

INVESTIGATING OFFICER STATEMENT/ RECORD OF ACTIONS/ INTERVIEW SUMMARY

TYPE

Marine Casualty

SUBJECT

CONCEPTION Fire

SUMMARY:

1. Following reports of the fire on the MV CONCEPTION (638133) on September 1, 2019 I received two phone calls from previous passengers who wanted to report conditions they observed on board.
2. At 0844 on September 1, 2019 the USCG Station Channel Islands Officer of the Day asked that I take a call which had come in to their watch desk. I spoke to Mr. Mike Williams, [REDACTED] who stated that he was a repeat customer and passenger on the CONCEPTION, taking trips three seasons in a row. The most recent trip was the previous week. During the most recent trip he noticed that the vessel was having an issue with the salt water pump for the toilets. He also reported that the vessel had experienced overheating of their generator. He explained that he overheard crew members talking about the overheating and that the dive trip was unable to utilize the NITROX dive equipment due to the generator issues. Mr. Williams also reported that the safety briefing was not conducted until after the first overnight, and that the briefing did not include the location of the emergency escape from the berthing.
3. At approximately 0730 on September 2, 2019, I received a call on the land line at USCG MSD Santa Barbara from Ms. Michelle Patton, [REDACTED]. She was a passenger on the CONCEPTION for four years. She reported that she never had complaints before, but felt signs of negligence during the most recent trip in March, 2019 with Jerry as the captain. She noted that she smelled fuel when in the sleeping quarters. She reported that everyone on board got sick within 24 hours of leaving the vessel, to include nausea. She reported that dishwashing was not done in a sanitary manner, using only tepid water. On the trip one of the divers got the bends. She stated that all of the passengers planned on making complaints, but that none of them had.
4. Both callers related their willingness to make written statements. On September 3, 2019, I called both individuals to request they submit to the witness@NTSB.gov email. I was able to speak with Mr. Williams, and left a voicemail with Ms. Patton.

I have read my statement as documented above (and, if applicable, on continuation pages), and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.

INVESTIGATING OFFICER

[REDACTED] CWO3, USCG

PRINT

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

SIGN

September 4, 2019

DATE