

1 MS. WEAVER: Okay.

2 EXAMINER TWO: And did they change out there
3 OBA canisters at any time? Did you see them do that?

4 MR. RHODES: Yes, I saw them change out their
5 OBA's three times.

6 EXAMINER TWO: And I think those are thirty
7 minutes.

8 MR. RHODES: Thirty minutes. Oxygen
9 Breathing Apparatus, yes, I meant to say, yeah.

10 EXAMINER JERRY: I can tell you about that.
11 They're rated for sixty, they used to run on forty-
12 five, but because something went short of forty-five,
13 the current practice is they're turned to sixty -- but
14 that's a heck of a lot of reserve to pass --

15 EXAMINER ~~TWO~~Tom: Yeah, I think that's about
16 all I have for you. Terry, would you like to ask a
17 question or two?

18 MS. WEAVER: I'm just asking you about your
19 observations. Did you notice anybody keeping any kind
20 of documentation of what was going on in the engine
21 room?

22 MR. RHODES: No, no.

23 MS. WEAVER: Did anybody monitor the fire
24 fighters going in and out?

25 MR. RHODES: The mates were.

1 MS. WEAVER: They were doing that --

2 MR. RHODES: They want a head count of
3 exactly who went out, what the number of -- who went
4 in, exact number. I don't want nobody around. I want
5 the number, exactly, of went in and exactly who came
6 out. Whenever someone would come out, they wanted me
7 ~~immediately~~ to see how much pressure was on their
8 SCBDA, as far as the Coast Guard, we'll let them deal
9 with that, but, as far as -- they kept a head count of
10 who went in and who came out. So they wanted to
11 monitor that to make sure that that person did come
12 out. That's how they did it.

13 MS. WEAVER: Okay, could you tell me what
14 safety equipment you had in the control room and the
15 engine room?

16 MR. RHODES: We have two fifty foot fire
17 hoses in the auxiliary room. We have a total of four
18 fire hoses in the main engine room. We have one in the
19 shaft alley. We have one fire extinguisher, a dry
20 chemical extinguisher in the control room. We have a
21 stationary Co2, one hundred pounds, two one hundred
22 pound bottles, an extinguisher. We also have foam
23 aspirators, if there's a fuel fire, we put some foam
24 down there. There's a box ~~of~~ with life preservers in
25 it.

1 Also, in the control room, we have two
2 emergency air packs, which you put over your head.
3 It's like an air hood, it gives, like, five minutes of
4 air to get out the smoke filled environment. There's a
5 portable fire extinguisher, right, as you go past the
6 water-tight door into the auxiliary room. There's
7 another fire extinguisher right by the starboard- Fuel
8 oil --- settler. There's another, theres various fire
9 extinguishers throughout the engine room, ~~throughout~~
10 ~~the extensions~~ there're on the stanchions.

11 MS. WEAVER: What about any self-contained
12 breathing apparatus?

13 MR. RHODES: No.

14 MS. WEAVER: Any i~~n~~ the control room or
15 engine room?

16 MR. RHODES: No.

17 MS. WEAVER: -- in either placethe ~~break?~~

18 MR. RHODES: No, just emergency --

19 MS. WEAVER: Just two hoods--

20 MR. RHODES: Just two hoods. There's no
21 pull-down fire alarms, I mean, general alarms.

22 MS. WEAVER: Uh-huh. You said you gathered
23 the fire fighting equipment. Did you ever use any of
24 it?

25 MR. RHODES: Actually, what I did was I just

1 tested a dry chemical to make sure it was charged up.
2 I just had the stuff ready and --

3 MS. WEAVER: Oh.

4 MR. RHODES: And the chief told me, "Don't
5 cut the water on, please." I said, "Oh, no, I'm not
6 going to cut on the water." Because I knew it was an
7 electrical fire.

8 MS. WEAVER: Uh-huh.

9 MR. RHODES: I said, "I just want to have
10 everything ready just in case we had to use it." We go
11 over this. The mates have us go over this over and
12 over again. Our fire and boat drills, you know, if
13 something happens and you're there, he makes you have
14 the stuff ready.

15 MS. WEAVER: Uh-huh.

16 MR. RHODES: So somebody can get there and
17 immediately -- this is how the mates train us, to train
18 us to do that, to be ready for that, you know, it's
19 like instant. Get stuff there, get stuff ~~Just step in~~
20 ~~and just be ready~~ to fight the fire, you know.

21 MS. WEAVER: Are you on the fire fighting
22 team?

23 MR. RHODES: No, I wasn't. I just had the
24 stuff ---ready, and then the chief and the first came
25 down and said, "Go on, get ahead of here. You're

1 getting smoked out." There was another man that was
2 down there. He just ran down into the auxiliary room,
3 Lovejoy or whatever his name is. I don't know why he
4 did it, but he runs down in the auxiliary generator
5 room because the mate wanted an exact count of all the
6 people that was in there and they say, well, there's
7 one more person down there and, of course, the first
8 went down to get him because he started to get overcome
9 by smoke and they had to take him and give him oxygen.
10 Why he ran down there, I don't know. It was dumb. He
11 just ran right down into the auxiliary room.

