

EM1 [REDACTED]

Below is a summary of interview of EM1 [REDACTED], USCG, conducted by the AIM informal board on August 23, 2006 concerning the diving incident which resulted in two deaths on August 17, 2006. AIM board members present at the interview were Captain [REDACTED], LCDR [REDACTED], and LCDR [REDACTED].

EM1 [REDACTED] reported aboard CGC HEALY on [REDACTED]. He is a member of the EM shop, which he explained entails most of the engineering department aboard HEALY, as the ship is mostly electric. He works mostly with corrective maintenance. He is currently a qualified Technician of the Watch (TOW), working toward a qualification as Engineer of the Watch (EOW). Prior to HEALY, EM1 [REDACTED] served at CG Station Tillamook, Oregon, USCGC ACACIA, and NESU SEATTLE.

Typically he stands one watch a day in his current watch section. He was the break-in EOW prior to ice liberty on 17 August. He said it was a typical watch. He was informed of ice liberty, but no mention was made of diving operations. It was not passed at the watch turnover, or during watch.

It is his understanding that if tag outs are to be done for dive operations the usual process would be to tell the EOW, who in turn would get the assistance or clearance of the department chief. EM1 [REDACTED] was not aware if any request was made on 17 August.

When he was released from watch by the qualified EOW at 1800 he still had no knowledge of dive operations. The mains were running, he had no knowledge of whether suction was secured, and no plan had been passed to ECC or to the EOW or TOW that suggested diving.

EM1 [REDACTED] stated that the first he knew of dive operations were well after he went out on ice liberty himself. He went down to the ice and grabbed a beer – he consumed one Coors Light after watch. There were some people near the beer, but he did not observe anyone watching it. He stated he believed that crewmembers were limited to 2 beers, but that information was not formally passed to him. Some may have consumed more than two, but he doesn't know, and didn't see anyone do so.

EM1 [REDACTED] participated in the polar bear swim. He saw several scientists jump in the water as well as crewmembers. Some of the crewmembers included ENS [REDACTED], CHIEF [REDACTED], MK [REDACTED], FN [REDACTED]. It was a very safe evolution, DCI [REDACTED] ensured we were properly made off to the dive line and tended the line as we jumped in.

When the accident happened, EM1 helped get the dive recompression chamber staged in the hangar. A Russian helped him get it down from the hanger, and he got it set up and asked for ship's service air to fill it, if need be. He was the one who took the chamber out of its box.

EM1 [REDACTED]  
26 Aug '06

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