



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of Marine Safety

Interview Summary

Accident: Fire aboard Small Passenger Vessel *Conception* (NTSB No. DCA19MM047)

Date: September 2, 2019 at 0314 PDT

Location: Platts Harbor, Pacific Ocean near Santa Cruz Island, California, 34°02.99' N, 119°44.10' W

Person Interviewed: Mr. David Savage, passenger on *Vision* October 7 to 10, 2018

Interview Conducted By: Adam Tucker, NTSB – by telephone

Summary Provided By: Adam Tucker, NTSB

OVERVIEW

Mr. Savage was a passenger on board the Truth Aquatics, Inc. small passenger vessel *Vision*, from October 7 to 10, 2018 during a chartered dive trip with the Bug Brothers group. Mr. Savage was interviewed via telephone on August 12, 2020, between 1356 and 1407 EDT in conjunction with the investigation into the September 2 accident involving the small passenger vessel *Conception*, which caught fire and sank resulting in 34 fatalities while it was anchored in Platts Harbor off Santa Cruz Island, California. Mr. Savage was asked to detail what he remembered about a reported battery charging fire that took place on the *Vision* on October 8, 2018 while he was on board. Unless specifically delineated by quotes, the text that follows is not a verbatim record of the conversation. It has been developed from notes taken of the interview.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Mr. Savage was asleep in the bunkroom of the *Vision* on the early morning of October 8, 2018 and did not witness or respond to the reported battery charging fire in the aft salon of the *Vision*. Mr. Savage learned of the small battery fire around 0715–0730 in the morning when he came up from the bunkroom. He recalled being told that charging batteries had exploded and caught fire around 0430–0500 in the morning. He stated that the charger and batteries involved belonged to him and were from a diving flashlight. There were two batteries for the flashlight, both looking like C-cell batteries. There was a small charger for the batteries. On the evening of October 7, he plugged the charger with the batteries into a power strip outlet in the aft end of the salon in the bookcase. He made sure when he plugged it in for charging, he was cautious to ensure the batteries and charger were in an open section of the bookcase and clear of anything that could fall on it.

Mr. Savage said he did not do the first dive of that morning and recalled the captain of the *Vision* coming down to the aft deck. He said he apologized to the captain for the batteries catching fire realizing the position they would have been in if the fire was not discovered. He recalled the captain telling him and everyone else that all battery charging at nighttime was to cease.

When asked if he physically saw the burned batteries and charger, Mr. Savage said he did not and that they had already been thrown away.

Mr. Savage stated he still has the flashlight which the batteries came from and has the documentation regarding its purchase. He bought it through Amazon.com. He also has the smaller sister flashlight that came from the same company. When asked if the batteries that caught fire were replacement to the original batteries for the flashlight, Mr. Savage stated they were the batteries that came with it.

When asked about what he recalled when he looked at the bookshelf after, Mr. Savage said he had a towel, and a jacket hanging near the bookshelf which had soot on them. He said he heard a fire extinguisher was


used but he did not see any residual dry powder around and was not sure what type of extinguisher was used.

END SUMMARY


Info for the main flashlight. The flashlight where the batteries came from that exploded. I underlined the battery information in the yellow that is listed in the product description.

🕒 You last purchased this item on September 30, 2017.
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Consider these available items




Goldengulf 1800LM Led Diving Flashlight Torch Underwater 100M 5 Mode Submarine Light
★★★★☆ 55
\$18⁹¹ ✓prime



Underwater Flashlight, VOLADOR DF30 3100lm Professional Rechargeable Diving Light, 3 CREE XPL LED Waterproof Dive Lamp for Scuba Night Dive with Battery and Charger
★★★★☆ 64
\$72⁹⁹ ✓prime



Diving Light, Waterproof Scuba Diving Flashlight Cree XPL 3000K Warm White LED Flashlight, 5 Modes, 1000 Lumens Underwater Submersible Torch Max 150m 156yd Included 1x 18650 Batter...
★★★★☆ 69
\$29⁹⁹ ✓prime




Goldengulf Underwater 100M Super Bright 4000LM Led Diving Scuba Flashlight Waterproof Torch Rechargeable Battery and Charger Included
Brand: Goldengulf
★★★★☆ 12 ratings

Currently unavailable.
We don't know when or if this item will be back in stock.

- Original CREE L2 Led, Max is 4000LM, Super Bright High Power
- Best suited for: diving, Camping, hiking, trekking, hunting, fishing, car emergency....
- Powered by 2pcs 26650 rechargeable battery(Included)
- Flashlight was tested strictly before shipment, Quality is guaranteed
- Professional diving flashlight manufacturer, OEM order welcome

Compare with similar items
 Report incorrect product information.



CoolLight LED Diving Flashlight, Cree XM-L2 1200 Lumens Diving Torch Scuba Safety Lights, Underwater...
★★★★☆ 27
\$17.99 ✓prime

Sponsored

Currently unavailable. We don't know when or if this item will be back in stock.

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Have one to sell?
Sell on Amazon

Product description

This is the brightest flashlight that I ever sold

Description:
This Diving Flashlight is an extremely versatile, Super Bright, Designed for the professional divers or under water Photographer. It is mainly used for diving works, Underwater fishing operations, Salvage operations, Underwater archaeological work, Teaching Scuba diving. Also it is an ideal choice for outdoor activities, Such as fishing, diving, swimming, hiking, sailing, caving, hunting and seeking survival without fear of rainy days.

