



# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING BARGE C.J. BLANCHARD / FIRE

ON 11/06/2002



MISLE Activity Number: 1702232  
ORIGINATING UNIT: MSU BATON ROUGE  
MISLE Activity Owner: COMMANDANT (G-MRI)  
MISLE Activity Controller: COMMANDANT (G-MRI)  
MISLE Case Number: 0

## I. INCIDENT BRIEF

On 06NOV02 at approximately 0250, the generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD experienced a generator fire while moored to the loading/unloading rig AMERICA. At the time of the fire, the generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD was running all three generators to provide power to the rig AMERICA as it transferred grain from a deep draft vessel to several barges. No apparent cause could be determined. Neither the Gonzales Fire Department who responded nor [REDACTED], the barge owner, could determine the apparent cause of the fire.

See Correspondence #8402 for details.

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Incident Summary

On 06NOV02 at approximately 0250, the generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD experienced a generator fire while moored to the loading/unloading rig AMERICA. At the time of the fire, the generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD was running all three generators to provide power to the rig AMERICA as it transferred grain from a deep draft vessel to several barges. No apparent cause could be determined. Neither the Gonzales Fire Department who responded nor [REDACTED], the barge owner, could determine the apparent cause of the fire.

See Correspondence #8402 for details.

Incident Involved: Marine Casualty, Reportable

Level of Investigation: Informal

IMO Classification: Routine

USCG Classification: Major Marine Casualty

Was this a Serious Marine Incident? Yes

Was a Marine Board Convened by Commandant? No

### Personnel Casualty Summary

Total Missing (Active Search) = 0

Total Missing (Presumed Lost) = 0

Total Dead = 0

Total Injured = 0

Total Uninjured = 0

Total People at Risk = 0

Other Personnel (Not at Risk) = 8

### Vessel(s) Status Summary

Actual Total Loss(es) = 0

Total Constructive Loss, Salvaged = 0

Total Constructive Loss, Unsalvaged = 0

Damaged = 1

Undamaged = 3

### Property Damage Summary/Total Damage

Vessel(s) = \$750000\*

Cargo = \$

Facility(s) = \$

Other = \$

\* Includes estimates

**Waterway Mobility Summary**

Vessel Delays (including speed restrictions): None

### III. ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT

#### Actions on Recommendations

#### Safety Alerts

#### IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

##### Subjects of the Investigation

**Vessels.** The following vessels were subjects of this investigation. Particulars for each vessel follow.

Vessel Name:	AMERICA
Flag:	UNITED STATES
Vessel Identification Number:	651773
Call Sign:	
Status:	Undamaged
Role:	Moored/Anchored in Vicinity of Primary Subject
Vessel Class, Type, Sub-Type:	
Gross Tonnage(GRT):	2286
Net Tonnage(NRT):	2286
Deadweight Tons:	
Length:	
Home/Hailing Port:	
Keel Laid Date:	
Delivery Date:	
Place of Construction:	NASHVILLE TN: PORT ALLEN LA, , UNITED STATES
Builder Name:	AM HOIST & DERRICK CO
Propulsion:	
Horsepower:	
Master:	
Classification Society:	
Owner:	COOPER/T SMITH STEVEDORING CO INC 1100 COMMERCE BUILDING 118 NORTH ROYAL STREET P O BOX 1566 MOBILE, AL, 36602 US
Operator:	I T O CORPORATION 601 LOUISIANA AVE P O BOX 15119  NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70155
Inspection Subchapter:	
Most Recent Vessel Inspection Activity:	

Vessel Name:	C. J. BLANCHARD
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Flag:	UNITED STATES
Vessel Identification Number:	653885
Call Sign:	
Status:	Damaged
Role:	Involved in a Marine Casualty
Vessel Class, Type, Sub-Type:	
Gross Tonnage(GRT):	211
Net Tonnage(NRT):	211
Deadweight Tons:	
Length:	
Home/Hailing Port:	
Keel Laid Date:	
Delivery Date:	
Place of Construction:	HOUMA, LOUISIANA, , UNITED STATES
Builder Name:	DELTA SHIPYARD A DIV DSI
Propulsion:	
Horsepower:	
Master:	
Classification Society:	
Owner:	RGZ INC 1100 COMMERCE BUILDING 118 N ROYAL ST P O BOX 1566 MOBILE, AL, 36633
Operator:	
Inspection Subchapter:	
Most Recent Vessel Inspection Activity:	

