

Isaac Harris

1. Good morning Mr. Harris, Where do you live right now?
 - a. I live at 324 West 101st.
2. What is your job at the Triangle Factory?
 - a. I am the co-owner with Mr. Blanck, I'm the manufacturer, and designer.
3. How long have you been working with Mr. Blanck?
 - a. I have been working with Blanck for 12 years.
4. Are you from the U.S. or anywhere else?
 - a. I'm originally from Russia , but immigrated
5. Mr. Harris, I'd like to discuss the lock door policy in the factory. Can you tell me about your policy regarding the 9th-floor exits?
 - a. I locked the Washington Place 9th-floor exit because many of my workers kept stealing from my company. If I didn't stop the stealing spree, the money lost would only increase.
6. About how many workers would you estimate stole from you?
 - a. I would say around 6, but I wouldn't doubt more of my employees stole.

On average how much have you lost due to stolen products?

A: About \$25 per year.

Q: So how does this theft connect to the Locked Washington Place door?

- a. I now require all workers to get their bags searched at the Greene St. Exit at the end of every day.

Q: Has this policy improved the problem of theft in the factory.

A: Yes, just a few months ago my guard caught someone trying to steal a shirtwaist by wrapping it in their hair.

7. Mr. Harris Were there any previous fires in the factory before this one?
 - a. Yes, two fires in 1902
8. Was the fire serious?
 - a. Yes, unfortunately, my sister almost tragically died in one of them too. It still haunts me to this day.

9. Very unfortunate Mr. Blanck. Was anything done to improve the safety of the factory following these fires?
 - a. I only rent the building, I don't own it, so I don't have a say in what safety precautions are taken.
10. Were you at work on March 25, 1911?
 - a. Yes, I was in my office when the fire started
11. What floor were you on when you were informed about this fire?
 - a. The 10th floor, in my office.
12. How were you informed about the fire?
 - a. I heard girls screaming outside my office "fire".
13. What did you do after you heard them?
 - a. I rushed all the girls into the elevator.
14. How did you feel at this moment?
 - a. I felt very nervous and scared, but I knew I had to save the girls and prevent another tragedy.
15. Did you know there were fires on the 8th and 9th floors?
 - a. No, I did not.
16. Did you ever stop to think there was a fire on the other floors?
 - a. I couldn't, I needed to save the other girls before I could worry about anything else. Keeping them safe was the only thing on my mind.
17. Was the fire serious?
 - a. Yes.
18. So were you able to get all the workers onto the elevator?
 - a. No, I told the operator to come back up, he did twice, but then the elevator didn't come again.
19. What did you think to do next?
 - a. I wanted to use the fire escape, but it is in the packing room which was covered in fire
20. So where did you lead the remaining 10th-floor workers?
 - a. I started to yell to all the girls, to run to the roof. I just knew we had to get out of the building
21. Was the door to the roof on the Washington place side or the Greene street side?
 - a. Greene street.

22. Where did you go after you went to the roof?

a. To the building next door.

23. How did you manage to get there?

a. There were some bricks barely sticking out of the building and I managed to get a grip on them and barely pull myself up.

24. How tall was the wall that you climbed?

a. About 10-11 feet.

25. Did you leave the girls at the Asch building?

a. No.

26. So then what did you do when you got to the building next door?

a. I broke the skylight of the building I was on, so I could shout for an engineer from the building to open the roof door to help the girls to get safely on the roof I was on.

27. So how did the girls end up on the roof?

a. When an engineer finally came, he brought a step ladder so the girls could climb up to the roof. That's how the girls ended up on the roof.

28. Thank you, Mr. Harris, for your brave actions, no more further questions your honor.

