



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: Alexander D. Wood, Marine Engineer of the SANDY GROUND

Date/Time: December 22, 2022 / 2130

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

Interviewed By: CWO [REDACTED]

Others Present: CDR [REDACTED] Mr. Ralph Savercool

Mr. Alexander Wood, of [REDACTED] was the Marine Engineer onboard the SANDY GROUND at the time of the main space engine room fire. Mr. Wood stated that as he walked into the engine room, he had smelled fuel oil in the air and saw fuel oil spraying. Mr. Wood related that he saw a fuel oil mist raining down around the #2 main diesel engine in the vicinity of the waste heat exchanger. He went into the engine control room to notify the Chief Marine Engineer and shortly after the fire erupted on the #2 main diesel engine exhaust manifold, close to the turbocharger.

Mr. Wood related that he does not know how the main diesel engines had shutdown. After evacuating the engine room, Mr. Wood was directed by the Chief Marine Engineer for crowd control of passengers. Mr. Wood related that he had not done a replacement of fuel oil filters on the #2 main diesel engine. He related that he had no inventory of main diesel engine fuel oil filters onboard but is aware that replacement fuel oil filters were onboard.

Mr. Wood 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