

Brancheau's sandals floating on top of the water. Jan Topoleski then grabbed the emergency air to throw to Dawn Brancheau but he was unable to do this since he could not see her under the water. When other trainers arrived, they all began using the nets to corral Tilikum.

Jan Topoleski said it appeared Tilikum was holding Dawn Brancheau by her hair and maybe her arm as well. Throughout the ordeal, Tilikum changed the positions in which he held Dawn Brancheau. Whenever the trainers attempted to retrieve Dawn Brancheau, Tilikum became more agitated and he would not allow anyone near her. Jan Topoleski and other trainers "asked for control." This is done by slapping the water. They did this in order to try and get Tilikum to focus on them and release Dawn Brancheau. Tilikum was unresponsive to "slaps."

Jan Topoleski did not see anything incorrect or out of the ordinary that Dawn Brancheau did to agitate Tilikum. The face to face time between Dawn Brancheau and Tilikum seemed to be going well until this occurred. There were no precursors during the day on February 24, 2010, to indicate Tilikum would have reacted this way. Jan Topoleski said Tilikum does not have any toys that are similar to hair which would cause Tilikum to mistake Dawn Brancheau's hair for a toy. All of his toys are large plastic objects. He also verified no one ever goes in the pool with Tilikum because of his past history.

At approximately 1642 hours, Detective Tara Evans spoke with Jeremy Rippy. Jeremy Rippy completed a sworn, written statement affidavit. Detective Tara Evans conducted a sworn, audio recorded interview with Jeremy Rippy. This interview took place at "The Terrace." The following is a synopsis of this interview:

Jeremy Rippy is employed at Sea World as an animal trainer. He was working inside the fish house when he heard the "G" pool alarm. Jeremy Rippy immediately responded to "G" pool. He began assisting with the net reels. Four people are needed to work one net reel. Jeremy Rippy and the other people there began using the net to try and move Tilikum to the smaller pool ("F" pool). The net kept snagging on the rocks and Tilikum was able to get behind the net. He could see Tilikum was holding Dawn Brancheau in his mouth by her neck and shoulder. Jeremy Rippy continued to assist with the rescue operations until Dawn Brancheau was extricated from Tilikum.