

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

FIRE IN CARGO HOLD ABOARD THE \* Accident No.: DCA18FM025  
CHIPOLBROK MOON \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: LI MO  
Oiler

On Board the *Chipolbrok Moon*

Sunday,  
May 27, 2018

## APPEARANCES:

BRIAN YOUNG, Investigator in Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

CWO [REDACTED], Investigating Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard

DEAN HENSLEY, Chief Investigator  
Harris County Fire Marshal

DANIEL SPEARS, Fire Investigator  
Port of Houston Authority

SLAWOMIR PIANKOWSKI  
Chipolbrok America

NAING WIN CHO  
Seatran Maritime

DOMINIK SCHAFER, Surveyor  
Sea of Gravity

ZHAO JIANBING, Captain  
*Chipolbrok Moon*  
(Translator for Mr. Mo)

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Li Mo, Oiler:

By CWO [REDACTED]

4

By Mr. Young

6

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 CWO [REDACTED] This is Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] with U.S.  
3 Coast Guard. We're going to resume the questioning with the  
4 *Chipolbrok Moon* fire investigation, and we're going to be talking  
5 with the oiler, Li Mo. Today is Sunday, 27th.

6 Can you say and also spell your name using international  
7 phonetic alphabet?

8 CAPT. JIANBING: His name is Li Mo.

9 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. Does he speak or understand English?

10 CAPT. JIANBING: Cannot speak English.

11 CWO [REDACTED] Okay.

12 (Whereupon, Captain Zhao Jianbing translated the questions  
13 and answers for Mr. Mo.)

INTERVIEW OF OILER LI MO

14 BY CWO [REDACTED]

15 Q. Were you a watchman during the hot work?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When did you first -- did you hear a fire alarm first or did  
18 you see smoke first? When did you first know there was a fire?

19 A. First, at starboard side he first smell some smoke, and then  
20 he hear the alarm.

21 Q. How much time -- so you smelled some smoke. How much time  
22 before you heard alarm?

23 A. Almost at the same time. One minute, because I don't have  
24 watch, I have to check one.  
25

1 Q. And where did you come out of the number 3 starboard hold?  
2 Was it on the forward stairwell or aft stairwell to the cargo  
3 hold? Where did you exit?  
4 A. After part.  
5 Q. So the aft stairwell --  
6 A. Stairwell.  
7 Q. -- the ladderwell.  
8 A. Yeah, stairwell.  
9 Q. Okay. Where did -- when you came out 3 aft or the  
10 ladderwell, where did you see smoke?  
11 A. Number 3 port side out past the manhole.  
12 Q. Manhole. Manhole for 3 port.  
13 What did you do after the fire alarm? What were your fire  
14 duties after the fire alarm?  
15 A. When the fire alarm sound he smell -- also he smell smoke, he  
16 search around on the, up one deck. After one deck, and he didn't  
17 find anything, go out. Okay, go out and re-cover the  
18 (indiscernible) pipe.  
19 Q. So he's the one that pulled in the acetylene hose?  
20 A. Yeah.  
21 Q. Okay. That was very good.  
22 A. Yeah. And also he --  
23 Q. That's very good.  
24 A. -- they call the bridge (indiscernible).  
25 Q. Yeah.

1 A. (Indiscernible) crews closed the valve.

2 Q. And closed the valve. So you -- when you got out, you pulled  
3 the oxygen acetylene hose out and turned off the valve to oxygen  
4 acetylene?

5 A. Just as soon as he went down other (indiscernible).

6 Q. Okay. Yeah, that's very good.

7 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. I don't have any other questions.

8 BY MR. YOUNG:

9 Q. This is Brian Young with the NTSB. A few more questions,  
10 please. How are you trained to be a fire watch?

11 A. Before the cutting job, before the cutting job, the chief  
12 engineer give him training.

13 Q. So the training was on the ship?

14 A. As a watchman.

15 Q. As a watchman?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And did that include firefighting techniques as well? What  
18 did the training include?

19 CAPT. JIANBING: I have a safety manual, safety manual plan.  
20 On my ship safety manual plan -- we have the manual, we have the  
21 manual how to get -- how to do the hot job, how to do the hot and  
22 to the fire, to look out as a fire watch. They have the manual.

23 MR. YOUNG: And is that part of your safety management  
24 system?

25 CAPT. JIANBING: Yeah.

1 MR. YOUNG: And it includes training for --

2 CAPT. JIANBING: Yes, yes.

3 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

4 MR. YOUNG: And as a captain and an oiler, is that some sort  
5 of training that you conduct with the crew? How does the crew get  
6 trained on these procedures?

