

411

October 3, 1949

Memorandum

To: Supt. of Motive Power & Equipment
 From: Acting Assistant General Manager
 Subject: Damage to Engine No. 401 on September 22, 1949

Reference is made to the recent damage to Engine 401 account of laborer Grippo building fire in this engine without first filling boiler with water.

In view of the facts brought out by the investigation of this incident, you will please inaugurate the following changes immediately:

a. Hostlers and/or hostler helpers, or other qualified personnel, will henceforth be used to light-off engines. Laborers will not be used for this purpose henceforth.

b. The Roundhouse foreman will personally check and so note on a blackboard, which you will provide for that purpose, that an engine has the proper water level before issuing instructions to light-off any engine.

c. Boiler-makers washing out engines will make the proper notations on the above-mentioned blackboard, indicating whether they left the engines drained or full.

d. You will inaugurate any further safeguard practices in this connection that may occur to you.

JOHN E. MANLEY

J. E. Manley
 Acting Assistant
 General Manager

JEM:lmm

Anchorage, Alaska
September 28, 1949

Mr. Louis Grippio
Laborer
Anchorage

You will please be present at investigation held in Superintendent of Motive Power and Equipment's office at 10 a.m. Thursday, September 29, 1949, to determine your responsibility in damage to engine 401 by lighting fire with no water in boiler, afternoon of Thursday September 22. You may bring as your representative an employee of your own choosing if you so desire.

G. A. Benedict
Supt., M.P. & E.

cc: Mr. Kenneth Smith, Night Roundhouse Foreman
Mr. W. F. Brady, Roundhouse Foreman

Anchorage, Alaska
September 28, 1949

Mr. J. E. Manley
Actg. Asst. Gen. Mgr.

Please note the attached file in regard to damaging engine 401 which is self-explanatory.

A transcript of the investigation will be submitted to your office with recommendations or action taken regarding this damage.

In the meantime, it will be necessary to place engine 401 on storage track until such time as labor and material are available to place in shops for repairs.

The Alaska Railroad
RECEIVED

SEP 28 1949

Attachment

OFFICE OF
Asst. General Manager

G. A. Benedict
G. A. Benedict
Supt., M.P. & E.

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Y

Anchorage, Alaska
September 22, 1949

Mr. M. T. Hughes
Master Mechanic

Dear Sir:

Engine 401 was fired at 5:15 p.m. this date without water in the boiler.

I instructed the fire builder Grippe to get Engine 401 ready for fire. Then I went to the Diesel Shop to see how work was progressing there.

I was at the Diesel Shop 20 minutes or so, when I returned to check the 401 for fire, found fire already built. Found no water in water glass or gauge cocks and immediately dropped fire.

Called Mr. Brady, who examined fire box and found crown sheet damaged. He in turn notified you.

Yours truly,

/s/ Kenneth Smith
Nite R.H. Foreman

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Anchorage, Alaska
September 27, 1949

Mr. G. A. Benedict
Supt., Motive Power & Equip.

Subject: Damage to boiler of Engine 401.

Night Roundhouse Foreman, K. Smith, came to my home about 6 p.m. on September 22 and informed me that Engine 401 had been fired without water in the boiler.

I came down to roundhouse and entered firebox and upon finding crown and flue sheet damaged, immediately notified Mr. M. T. Hughes, Master Mechanic.

Upon close inspection by boilermakers the firebox was found to be badly damaged.

Yours truly,

/s/ W. F. Brady

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Anchorage, Alaska
September 27, 1949

Mr. G. A. Benedict
Supt., M.P.&E.

Dear Sir:

Subject: Report on boiler of Locomotive #401.

The back flue sheet is cracked about forty inches in the heel of the flange at the top. At least four bridges are broken between flue holes.

The flues are over seven years' old and are in very poor condition, developing cracks inside of flue sheet.

Crown sheet shows distortion for quite an area, a buckle through the center, running longwise with the sheet and distortion between radial stays.

I would recommend that this locomotive be withdrawn from service until such repairs, as new flue sheet and new flues have been replaced, and other repairs made.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ W. H. Cannon

W. H. Cannon
Acting Boilermaker Foreman
and Inspector

WHCannon:mg
Mech.