

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: ZHU CHUANCHUAN
Second Mate

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

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 CWO [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] with U.S. Coast Guard. We're going to
3 resume interviews with the *Chipolbrok Moon*. Today is Sunday, May
4 27th. We're going to be speaking with the second mate.

5 Can you pronounce your name and then also spell it for the
6 recording?

7 MR. CHUANCHUAN: My name?

8 CWO [REDACTED] Yes.

9 MR. CHUANCHUAN: My name is Zhu Chuanchuan.

10 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. And can you spell that name, please?

11 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Spell name? Okay.

12 CWO [REDACTED] You can use international phonetic spelling.

13 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Zulu-Hotel-Uniform; Charlie-Hotel-Uniform-
14 Alpha-November-Charlie-Hotel-Uniform-Alpha-November, Zhu
15 Chuanchuan, my name.

INTERVIEW OF SECOND MATE ZHU CHUANCHUAN

16
17 BY CWO [REDACTED]

18 Q. And mate, just talk to us about how long have you been
19 sailing, how long have you been a second mate, and then from there
20 just go into what you recall from the night of the fire.

21 A. Well, I watch (indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

23 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Okay. I stay in this vessel about 2 months.
24 And about 2300 --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not yet.

1 BY CWO [REDACTED]

2 Q. How long have you been sailing?

3 A. I was sailor, sailor 8 years.

4 Q. Eight? Eight years.

5 A. Eight. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Talk to us -- it's our understanding from previous
7 interviews that you were watchman during the hot work. Can you
8 talk to us about what you were doing during the hot work and then
9 when you first discovered that there was a fire? Can you talk to
10 us about that?

11 A. Okay. About 2300 log time, 22 May, and I taken over the
12 watching job from the third officer. And about 2310, we finish
13 cutting the job from the port side, number 3 port side. And from
14 about 2310 time to 2335 log time, I always stay in the number 3
15 port side to watch for fire. And I take along the hose and find
16 no smoke -- no smoking, no haze (indiscernible). And about 2340
17 log time I get out from the number 3 port side and go to
18 (indiscernible) to number 3 starboard side to continue watching,
19 watching the job. And about 0010 log time I sound, I sounded
20 there's a fire alarm.

21 MR. PIANKOWSKI: You heard. You --

22 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I heard, I heard.

23 MR. PIANKOWSKI: You heard the fire alarm?

24 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Yes, fire alarm. So I got out of what was
25 number 3 starboard side. I went to the bridge to make sure why is

1 a -- why some alarm. And --

2 BY CWO [REDACTED]

3 Q. Did you see smoke when you came out of 3 starboard?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So at that point you didn't see smoke --

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. -- so you went to the bridge --

8 A. No, (indiscernible) sees the smoke. Because I catch on to --
9 from the number 3 starboard side.

10 Q. Was the ventilation open or shut on 3 port when you finished
11 the hot work in there? Was the ventilation still open?

12 A. Ventilation is just the natural ventilation.

13 Q. So it was open for natural -- no mechanical fan? No --

14 A. No, no mechanical.

15 Q. How long after -- so the fire alarm is going off. You went
16 to the bridge. When did you first see the smoke?

17 A. About when I heard the sound alarm, about 2 minutes, we saw
18 the smoke from number 3 hold port side.

19 (Conversation in Chinese)

20 MR. CHUANCHUAN: About 0012.

21 MR. PIANKOWSKI: 0012, 0012. Two minutes, 2 minutes.

22 CWO [REDACTED] Okay.

23 MR. HENSLEY: What did he see for 2 minutes? The smoke?

24 MR. YOUNG: Smoke.

25 MR. HENSLEY: Okay.

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

2 MR. YOUNG: Second mate, this is Brian Young. I'm with the
3 NTSB.

4 BY MR. YOUNG:

5 Q. Where were you when you saw the smoke?

6 A. I saw smoke, I stays on deck. On deck and heard the fire
7 alarm. So I go out to (indiscernible) number 3 starboard side.
8 While I prepare to go to the bridge, so I saw the smoke from the -
9 -- outside from the number 3 port side.

10 Q. Before you went to the starboard side, you stayed on the port
11 side --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- for about 25 minutes.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. What deck were you on when you were observing the completion
16 of hot work?

17 A. I stayed number 3 port side to patrol, patrol around.

18 (Conversation in Chinese)

19 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Which deck?

20 MR. CHUANCHUAN: I stay to patrol the hold, whole hold.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lower.

22 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Low hold and sometimes I stay low hold and
23 sometimes I patrol around (indiscernible) deck.

24 BY MR. YOUNG:

25 Q. You patrol around --

1 A. Yeah, yeah. Patrol.

2 Q. Patrol lower deck?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And the next deck up?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. Okay. And did you change decks in the time after the hot
7 work was complete or did you stay in one location?

8 A. I always patrol.

9 Q. You patrol?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. When you patrol as a hot work fire watch --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- are you carrying any sort of fire protection equipment?

14 A. Yeah, yeah. We have the (indiscernible).

15 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Huh? What's (indiscernible)?

16 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Fire -- we have the fire hose. Yeah, fire
17 hose. Fire extinguish.

18 BY MR. YOUNG:

19 Q. Fire extinguisher?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. And which piece of equipment did you have as a fire
22 watch, as a patrol?

23 A. We have the fire extinguisher.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And do you remember what class fire extinguisher it was? A,
2 B, or C?

