


Statement of Deckhand
Cory Byrd

Two (2) pages total including this cover

7:30 am 10/17/04

Arrived at work on the main dock. I had prepared the boat for the run except to the engines and generators for which Travis had done.

We took out the customers to the RCI in which the boat was running smoothly. On the way back, right at the beginning of the channel, I heard a noise from the engine room and I saw a little bit of smoke coming from the hatch above the starboard engine. I ran to the bridge right away and informed the captain about the smoke. I went back down to the first deck and had Mike help try to lift the hatch. We lifted it about an inch and flames shot out. At this time, I had Mike go tell the Captain that we had an engine fire. While he was doing that, I was getting the fire extinguisher. I opened up the back hatch to the engine room to see if I could see where exactly the fire was coming from. The smoke was too thick to see anything. Mike came back down and we tried to get the hatch open. He got part of it but the fire made him drop it. Through out all this we were running back outside thin in because of the smoke. Next Captain Mario came down while calling in the report on the Nextel. He and Mike try to get the hatch while I have the extinguisher ready to put the fire out. With both of them trying to lift it. The fire must have been too strong because they could not get the hatch open. By this time the entire boat is filled with smoke and you couldn't even see a foot in front of you. We all went to the bow of the ship and Captain Mario grabbed the fire hose and told me to turn the hose on at the switchboard, by this time you can't see anything in the boat but smoke. I ran back nearly tripping on chairs and tables and I got to the switchboard and I find the switch and turn it on. I stumble my way back out lightheaded, coughing and about to pass out to the boat when Petty Officer Rob from the USCG advised us to get off the ship. We all boarded his ship and got out of the way. At this time he was asking us if we were all right, Mike and Captain Mario said they were, I was short of breath and about to pass out, so he took Mike and Captain Mario to the Trophy and they got on and Petty Officer brought me back to the dock where an ambulance was waiting.


Cory Byrd

10-18-04
Date