Vessel Name:	MAGNOLIA
Flag:	UNITED STATES
Vessel Identification Number:	607623
Call Sign:	WQZ2283
Status:	Undamaged
Role:	Moored/Anchored in Vicinity of Primary Subject
Vessel Class, Type, Sub-Type:	
Gross Tonnage(GRT):	
Net Tonnage(NRT):	
Deadweight Tons:	
Length:	
Home/Hailing Port:	
Keel Laid Date:	
Delivery Date:	
Place of Construction:	HARVEY LA, , UNITED STATES
Builder Name:	EYMARD & SONS SHIPYARD
Propulsion:	

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Horsepower:  
Master:  
Classification Society:  
Owner: SCOTT PAPER COMPANY  
ENVIROMENTAL SPECIALIST  
P.O. BOX 2447  
  
MOBILE, AL, 36652-2447  
COOPER MARINE & TIMBERLANDS  
CORP  
118 N ROYAL ST 10TH FLOOR

Operator: MOBILE, AL, 36633  
SCOTT PAPER COMPANY  
ENVIROMENTAL SPECIALIST  
P.O. BOX 2447

Inspection Subchapter: MOBILE, AL, 36652-2447  
Most Recent Vessel Inspection Activity:

Vessel Name: NED FERRY  
Flag: UNITED STATES  
Vessel Identification Number: 280097  
Call Sign: WYT8395  
Status: Undamaged  
Role: Moored/Anchored in Vicinity of Primary  
Subject

Vessel Class, Type, Sub-Type: Towing Vessel, General,  
Gross Tonnage(GRT):  
Net Tonnage(NRT):  
Deadweight Tons:  
Length:  
Home/Hailing Port:  
Keel Laid Date:  
Delivery Date:  
Place of Construction: NEVILLE ISLAND PA, , UNITED STATES  
Builder Name: DRAVO CORPORATION  
Propulsion:  
Horsepower: 1800  
Master:  
Classification Society:  
Owner: CRESCENT TOWING & SALVAGE CO  
INC  
118 N ROYAL STE ST #1100



MOBILE, AL, 36602  
CRESCENT TOWING & SALVAGE CO LA  
416 COMMON ST  
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70130  
US

Operator:  
Inspection Subchapter:  
Most Recent Vessel Inspection Activity:

**Facilities.** The following facilities were subjects of this investigation. Particulars for each facility follow.

**Parties and Organizations.** The following people and organizations were subjects of this investigation.

[REDACTED]

Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Crewmember  
Gender: M  
Age:  
SSN:  
Birth Date:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number():  
Address(Primary):

[REDACTED]

Comments:

[REDACTED]

Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Investigator  
Gender: M  
Age: [REDACTED]  
SSN: - -  
Birth Date:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number():  
Address():  
Comments:

[REDACTED]

Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Crewmember

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Gender: M  
Age:  
SSN:  
Birth Date:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number():  
Address(Primary):



Comments:



Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Investigator  
Gender: M  
Age:  
SSN: - -  
Birth Date:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number():  
Address():  
Comments:



Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Reporting Party  
Email Address:  
Phone Number():  
Address(Mailing):



Comments:

GONZALES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

Status: Not at Risk  
Role: Notified Party  
Email Address:  
Phone Number(Primary): 225-644-5307  
Address(Primary): 724 Orice Roch  
Gonzales, LA 70737  
US

Comments:

**Drug and Alcohol Testing.** The following people have been determined by the Coast Guard, Law Enforcement Personnel, and/or the Marine Employer to have been directly involved in a Serious Marine Incident as defined in 46 CFR 4.03-2:

Report of Investigation

**Response Resources.** The following incident response resources were subjects of this investigation.

**Other Subjects.** The following were subjects of this investigation.

**Waterway Segment(s).** The following waterway segment(s) were subjects of this investigation.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Role: Location

Local Name: MM 176-209

Description: MISS R, BATON ROUGE TO NEW ORLEANS

**Incident Information**

**Location(s).**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
MISSISSIPPI RIVER	30 17.6 N	091 13.8 W

**Sequence of Events.**

11/05/2002 22:00 to 11/06/2002 2:51 (Estimated): The generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD was supplying electrical power to the loading/unloading rig AMERICA. The C.J. BLANCHARD was moored alongside the AMERICA.

Condition Class: Operations Status

Condition Type: Vessel Operation Status

Subject Type:

Location: Known; US Waters

Description: MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Latitude: 30 17.6 N      Longitude: 091 13.8 W

**Subject(s) and Details:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
C. J. BLANCHARD	Vessel	Damaged	Involved in a Marine Casualty

Details Filed: None

11/06/2002 1:20 to 11/06/2002 1:30 (Estimated): [REDACTED], a crewmember onboard the rig AMERICA, made a visual inspection of the generators onboard the generator barge C.J. BLANCHARD. All generators were found to be operating normal.

