was he -- what was he doing in the pit?

18 A. He was --

19 MS. KRMPOTIC: Don't -- I guess I can take a break. It just  
20 feels like there were three separate questions you were asked, so  
21 I thought were a little confusing, so I didn't know how to address  
22 that.

23 MR. EVANS: If you want to go off the record, we're fine.

24 MR. CODD: Do you want to go out?

25 MS. KRMPOTIC: Yes, let's go off the record, please, briefly,

1 very briefly.

2 (Off the record.)

3 MR. EVANS: We are back on the record with Colin Codd. This  
4 is Roger Evans speaking. After we took our break here, we'd like  
5 to go and pick up with --

6 BY MR. SHORI:

7 Q. Sunil Shori, CPUC. So let's start with the question where we  
8 left off. And then I have a few more. So, in effect at that  
9 time, Colin, Freddy was in the pit when you were excavating when  
10 the gas release occurred. Was he spotting for you at that time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was he visible? Could you see him?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What training or what -- have you attended any sessions in  
15 terms of the USA best practices, basically the understanding of  
16 the labeling, the marks that are placed on the ground, what they  
17 represent, what the process is for the one-call process? Have you  
18 attended any sessions, any training for related to that?

19 A. To?

20 Q. To the one-call process. So like starting, for example, with  
21 all the way with, you know, notifying to obtain a ticket, the USA  
22 ticket, the marks that are placed, what the marks indicate, what  
23 the basic color codes and what the basic nomenclature for the  
24 marks could be. Have you attended any sessions --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- provided by anybody related to understanding those types  
2 of markings?

3 A. I understand the colors. I have never attended a -- one of  
4 them sessions.

5 Q. The one -- you indicated you had one incident where you hit a  
6 water line that was imbedded, you said?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. On that particular one, was there -- was that line marked?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was it indicated as imbedded or what was the material, I'm  
11 sorry? I know you indicated earlier. But what was the material  
12 it was under?

13 A. It was in wood, like under concrete.

14 Q. Under concrete?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So you -- did you hit it in the process of breaking the  
17 concrete?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were you cutting the concrete at the time or did you -- how  
20 were you removing the concrete?

21 A. Excavation.

22 Q. For your company, do you have any practices that you require  
23 in terms of documenting the worksite? So you talked about doing a  
24 briefing. So when you first show up on site to -- throughout your  
25 excavation process to the closure of the job, are there any steps

1 or anything that your company does that kind of documents the work  
2 scene?

3 A. Every day, we give Andrew footage of what we've done or what  
4 we have done or on that day, basically.

5 Q. Right. Let me be clear on my question. So documentation,  
6 what I'm referring to more or less is photographs, video, anything  
7 that essentially captures the work location. For example, as you  
8 start, whatever marks are in place that (indiscernible) the  
9 worksite?

10 A. Pre-video?

11 Q. Yeah, so basically, just as you folks start doing whatever is  
12 your very first steps related to excavation, whether it would be  
13 saw cutting or excavation. So starting at that point, throughout  
14 your work activity until you close out your job, do you take any  
15 photographs or video of the work location --

16 A. At the start.

17 Q. -- at various steps?

18 A. At the start.

19 Q. At the start? Do you have it for this incident? What do you  
20 have for this incident related to that?

21 A. This location? Or this --

22 Q. This location, yes.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What do you have?

25 A. Video, pre-video.

1 Q. Video? Do you tape -- you only do it -- normal practice, do  
2 you only do it at the beginning? Do you have a practice, first of  
3 all for doing that? So do you do that at all your excavation  
4 activities?

5 A. We're wanting to do it at the beginning of every -- yes.

6 Q. But again, just to be clear on my question, have you done  
7 that before?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you did it here. Have you done it before?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And do you only do it at the beginning of the job? Do you do  
12 it throughout as -- for example, after you remove the concrete?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you do it --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- at any other steps along the way?

17 A. We take -- no.

18 Q. The briefing that you talked about for this particular  
19 incident at the jobsite that you did with your staff, your  
20 personnel --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- was that done before or after the saw cutting?

23 A. After. Saw cutting was Monday-Tuesday. The briefing was  
24 Wednesday.

25 Q. Okay. So at the time when you started your excavation, were



1 there any marks still in place --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- that were visible to you for the gas on the surface?

4 A. I walked pre-job with all the lads and we marked the routine  
5 and I showed them all (indiscernible).

6 MR. SHORI: I think that's it for me. Thank you.

7 BY MR. LANG:

8 Q. It's Mike Lang, with Pacific Gas and Electric. Just a couple  
9 of additional questions. For the USA or 811 tag that had been  
10 called in, had all the utilities responded?

11 A. Yes. We wouldn't have started if not.

12 Q. So all responded and marked.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. After the blacktop concrete was cut and removed from the  
15 surface, where was that material. Would that still -- was that  
16 material still around the excavation or was it removed from the  
17 area?

