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 telephoneSummary 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.

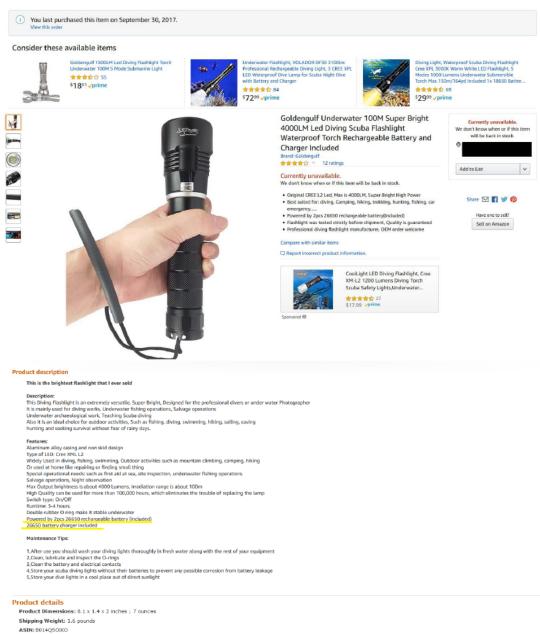
Mr. Savage stated he still has the flashlight which the batteries came from and has the documentation regarding its purchase. He bought it through Amazon.com. He also has the smaller sister flashlight that came from the same company. When asked if the batteries that caught fire were replacement to the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

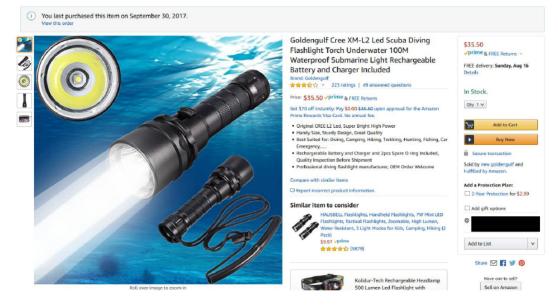
Info for the main flashlight. The flashlight where the batteries came from that exploded. I underlined the battery information in the yellow that is listed in the product description.



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.



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 Oking 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 18550 Rechargeable Battery • 1 x AC Charger • 1 x Led Keychain Light • 3 x Spare O Ring • 1 x Plastic Gift Box



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
