

Statement of Deckhand  
Mike Mendes

Two (2) pages total including this cover

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I, Michael G. Mendes was returning back to the main dock on Express Shuttle II along with another Deckhand and Captain, when the other deckhand and I saw and smelt smoke. We then informed the captain of the ~~5~~ problem and proceeded to open the engine room hatch to see what was smoking, that's when we realized that the starboard engine had caught fire. We then proceeded to inform the ~~captain~~ captain of a very serious fire and tried to lift the starboard engine hatch to fight the fire with a fire extinguisher, but as the captain and I lifted the hatch thick, black smoke filled the lower deck along with 2 foot flames. By then the smoke was so black and thick, and the flames were climbing the starboard side wall, we could no longer breathe. This all happened within 10 to 15 minutes, we did all that we could do in such a quick period of time without causing bodily harm to ourselves.

Mike  
Mendes