18 A. Removed from the area.

19 Q. Okay. So is there any specific excavation guide or  
20 California law that you or your company follow for excavation  
21 practices? Is there any specific excavation guide or law --

22 A. Hand dig --

23 Q. -- that you or your company --

24 A. Hand dig within 2 feet of utilities and proceed with caution.  
25 The government law, yeah.

1 Q. Okay. Do you or any of your crew members hold any new  
2 construction operator qualifications?

3 A. New construction operator qualifications? For?

4 Q. For performing excavation work.

5 A. Do they hold qualifications? They're laborers. Is that what  
6 you mean? Or union? Like what qualifications?

7 Q. Any training or guidance that would give you the  
8 qualifications for excavating?

9 A. A shovel.

10 Q. Does your company have a written procedure for excavation?

11 A. We have a booklet.

12 Q. Specifically for excavation procedures?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. What's the name of that booklet?

15 A. I'm not sure. William would be able to -- but we have it.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MR. LANG: Is that a document, Roger, that we could request?

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'm going to write it down. Yes. This is  
19 Roger, I was speaking. I will go ahead and make that doc request  
20 to the attorney when we get that excavation procedure, correct?

21 MR. LANG: Yes.

22 BY MR. LANG:

23 Q. So, Colin, I wanted to ask you, since you're at height on the  
24 excavator, I believe, at the time the gas started escaping, so  
25 what is it that -- did you observe the gas escaping?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did it start slowly or did it all of a sudden just quickly?

3 A. Just erupted and was blowing dirt up out of the whole.

4 Q. Did you observe anything that you saw that would make you  
5 think you know what the cause was of that?

6 A. No. I couldn't believe it, because I was so far away. It  
7 was, like, what, you know, it couldn't be.

8 Q. It just suddenly --

9 A. Yeah.

10 MR. LANG: I don't have any further questions.

11 BY MR. MULLIGAN:

12 Q. This is Dave Mulligan with PHMSA. Colin, we drew kind of a  
13 rough graph.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Remember this is -- I'm not an artist by any means.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. But kind of just in the vicinity, can you kind of walk us  
18 through where your excavator was just before the release of gas  
19 from the line?

20 A. Probably over the 2-inch.

21 Q. So were you -- over here.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. So on top of the 2-inch. Was your bucket facing that way?

24 A. My tracks were parallel with Parker. So --

25 Q. Okay. So you're sitting here --

1 A. The way you are right now, yes.

2 Q. Are you looking north on Parker, then?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And then, when you heard the release of gas, where was  
5 that bucket located? I know we previously went through this.

6 A. That was the trench line, so it was back. The trench line  
7 and the T was up here somewhere.

8 Q. So your excavator is here, but your bucket, you're saying was  
9 this way?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So it was south?

12 A. It was south, like only 3 -- not even 3 feet deep, 30 inches  
13 deep and 3 feet away from my back.

14 Q. Your other crew members that you said were working on the  
15 trench or the conduit, laying pipe conduit.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were they -- they were up, I want to say west.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. In this area?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And that was three of them?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And Freddy was in the trench?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you were on the excavator.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. At the time of the release of gas and Freddy was getting out  
3 of the trench, what was your next action? Did you make a phone  
4 call or --

5 A. I got off the excavator. And I thought to myself, 911. I  
6 forgot my phone, and I went to go back to the excavator to get my  
7 phone, and that's when it ignite.

8 Q. Okay. So you were going back to the excavator to grab your  
9 phone.

10 A. To call 911.

11 Q. Okay. But you didn't have a chance to call 911, obviously.

12 A. No. I told my other colleague to -- Kevin, to call 911 when  
13 it ignit -- when we were running away from it.

14 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did Kevin call 911?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. So Kevin Browne.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was that the only call made, just 911, or was PG&E also  
19 called?

20 A. I had no phone. I was scrambling and trying to get people  
21 out.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. MULLIGAN: That's all the questions I have, Roger, at  
24 this time.

25 BY MR. EVANS:

1 Q. This is Roger Evans speaking. At any time during the  
2 excavating that you were doing, did you ever, or did any of your  
3 crew members say you're getting close to the pipe, or did you feel  
4 any sort of scraping with the --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- with the bucket to the pipe?

7 A. No. There was no scraping or (indiscernible).

8 Q. So, I mean, I know you said you were surprised to hear it,  
9 but based on what you experienced that day, you have no  
10 imagination, I guess, to say that your bucket came in contact with  
11 that pipe. It's not even in your kind of your mindset.

12 A. We were, like 2 feet away from it, so I don't know. And we,  
13 like we crossed it into -- I am very particular about where I find  
14 pipes and I need to know where they are before I can dig it. So I  
15 am nowhere near that pipe. I don't know if -- I don't know.

