



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: Edward M. Tingling, Marine Oiler of the SANDY GROUND

Date/Time: December 22, 2022 / 2210

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

Interviewed By: CWO [REDACTED]

Others Present: CDR [REDACTED] Mr. Ralph Savercool

Mr. Edward Tingling, of [REDACTED] was one of two Marine Oilers onboard the SANDY GROUND at the time of the main space engine room fire. Mr. Tingling stated that during the watch, he had noticed about a 500-gallon difference between the starboard and port fuel oil day tanks and was concerned. Mr. Tingling related that typically, the fuel oil day tanks are kept level at about 2000 gallons. Mr. Tingling stated that at the time of his round between 1640-1650, there was fuel oil spraying out from the #3 and #4 main diesel engine spin-on fuel filters.

Mr. Tingling related that he attempted to put absorbent pads on the fuel oil leak. He stated that flames erupted from the #2 main diesel engine in front of him as he tried to stem the leak from spraying onto the engine exhaust. Mr. Tingling related that he alerted the Chief Marine Engineer and called out "Fire!, Fire!, Fire!". He stated that the Chief Marine Engineer directed the evacuation of the engine control room and that he was the first one out of the space then assisted others as they were getting out.

Mr. Tingling related that some passengers were on deck near the hatch when the engineers had exited, but that no smoke escaped out from the engine room. He stated that a fire hose was energized and that he manned the fire hose. Mr. Tingling related that he had not changed out fuel oil filters on the SANDY GROUND but has changed fuel oil filters on other vessels. He stated that during the 1430 watch turnover with the morning crew, all machinery appeared normal, and that all the machinery equipment had already been running.

Mr. Tingling 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