7 CAPT. JIANBING: We also follow my safety manual.

8 MR. YOUNG: Okay. My question is, does the manual require  
9 training?

10 CAPT. JIANBING: Yeah.

11 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

12 MR. PIANKOWSKI: If I may ask? Every single person,  
13 whatever, as a cook, mess (indiscernible), oiler, seaman, captain,  
14 they have fire training at their home country. This is required  
15 by the SOLAS, by the STCW Convention. They have the basic one.  
16 They have the advance, the advance one. The officer, they have  
17 the advance one. Besides this training, they have every -- they  
18 need to -- they have, every 5 years they need to go --

19 CAPT. JIANBING: Refresher course.

20 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Refresher course. They have -- additional,  
21 they have the manual on board, they have the drills they have to  
22 follow every -- how many of -- how many drills are --

23 CAPT. JIANBING: The firefight.

24 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Yeah, fire -- how many drill, fire drill you  
25 do every month?

1           CAPT. JIANBING: Four times.

2           MR. PIANKOWSKI: Four times. So this is only --

3           CAPT. JIANBING: One week.

4           MR. PIANKOWSKI: I understand that the SOLAS so far is every  
5 2 weeks, but the company says once per week, right? So this is  
6 the training that you had, right?

7           CAPT. JIANBING: Yeah.

8           MR. PIANKOWSKI: And before the assigned job, did anybody  
9 tell you what to look at, what to look for?

10          CAPT. JIANBING: Yes.

11          MR. PIANKOWSKI: Yes? Okay.

12          MR. YOUNG: That's exactly what I would --

13          CAPT. JIANBING: Yes.

14          MR. YOUNG: I would want to see the -- I want to see the  
15 procedures in place --

16          MR. PIANKOWSKI: Yes.

17          MR. YOUNG: -- and how they're carried out from --

18          MR. PIANKOWSKI: I understand.

19          MR. YOUNG: -- company to captain to the fire watch.

20          MR. PIANKOWSKI: Yeah, I understand. Yes.

21          MR. YOUNG: That's what I was trying to get at. So --

22          MR. PIANKOWSKI: Okay.

23          MR. YOUNG: Okay. So it's -- and then just to follow up, so  
24 the procedures in the safety management system, there are a bunch  
25 of policies about firefighting and hot work. But my question was



1 how often are these policies -- or what's the requirement so that  
2 the crew understands these policies? Like how does the crew  
3 understand the safety management system policies?

4 CAPT. JIANBING: We get training, we get training every  
5 month. Every trip we start training from the start trip from the  
6 commences voyage, because we have new crews join, so we start  
7 training.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. And is there a familiarization  
9 presentation or something when new crew comes aboard the ship that  
10 identifies fire alarm, firefighting? Is there some sort of  
11 familiarization that the crew receives when they come on the ship  
12 as new crew?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One part of it is a checklist for the  
14 new crew.

15 MR. PIANKOWSKI: When a new crew join the ship, after doing  
16 the familiarization on --

17 CAPT. JIANBING: Yes.

18 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Yes?

19 CAPT. JIANBING: Yes, we have.

20 MR. YOUNG: Okay. So that the crew would understand what  
21 sound of the alarm would be, where the firefighting gear is; is  
22 that all included in the information?

23 CAPT. JIANBING: Yeah. No, of course.

24 BY MR. YOUNG:

25 Q. At the time of the fire were there any other locations of hot

1 work going on?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. And what firefighting extinguishers did you have as  
4 a fire watch?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the extinguisher or hose that he was using?

7 A. Fire extinguisher.

8 Q. Extinguisher. Okay. And were you as the fire watch  
9 following the welder or working below the welder?

10 A. He follows the fit, the (indiscernible) with the fitter.

11 Q. With the fitter?

12 CAPT. JIANBING: Um-hum.

13 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

14 BY MR. YOUNG:

15 Q. Did you see or notice anything strange during the welding and  
16 the cutting?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And are you a fire watch frequently or is this your first  
19 time ever as a fire watch?

20 A. Frequently.

21 Q. Frequently fire watch. Okay.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. That's all I have.

23 Anybody else?

24 Okay. We'll stop the recording.

25 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: FIRE IN CARGO HOLD ABOARD THE  
*CHIPOLBROK MOON*  
Interview of Li Mo, Oiler

ACCIDENT NO. DCA18FM025

PLACE: On board the *Chipolbrok Moon*

DATE: May 27, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

  
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Kay Maurer  
Transcriber