Features:
Aluminum alloy casing and non skid design
Type of LED: Cree XML L2
Widely Used in diving, fishing, swimming, Outdoor activities such as mountain climbing, camping, hiking Or used at home like repairing or finding small thing
Special operational needs: such as first aid at sea, site inspection, underwater fishing operations, Salvage operations, Night observation
Max Output brightness is about 4000 Lumens, Irradiation range is about 100m
High Quality can be used for more than 100,000 hours, which eliminates the trouble of replacing the lamp
Switch type: On/Off
Runtime: 3-4 hours.
Double rubber O ring make it stable underwater
Powered by 2pcs 26650 rechargeable battery (included)
26650 battery charger included

Maintenance Tips:

- 1, After use you should wash your diving lights thoroughly in fresh water along with the rest of your equipment
- 2, Clean, lubricate and inspect the O-rings
- 3, Clean the battery and electrical contacts
- 4, Store your scuba diving lights without their batteries to prevent any possible corrosion from battery leakage
- 5, Store your dive lights in a cool place out of direct sunlight

Product details

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 1.4 x 2 inches ; 7 ounces
Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds
ASIN: B014Q5OIKO
Customer Reviews: ★★★★★ ~ 12 customer ratings
Amazon Best Sellers Rank: #762,743 in Sports & Outdoors (See Top 100 in Sports & Outdoors)
#253 in Diving Safety Lights



Sister flashlight.

You last purchased this item on September 30, 2017.
[View this order](#)

Goldengulf Cree XM-L2 Led Scuba Diving Flashlight Torch Underwater 100M Waterproof Submarine Light Rechargeable Battery and Charger Included

Brand: Goldengulf
 223 ratings | 49 answered questions

Price: **\$35.50** ✓prime & FREE Returns
 Get \$70 off instantly; Pay \$0.00 \$66.40 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

- Original CREE L2 Led, Super Bright High Power
- Handy Size, Sturdy Design, Great Quality
- Best Suited for: Diving, Camping, Hiking, Trekking, Hunting, Fishing, Car Emergency.....
- Rechargeable Battery and Charger and 2pcs Spare O ring Included, Quality Inspection Before Shipment
- Professional diving flashlight manufacturer, OEM Order Welcome

Compare with similar items
 Report incorrect product information.

Similar item to consider

HANSELL Flashlights, Handheld Flashlights, 7W Mini LED Flashlights, Tactical Flashlights, Zoomable, High Lumen, Water Resistant, 3 Light Modes for Kids, Camping, Hiking (2 Pack)
 \$9.97 ✓prime
 ★★★★★ (5879)

\$35.50
 ✓prime & FREE Returns
 FREE delivery: **Sunday, Aug 16**
 Details

In Stock.
 Qty: 1

Secure transaction
 Sold by new goldengulf and Fulfilled by Amazon.

Add a Protection Plan:
 2-Year Protection for \$2.99

Add gift options

Share

Have one to sell?

Roll over image to zoom in

Goldengulf started manufacturing diving lights back in 2003 and we kept improving our quality day after day

The diving flashlight is a vital accessory for your safety

Please avoid taking unnecessary risks by purchasing low quality flashlights just to save a few dollars on the expense of your safety

Underwater life is very colorful but the deeper you go, the less brighter and colorful you see it

Carrying a good diving light will correct this problem and allow you to enjoy the full spectrum of colors and life underwater

There are 15-20 different diving lights in our amazon shop

Please have a look at our diving lights range in the amazon shop if you need another diving light



Description:

This Diving Flashlight is an extremely versatile, Super Bright, Designed for the professional divers or under water Photographer

It is mainly used for diving works, Underwater fishing operations, Salvage operations Underwater archaeological work, Teaching Scuba diving

Also it is an ideal choice for outdoor activities, Such as fishing, diving, swimming, hiking, sailing, caving hunting and seeking survival without fear of rainy days



Features:

Aluminum alloy casing and non skid design

Type of LED: Cree XML L2, Super Bright

Max Output brightness is about 1000 Lumens,

Irradiation range is about 100m, Diving of depth can up to 100m

High Quality can be used for more than 100,000 hours, which eliminates the trouble of replacing the lamp

Switch type: On/Off Runtime: 3-4 hours

Double rubber O ring make it stable underwater

Powered by 1pc 18650 rechargeable battery

Package Contents:

- 1 x Diving Aluminum Flashlight
- 1 x 18650 Rechargeable Battery
- 1 x AC Charger
- 1 x Led Keychain Light
- 3 x Spare O Ring
- 1 x Plastic Gift Box



rechargeable battery

charger

Led keychain light

Maintenance Tips:

- 1,After use you should wash your diving lights thoroughly in fresh water along with the rest of your equipment
- 2,Clean, lubricate and inspect the O-rings
- 3,Clean the battery and electrical contacts
- 4,Store your scuba diving lights without their batteries to prevent any possible corrosion from battery leakage
- 5,Store your dive lights in a cool place out of direct sunlight