



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: Mark K. Tettonis, Chief Marine Engineer of the SANDY GROUND

Date/Time: December 28, 2022 / 1105

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

Interviewed By: CWO [REDACTED]

Others Present: LT [REDACTED] Mr. Brian Young (NTSB)

Mr. Mark Tettonis, of [REDACTED] was a 1982 graduate of SUNY Maritime College and had been employed with the Staten Island Ferry for 28 years. He was the Chief Marine Engineer onboard the SANDY GROUND on December 22, 2022, during the morning shift and was relieved by the Chief Marine Engineer on the afternoon shift, prior to the engine room fire. Mr. Tettonis stated that he is usually assigned as a Port Engineer and would assume the position of Chief Marine Engineer as needed. He related that his morning shift had started at 0330, he did a passdown with the oncoming Chief Marine Engineer at 1400 and was relieved by the afternoon crew at 1430.

Mr. Tettonis stated that engineering rounds are alternated between the Marine Engineer and the Marine Oilers. He related that Marine Oilers would snap pictures during engine room and machinery rounds then transcribe the information to the engineering log. Mr. Tettonis stated that he did not notice any abnormal alarms or conditions with the fuel oil service system or flow meters. He related that the fuel oil day tanks feed the engines with the fuel oil purifier online on the fuel oil supply. Mr. Tettonis stated that the training he received for the Ollis Class vessels was conducted through the course of several days, with some days having more training time than others. He related that there were two training officers who trained the Staten Island Ferry crews on the Ollis Class vessels. Mr. Tettonis stated that lube oil samples are standard for the Staten Island Ferry and that he did not recall any major issues related to vessel warranties.

Mr. Tettonis 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 30, 2022