3 MR. PIANKOWSKI: What type? What model (indiscernible)?

4 MR. CHUANCHUAN: It's dry powder.

5 BY MR. YOUNG:

6 Q. Dry powder?

7 A. Yeah, dry powder. Dry powder.

8 Q. Dry powder. And was the fire extinguisher already in the
9 cargo hold or did you have to take it from somewhere?

10 A. Already in cargo hold.

11 Q. In the cargo hold.

12 (Conversation in Chinese)

13 MR. CHUANCHUAN: No, he called. After I was -- while I stay
14 in the low hold, I already get the fire fight extinguish ready.

15 BY MR. YOUNG:

16 Q. Okay. Was there also a hose for water in the space?

17 A. We came, they already get already the fire hose already.

18 Q. Okay. And to be clear, a fire hose from the fire system or
19 a garden hose from a small valve?

20 A. Garden, garden.

21 Q. Garden hose. Okay.

22 What is your normal in-port watch schedule?

23 A. (Indiscernible) just normal. Normal.

24 MR. PIANKOWSKI: Normal morning?

25 MR. CHUANCHUAN: Yeah. I have because normal, normal duty.

1 My duty in the port just is I will watch discharging the cargo.

2 BY MR. YOUNG:

3 Q. What time, what time in port do you start watch and stop
4 watch?

5 A. Start watch from 000 to 0400. And in the morning, I also
6 1200 to 1600.

7 Q. So you're on the 12 to 4 watch? Twelve noon to 16; midnight
8 to 0400 watch? Is that the same for at sea?

9 A. Yeah, same time at sea, but not, not as (indiscernible).
10 Just, just about 9 hour or 10 hour in port.

11 MR. PIANKOWSKI: I still didn't understand what's your
12 question. I didn't understand.

13 BY MR. YOUNG:

14 Q. I want to understand what hours he works at sea and then in
15 port.

16 A. At sea we got daytime, we from the noontime 12:00, at 16
17 clock we got 4 hours; then midnight we from the 00 to 0400. We
18 get, normally we get 8 hours. Duty officer get 8 hours. Normally
19 at sea same as in port.

20 Q. Okay. Same. So on the night of the fire, were you just
21 starting your --

22 A. Starting 2300. Normally we have -- vessel normally duty job
23 8 hours, but the (indiscernible) we need to call my crew to do
24 overtime.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. It's normal 1 hour or maybe half hour is overtime for the
2 job. We come and you -- come in here to discharge this cargo, so
3 we need some people to do the overtime.

4 Q. Okay. So normally the watch would start at midnight, but we
5 needed extra help, so 2300 is overtime --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- before starting the normal work hour?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Okay. Were you -- I understand you were the fire watch.
10 Were you also the duty officer for the whole ship, or was there
11 another person on watch roaming the ship?

12 A. Yes, (indiscernible) the ship.

13 Q. I'm sorry?

14 A. I can explain. We take, we take over the fire watchman, the
15 second officer only relieves. Third officer is the duty officer
16 on the boat, on the deck. On deck he is the main eyes. No
17 stevedore, no discharging work -- no discharging work, we can
18 (indiscernible) already I send people, because my crew work on
19 boat, clean the chain, and sometimes (indiscernible)

20 Q. So the gangway was manned with --

21 A. With AB.

22 Q. An AB.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And the third officer was --

25 A. As a duty officer.

1 Q. Duty officer until midnight?

2 A. End at midnight.

3 Q. Midnight.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And then at midnight, who becomes the duty officer?

6 A. At midnight, after I reach at midnight, so possibly
7 (indiscernible) that the hot work will be cut and finished.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Cut and finished. If cut and finished, the second officer
10 will be -- renew the computer as a duty officer.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But the accident is happen.

13 Q. Okay. Understood.

14 Who was the fire watch before you came down at 2300?

15 A. Third officer.

16 Q. Third officer. Yeah. Okay.

17 And was there also another fire watch while you were fire
18 watch?

19 MR. PIANKOWSKI: He means (indiscernible) --

20 MR. CHUANCHUAN: We have -- was another fire watch.

21 BY MR. YOUNG:

22 Q. Okay. And where was that man located?

23 A. He located different, different cuttings.

24 (Conversation in Chinese)

25 MR. CHUANCHUAN: I stay with the fitter.

1 BY MR. YOUNG:

2 Q. With the fitter?

3 A. Yeah, with fitter.

4 Q. Okay. And have you been trained in your maritime career in
5 firefighting?

6 A. Yeah, in training.

7 Q. Okay. And do you remember seeing any sort of fire protection
8 such as fire blankets in the area where the hot work was going on?

9 A. Yes. We advise that --

10 MR. PIANKOWSKI: No --

11 MR. CHUANCHUAN: We have already prepare underneath.

12 MR. PIANKOWSKI: (Speaking Chinese)

13 MR. CHUANCHUAN: I watch. I watch this --

14 MR. PIANKOWSKI: He say he saw it.

15 BY MR. YOUNG:

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I saw. I saw.

18 Q. And you remember seeing them on one level or several levels?

19 A. Where? At different levels, the car was this, cover this
20 (indiscernible) bag, I saw this.

21 Q. And when you were working in the cargo hold at 2300, is it
22 dark and you need a torch or is it very well lit up like this
23 room?

24 A. Well -- bright. Because the lighting is very good for we can
25 saw everything very clear.

1 Q. Very clear. Do you need a torch?

2 A. No, don't need a torch.

3 Q. Don't need a torch.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. On all level? On lower level, middle level --

6 A. Yeah, because -- yeah, but it's (indiscernible)

7 (Conversation in Chinese)

8 MR. CHUANCHUAN: But maybe in the low level, they gave us a
9 torch, torch (indiscernible) to check.

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

11 CWO [REDACTED] Anybody have any questions?

12 MR. YOUNG: Okay. We'll stop the recording. It is 11:26.

13 Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, at 11:26 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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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 Zhu Chuanchuan, Second Mate

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.



Kay Maurer
Transcriber