

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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EXPRESS SHUTTLE II :
NTSB #DCA05MM002 :
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INTERVIEW OF GREG GUDY :
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An interview in the above entitled matter was held
on Tuesday, October 26, 2004, commencing at 1:15 p.m., by:

NANCY MCATEE, NTSB

1 observed the boat was out in the fire, they were actively,
2 pretty much had it under control at that point. I went down
3 and spoke with Captain Carrabona, who was somewhere along
4 the way, had established command. I don't know exactly
5 where it was.

6 I went down there, spoke with him for a little
7 while. Due to the fact that we were, you know, by the
8 water, we -- I went ahead and took command from him for the
9 safety point of making sure that our personnel were
10 protected by -- I put a safety man in place out on the boat,
11 basically, set up a rehab down on the water's edge in the
12 rocks and everything, so our guys would have some areas in
13 there. They'd established kind of a rehab set up in there,
14 but that's basically the extent of what I did in there.

15 Then, once the fire was totally extinguished, it
16 started to drift, and at one point, we -- I got hold of the
17 Coast Guard, had them come over and try to assist with
18 securing the boat because it drifted to a point where our
19 line fell off of it, and there was still some fire burning
20 toward the front end of it, because of the extensive damage
21 that was done to it.

22 I went through the whole -- once it was totally
23 extinguished and they were able to get it towed over and
24 tied to one of the pilings. At that point then, I finally
25 ended up leaving, leaving the scene back with Rick

1 Carrabona, and then I guess he turned it back over to Port
2 Richey when they got back ashore --

3 MS. MCATEE: Okay.

4 CHIEF GUDY: -- because they were pretty much out
5 on the boat most of the time. I mean, periodically, their
6 captain would come in, but they basically didn't have a lot
7 of experienced personnel there, but it wasn't actually our
8 fire. We just -- I just set up command more for the safety
9 part of it.

10 MS. MCATEE: Have you done any other follow-up or
11 anything regarding this accident since you left that scene?

12 CHIEF GUDY: No, ma'am.

13 MS. MCATEE: Okay.

14 CHIEF GUDY: The only thing that I did that I
15 could say was actually being involved in the command part of
16 it right there, just you know, making sure no one got
17 injured or hurt.

18 MS. MCATEE: I understand that there was a request
19 for the State Fire Marshal to come out. Did that request
20 come from you?

21 CHIEF GUDY: Actually, that came from Port Richey,
22 because we were trying to figure out who'd investigate it.
23 Who did we need to call for an investigator?

24 MS. MCATEE: Okay.

25 CHIEF GUDY: Tried -- I think we asked the

1 sheriff's office that was there if they were -- who to
2 request -- whether it was the Coast Guard or them, and
3 someone there had -- I think it was from -- Port Richey had
4 told us to request.

5 MS. MCATEE: Was the Coast Guard on the scene at
6 any time during the incident?

7 CHIEF GUDY: Yes, the Coast Guard was on the scene
8 when I got there. They had a little craft that they had
9 three guys on. They were just kind of on the -- I guess,
10 the northern end of where the channel makes a bend there.
11 They were sitting over there, actually, until I requested
12 them to come over and help us try to get our line back on
13 the boat, actually, just kind of sitting over there. They
14 said they couldn't come onto shore because the mud was
15 pretty deep between there and there.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They also had a helicopter
17 on the scene, too.

18 CHIEF GUDY: And they did have a helicopter prior
19 to my run.

20 MS. MCATEE: Do you know how they were notified of
21 the incident?

22 CHIEF GUDY: No idea.

23 MS. MCATEE: Do you ever do any training with the
24 Coast Guard for marine accidents or response?

25 CHIEF GUDY: We -- the only actually training that

1 we actually do with them is, you know, when we have calls
2 with them, we've done quite a few along the edge of the
3 waters, most of the time there, you know, small motor craft
4 or medical emergencies coming in.

5 MS. MCATEE: You provide mutual aid for Port
6 Richey?

7 CHIEF GUDY: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. MCATEE: Do you train with Port Richey? Do
9 you do mutual aid drills? Things like that?

10 CHIEF GUDY: We do train with Port Richey. We
11 train with this engine out of this house here, Engine 19.
12 We also train with Engine 11 also, and their volunteers.
13 Engine 29 trains for them quite extensively.

14 MS. MCATEE: Does your fire department do any kind
15 of marine training like, you know, marina response, things
16 like that?

17 CHIEF GUDY: No, because we don't -- we do not
18 really have -- I mean that's -- we have the Port of Hudson,
19 but that port is really in Port Richey, I mean, Port Richey
20 and we know that's the only, you know, area that actually
21 has, you know, activity of that nature where the commercial
22 vessels are going out with the (indiscernible). I guess
23 citizens are whatever you would call them, paid -- people
24 that pay --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Customers.

1 CHIEF GUDY: Customers, yeah, for that. This is
2 the first incident like this I've ever been on, you know,
3 I've never been involved with any -- most boat fires I've
4 had were sitting on a trailer.

5 MS. MCATEE: Yes.

6 CHIEF GUDY: Or sitting on the edge of a lake.

7 MS. MCATEE: Have you done a de-brief with the
8 responders yet?

9 CHIEF GUDY: We have not.

10 MS. MCATEE: Are you planning to do one?

11 CHIEF GUDY: We hadn't really. I hadn't really
12 planned on doing one, because, I mean, it was just a -- I
13 mean, (indiscernible) kind of did the majority of the work
14 out on the thing with his crews, and he's our most
15 experienced captain that we have on our shift, and
16 especially when it deals with water, he's, you know, grown
17 up around the water and knows a lot about it, and it showed
18 in his firefighting activity once I -- I mean, by the time I
19 got there, they had the fire knocked down.

20 The smoke column was visible from Land O'Lakes
21 when I left, and by the time I got to -- into
22 (indiscernible), they (indiscernible) that - that was -- it
23 was hit. It already turned white. I mean by the time I got
24 there, it was pretty well much, you know, there just --
25 probably some deep seeded fire that he pretty much had under

1 control.

2 MS. MCATEE: Anything else that you can think of
3 that you'd like to add?

4 CHIEF GUDY: No, just like I tell you, it was Port
5 Richey's fire that was. They would do all the investigation
6 (indiscernible).

7 MS. MCATEE: Okay.

8 (Whereupon, at 1:43 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings of the National Transportation Safety Board Interview regarding the Express Shuttle II, NTSB #DCA05MM002.

INTERVIEW OF CHIEF GREG GUDY

PASCO COUNTY BATTALION CHIEF

Eve Jemison, Transcriber

