

From: [Torrey, Barry](#)
To: [#Ferry Captains](#); [#Ferry Chief Engineers](#); [#Ferry Port Office](#); [#Ferry Terminal Supervisors](#)
Cc: [#Ferry Senior Staff](#)
Subject: Sandy Ground Machinery Space Fire
Date: Friday, December 23, 2022 4:15:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Yesterday, the F/B Sandy Ground had a fire in her main machinery space resulting in a loss of power and two crewmembers suffering minor injury. FDNY and NYPD marine units responded to the vessel. Additionally:

- The fire, believed to be a result of a fuel leak, was extinguished through discharge of the NOVEC fire suppression system.
- As the vessel lost all propulsion and steering control, the crew deployed both anchors in the vicinity of Robbins Reef.
- The crew safely evacuated all passengers away from the main deck. Passengers was further evacuated via vessel to vessel transfer to ferries and other vessels in the area.
- The vessel was shifted to STG, where it is currently moored as USCG conducts their investigation with NYCDOT and FDNY.

Initial review of the event along with feedback from USCG, FDNY and NYPD indicate that the crew's response was outstanding in safeguarding passengers and crew while dealing with the fire response, anchoring and the vessel to vessel transfer.

Updates and results from the ongoing investigations will be shared with Captains as information becomes available. Until then, please remain clear of the vessel unless you are directly involved in the investigations or remediation.

Barry R. Torrey

Assistant Commissioner for Ferry Operations | Ferry Division
New York City Department of Transportation
1 Ferry Terminal Drive
Staten Island, NY 10301

