



## U.S. COAST GUARD INTERVIEW SUMMARY

**Matter Under Investigation:** Main Space Engine Room Fire aboard the Passenger Vessel SANDY GROUND (O.N. 1299657), which occurred in the Upper Bay of New York Harbor on December 22, 2022.

**Interview Of:** Shane I. D. Thomas, Assistant Captain of the SANDY GROUND

**Date/Time:** December 22, 2022 / 2250

**Location:** St. George Ferry Terminal, Staten Island, NY

**Interviewed By:** CWO [REDACTED]

**Others Present:** CDR [REDACTED], Mr. Ralph Savercool

Mr. Shane Thomas, of [REDACTED] was the Assistant Captain onboard the SANDY GROUND at the time of the main space engine room fire. Mr. Thomas stated that the vessel departed the Whitehall Ferry Terminal at 1640. He related that at approximately 1650, the Chief Marine Engineer called to notify the bridge of a fuel oil leak. Mr. Thomas stated that at approximately 1651-1652, the Chief Marine Engineer called the bridge that the engines needed to be secured and that the vessel needed tug assist to maneuver back to the terminal.

Mr. Thomas related that there was a shutdown of the engines but was unsure who secured the engines and how they were secured. He related that he steered the SANDY GROUND to the center of the channel to anchor the vessel. Mr. Thomas stated that he had communicated with VTS for notification of the incident. He related that he noticed some alarms on the engineer alarm panel and was unsure on what the alarms were. Mr. Thomas stated that he realized something was going on since the alarms were going off.

Mr. Thomas was cooperative during the interview and answered all questions asked. He agreed to answer further questions at another time if it became necessary.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CWO, USCG

December 24, 2022