16 Q. And just one last question for me. And that is, when you  
17 were doing your contractual type things, and probably William  
18 knows this, but I'm just going to ask it. Was there any, post-hit  
19 kind of instruction that they gave you? Like, if you hit a line,  
20 a gas line being -- you know, blowing gas kind of --

21 A. We went over in the pre-briefing. It was, like if an  
22 emergency happens, just meet back at the truck. Is that what you  
23 mean?

24 Q. That was your own, but that wasn't the Advanced people  
25 telling you to do that.

1 A. No. To call 911 straight away if you hit a gas line.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So, and --

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

5 BY MR. KLEMM:

6 Q. Jason Klemm, PG&E. So you said when the release of gas  
7 happened, you heard it, is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What were your next steps after that?

10 A. Call 911, like if you see a release of gas.

11 Q. So did you call it from the seat of the excavator?

12 A. No. I got down off the excavator once there was an  
13 explosion. And I was leaving the excavator. I left my phone on  
14 the excavator and I went back to the excavator to get my phone.  
15 And that's when the gas ignit.

16 Q. So between the release of gas and you're getting down from  
17 the excavator --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- did you move your bucket?

20 A. I left it down, yes.

21 Q. And how much time would you estimate between you hearing the  
22 release of gas and then the ignition?

23 A. Not very long, like maybe 20 seconds.

24 Q. Twenty seconds. Do you know what caused the ignition?

25 A. There was candles down the block a bit on the Hong Kong side.

1 I think that was what caused it.

2 Q. Did you shut off the excavator when you heard gas flowing?

3 A. I'm nearly sure I didn't. I can't rightly remember right  
4 now, but I think I left it on. When I went back to excavator for  
5 the phone, I could see flames coming from Hong Kong back up the  
6 street, so it ignit down there.

7 MR. KLEMM: I have no further questions.

8 BY MR. SHORI:

9 Q. Sunil Shori with the California Public Utilities Commission.  
10 Just one follow-up. Colin, on that day, what interaction did you  
11 have, you and any of your staff that you're aware of, with the  
12 city street permit folks? Do you recall a city inspector --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- coming by --

15 A. Yes. He --

16 Q. -- on occasion throughout your work?

17 A. Mark, yes.

18 Q. Okay. So on that particular day, do you recall the  
19 interactions you had with him?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you detail some of those? Or what were your interactions  
22 that day?

23 A. About the soils going about recompaction.

24 Q. Any other directions from him to you to do anything or  
25 anything that he expected from you on that particular day or from



1 that work -- your work activity on that day?

2 A. Do what he wanted. That was basically what he told us. Like  
3 to compact the dirt back nice and --

4 Q. And you had some -- did you have some any of the interaction  
5 with him before the hit, before the gas release?

6 A. That's what I'm talking about. That's the interaction.

7 MS. KRMPOTIC: Um --

8 MR. EVANS: So continue.

9 BY MR. SHORI:

10 Q. And again, just -- so that's the only interaction you had was  
11 related to the compaction?

12 A. Compaction, yes, sir.

13 MR. SHORI: Okay, all right, I'm done. Thank you.

14 BY MR. GIL-BLANCO:

15 Q. Just one. This is Jorge Gil-Blanco from PG&E. What company  
16 did you work for before where you started?

17 A. Kingdom Pipelines.

18 Q. Kingdom Pipelines?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And how long were you there?

21 A. Like 14 years.

22 Q. Fourteen? Thank you.

23 MS. KRMPOTIC: This is Stephanie. May I ask him one  
24 question?

25 MR. EVANS: This is Roger Evans, off the record with Colin

1 Codd.

2 (Off the record.)

3 MR. EVANS: Back on the record with Colin Codd.

4 BY MR. LANG:

5 Q. This is Mike Lang, Colin. I just had one last question.  
6 Since you've been in business, has any operator or utility issued  
7 you or your company a notice of unsafe excavation practices?

8 A. No.

9 BY MR. EVANS:

10 Q. This is Roger Evans. I just have a couple of questions. The  
11 company, Kingdom Pipeline, are they in California?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Bay Area?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay, great. And as far as your licensed contracting  
16 certificates that you have, is that geared toward -- in  
17 California, is that geared toward piping?

18 A. It's a Class A license, so it's for engineering underground  
19 piping, yes.

20 Q. Okay. Specifically, a contracting license for doing  
21 underground piping.

22 A. Class A, yes.

23 Q. Class A. Okay.

24 A. So all underground, yes.

25 Q. And how often does -- you have to take that once and then you

1 get certified and then so many years later?

2 A. Yes, I think it's, like 3 years, your renewal.

3 MR. EVANS: That's all I have.

4 Well, thank you for agreeing to talk to us, and that is the  
5 end of the interview, thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           SAN FRANCISCO GAS RELEASE AND FIRE  
                                  FEBRUARY 6, 2019  
                                  Interview of Colin Codd

ACCIDENT NO.:               DCA19MR001

PLACE:                       San Francisco, California

DATE:                         February 12, 2019

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.

  
We  
Transcriber