



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: Robert D. Wallen, Mate of the SANDY GROUND

Date/Time: December 22, 2022 / 2300

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

Interviewed By: CWO [REDACTED]

Others Present: CDR [REDACTED] Mr. Ralph Savercool

Mr. Robert Wallen, of [REDACTED] was one of three Mates onboard the SANDY GROUND and was in the bridge at the time of the main space engine room fire. Mr. Wallen stated that the vessel departed the Whitehall Ferry Terminal at 1640. He related that at approximately 1650, the Chief Marine Engineer notified the bridge that they had a fuel oil leak and that the vessel needed tug assist.

Mr. Wallen stated that he observed a New York End smoke alarm on the fire panel when the engines were secured. He related that at approximately 1700, both anchors were deployed, and that he was involved with the anchor detail. He stated that he had observed black smoke coming out from the stack during anchor detail. Mr. Wallen related that the smoke was light then became heavy.

Mr. Wallen 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