

1 out, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. Now, if you would, Mr. Neva,  
4 walk the jury through what you and Mr. Xiong  
5 did the day you went out to the Weiss property.

6 A. What we did?

7 Q. Yes, sir.

8 A. Well, first thing, when we got to the  
9 property is introduce ourself to Mr. and Mrs.  
10 Weiss and my recollection is that Mr. Weiss,  
11 after introducing himself, the first thing that  
12 I recall him saying is: What does it look like  
13 to you?

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I said that it looks like a  
16 tornado hit it to me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And the reason that I said that off  
19 the top of much my head was that because the  
20 concrete posts that had supported the structure  
21 were lying in every direction rather than in a  
22 general direction.

23 And so then, you know, I gathered  
24 information from them. They showed me photos  
25 of what the property looked like prior to the

1 hurricane so that I could -- had the  
2 information on -- on the, you know, the house;  
3 what had been there.

4 I took a lot of photos of, you know,  
5 what was at the site itself as far as on the  
6 slab and around the edges of the slab and then  
7 the trees in the vicinity. And Tao, I believe,  
8 probably took the notes while I was taking the  
9 photos and talking with Mrs. and Mrs. Weiss.

10 Q. Okay. And we're going to talk a  
11 little bit more about the inspection, but at  
12 the conclusion when you and Tao left the  
13 property you had expressed to Dr. and  
14 Mrs. Weiss that it was your belief that it was  
15 a tornado or a high wind event that did the  
16 majority of the structure -- the damage to the  
17 structure of this house, correct?

18 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

19 Objection; leading.

20 MR. TRAHANT:

21 You can answer.

22 THE WITNESS:

23 I believe that I -- that I  
24 said that -- that it looked like  
25 tornado --

1 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

2 Q. Okay. And --

3 A. -- at the time when I left the  
4 property.

5 Q. Sure. And while you were out there  
6 you had an opportunity to observe other  
7 structures --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- on Treasure Isle --

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. -- that were elevated and still  
12 standing, correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Okay. And so as the two individuals  
15 who actually went out to the property both you  
16 and Mr. Xiong were in agreement when you left  
17 the property that day that this was more likely  
18 a wind event that primarily destroyed this  
19 house, --

20 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

21 Objection; --

22 MR. TRAHANT;

23 -- correct?

24 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

25 -- leading.

1 MR. TRAHANT:

2 You can answer it.

3 THE WITNESS:

4 Yes.

5 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

6 Q. I was produced yesterday, Mr. Neva, a  
7 collection of documents from Rimkus Consulting  
8 Group and I'd like to get you to take a look  
9 these.

10 MR. TRAHANT:

11 Go off the record for just a  
12 second.

13 (Whereupon a break in proceedings was held.)

14 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

15 Q. All right. We went off the record,  
16 Mr. Neva, and I presented you with some  
17 documents that I received pursuant to a  
18 subpoena to Rimkus Consulting Group and you  
19 identified the second -- or the page that is on  
20 the top of the stack that you have as the  
21 second page of your assignment sheet, correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you identified about halfway down  
24 the handwriting as being that of Tao Xiong,  
25 correct?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And Tao actually noted in there with a  
3 question mark by it "small tornado," correct?

4 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

5 Objection. These aren't his  
6 notes, so the fact that that's  
7 noted is fine, but to the extent  
8 anything goes beyond that --

9 MR. TRAHANT:

10 Do you know who --

11 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

12 -- Mr. Neva shouldn't be  
13 opining as to what Mr. Xiong  
14 meant.

15 MR. TRAHANT:

16 I'll break it down.

17 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

18 Q. Mr. Xiong wrote "small tornado,"  
19 correct?

20 MS. CUNNINGHAM:

21 And for the record, I think it  
22 says "small tornado question  
23 mark."

24 MR. TRAHANT:

25 I already said that.

1 THE WITNESS:

2 Yes, he has in parenthesis,  
3 "small tornado question mark."

4 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

5 Q. And that's consistent with the  
6 discussions that you had with Tao, correct?

7 A. MS. CUNNINGHAM:

8 Objection; vague.

9 EXAMINATION BY MR. TRAHANT:

10 Q. Regarding what could potentially have  
11 been what you likely thought was the origin of  
12 the disappearance of the Weiss house, correct?

13 A. I don't really recall what discussions  
14 I may or may have -- may or may not have had  
15 with Tao at the time. I only recall that we  
16 agreed that it looked like it -- looked like a  
17 tornado hit.

18 Q. And Tao, I think you said, is a  
19 professional engineer, licensed, correct?

20 A. In the State of Washington, yeah. He  
21 may be in Louisiana now, too, but I don't know.  
22 Cause we got a lot of our engineers licensed in  
23 Louisiana as well, as it looked like this was  
24 going to be ongoing work for us.

25 Q. Okay. And you referred earlier to