12 MS. WEAVER: That's all I have. Do you have
13 anything?

14 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Dan, you mentioned
15 something about trying to combat the reflashes. You
16 also mentioned getting the passengers off the vessel.
17 Was fire fighting still going on or were they still
18 combatting reflashes at the same time they were getting
19 passengers out of --

20 MR. RHODES: They were just still combatting
21 reflashes. They had it pretty contained and they were
22 still combatting reflashes. I think maybe the mates
23 would stop the operation of getting people off.

24 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Uh-huh.

25 MR. RHODES: And until they would contain it

1 -- anyway, they waited until it was like fully
2 contained before they got the passengers off. I might
3 have misstated it.

4 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: So passengers headed ~~for~~
5 the had to be on the card deck, obviously, to cross-
6 over. Were they kept well away from the area?

7 MR. RHODES: Yes, sir. Right, they kept the
8 passengers over on the port side.

9 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Port side?

10 MR. RHODES: Yes, sir.

11 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: What door, do you know
12 what door they used to bring the passengers down to the
13 car deck?

14 MR. RHODES: It was the ~~Ferd~~ foward port car
15 ramp door. That's what we call it. They had both
16 doors open, but they had the ~~Ferd~~ forward port door
17 open.

18 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Okay, which ladder did
19 they go down?

20 MR. RHODES: They went down the port ladder,
21 which would be a passenger ladder going down. That
22 would be the main passenger ladder going— up toward
23 the purser's desk. Some passengers got over to the
24 other side, but the mates quickly got them organized to
25 go back over to the other side. Somehow they slipped

1 through, you know, some people panic or whatever. They
2 had it under control really quick.

3 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Okay, and were you
4 involved at all in rigging up a makeshift gangway to
5 get people to go from one ship to the other?

6 MR. RHODES: Oh, no, sir. ---I saw it side
7 going on and the mates were in charge of that to make
8 sure they had a safety line hooked up. There was
9 another mate that was out in another boat, one of the
10 little -- I don't know what kind of boat it is -- it's
11 a ~~new~~-little orange boat -- there's two of them on port
12 and starboard side and I guess there was a mate and AB,
13 I don't know if it was an AB, but they were there to
14 make sure that everything was rigged up also. And they
15 supervised the construction of the makeshift gangway
16 between the two ships.

17 EXAMINER JERRYUSCG: Okay.

18 EXAMINER Jerry Gentily: I just got one
19 question. I saw the Co2 reel— drug up and laying in
20 the control booth, but in all the interviews I've
21 heard, nobody mentioned who was on the end of that
22 nozzle and how drug that up. Do you know what I'm
23 talking about, the fixed bottles?

24 MR. RHODES: Yes.

25 EXAMINER Jerry: Well, somebody drug it up

1 and was using it. Did you see anybody drag it up or
2 use it? I haven't heard anybody talk about that in all
3 the interviews.

4 MR. RHODES: The guy that ran down into the
5 emergency generator room, I think, he's the one who
6 said he drug it up.

7 EXAMINER Jerry: Oh, he drug it up?

8 MR. RHODES: Right. He said he did it, but
9 no one used it.

10 EXAMINER Jerry: Oh, it wasn't used?

11 MR. RHODES: No, it's just dry chemical.

12 EXAMINER: No, no -- oh, its just dry
13 chemical?

14 MR. RHODES: Yes, sir.

15 EXAMINER Jerry: Oh.

16 EXAMINER TOM: The Co2 hose rail?

17 MR. RHODES: Yes.

18 EXAMINER: Yeah, sometimes that -- you know,
19 the one we were looking at --

20 EXAMINER ~~JERRY~~Tom: Right, that's Co2, that's
21 not dry chemical.

22 EXAMINER: Yeah, I know that.

23 MR. RHODES; Yeah, I was going to reel that
24 up, but by the time I started to reel that up, they
25 told me --

1 EXAMINER: Somebody had that-- about fifty
2 percent of that was ~~extended~~ expended during the fire
3 fighting efforts.

4 MR. RHODES: Maybe they used it. Was it
5 used?

6 EXAMINER Jerry: I thought it was, but I just
7 haven't heard anybody --

8 EXAMINER TOM: Somebody did mention it.

9 EXAMINER Jerry: -- in any of these
10 interviews --

11 EXAMINER TOM: -- they said they used about a
12 hundred pounds. They thought that they used maybe
13 fifty pounds of it.

14 EXAMINER: Oh, okay, I'm just curious.

15 MR. RHODES: I was just getting all the gear
16 -- you guys taught us that, to make sure the stuff is -
17 -

18 EXAMINER Tom: I think we're finished with
19 it. We appreciate you coming up and talking with us.

20 MR. RHODES: Yes, sir.

21 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)