Action Type: Engineering Operations - Engineering Systems Operations

Action Class: Operate generator and electrical systems

Location: Known; US Waters

Description: MISSISSIPPI RIVER

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Latitude: 30 17.6 N Longitude: 091 13.8 W

Subject(s) and Details:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
[REDACTED]	Party	Not at Risk	Crewmember

Details Filed: None

11/06/2002 2:50 to 11/06/2002 5:30 (Estimated): Fire and smoke were noticed coming from vents located on the structure surrounding the generators installed on the C.J. BLANCHARD.

Event Type: Fire  
 Event Class: Initial - contained  
 Event Subclass:  
 Location: Known; US Waters  
 Description: MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
 Latitude: 30 17.6 N Longitude: 091 13.8 W

Subject(s) and Details:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
C. J. BLANCHARD	Vessel	Damaged	Involved in a Marine Casualty

Details Filed: Fire Details

Was the Vessel Configured with Main Vertical Zones? No

Spaces Affected:

Initial:  
 Space Where Fire Occurred: Machinery Space  
 Description of Space: sheet metal housing surrounding generators installed on deck of generator barge  
 Extent of Damage: total loss of all 3 generators and their associated wiring and electrical panels

Fire Boundaries

Fire Boundaries Intact: Intact

Did approved passive fire fighting materials perform as expected: No  
 Description of Material that Failed: no passive fire fighting materials were installed

Ventilation Fire Dampers Fitted: No  
 Ventilation System Active: No

Fire Screen Doors Fitted: No

Windows Fitted: No

Ignition and Fuel:

Ignition Source Known: No

Source Category

10.7- Mechanical fault or breakdown

Description

suspect that generator with 15,000 operating hours failed - could not be positively determined

Report of Investigation

Fuel Type(s):

<u>Initial or Secondary</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>HAZMAT</u>	<u>Source (liquid fuel only)</u>
Initial	8.6- Liquid Fuel	diesel	Yes	9.8- Others

Pattern of Spread: could not be determined. contents of entire enclosed generator area were badly burned. fire department could not determine source or pattern of spread.

Description of Smoke: black smoke

11/06/2002 2:55 to 11/06/2002 5:30 (Estimated): Crewmembers onboard the AMERICA used portable fire extinguishers in an attempt to extinguish the fire.

Action Type: Safety and Emergency Operations - Controlling and Fighting Fires

Action Class: Use fire fighting equipment and procedures

Location: Known; US Waters

Description: MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Latitude: 30 17.6 N Longitude: 091 13.8 W

Subject(s) and Details:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
[REDACTED]	Party	Not at Risk	Crewmember
Details Filed: None			
[REDACTED]	Party	Not at Risk	Crewmember
Details Filed: None			

11/06/2002 3:30 to 11/06/2002 5:30 (Estimated): Gonzales Fire Department arrived onscene and extinguished fire utilizing water and foam.

Action Type: Safety and Emergency Operations - Controlling and Fighting Fires

Action Class: Use fire fighting equipment and procedures

Location: Known; US Waters

Description: MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Latitude: 30 17.6 N Longitude: 091 13.8 W

Subject(s) and Details:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Role</u>
GONZALES	Party	Not at Risk	Notified Party
VOLUNTEER FIRE			
DEPT			
Details Filed: None			

## V. CAUSAL ANALYSIS

### The Initiating Event of the Incident

#### **Initiating Event:**

Fire (11/06/2002 2:50:00 AM)

**Production Factors**

**Preconditions**

**Workplace Factors**

**Organization Factors**

**Defense Factors**

### Failures of Defense Against Subsequent Events in the Incident

## **VI. REFERRAL FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The following referrals for enforcement action have been made as a result of this investigation and represent those instances where the Coast Guard has gathered evidence that indicates one or more alleged violations or offenses may have occurred. Any determinations as to whether or not one or more actual violations or offenses have occurred are documented in the appropriate Coast Guard enforcement activities.

**APPENDIX 1 - EVIDENCE**

1702232 #01 [REDACTED]: Document/CG-2692 Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death  
CG-2692 Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death

Collection Information:

Date/Time: 11/14/2002 10:59:00 AM  
Location: MSU Baton Rouge  
Collected By: USCG Gathered; PO [REDACTED], BATU  
Witnessed By: USCG Witness; PO [REDACTED], BATU

Tracking:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Carrier</u>
11/14/2002	Received	MSU Baton Rouge	BATU; PO [REDACTED]	

Attachments:

- cj blanchard 2692.pdf; CG-2692 Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death; MSU BATON ROUGE; [REDACTED]; 01/15/2003; Permanent

1702232 #02 [REDACTED]: Document/Written Statement

Written Statement by [REDACTED]

Collection Information:

Date/Time: 11/11/2002 7:48:00 AM  
Location: MSU Baton Rouge  
Collected By: USCG Gathered; [REDACTED], BATU  
Witnessed By: USCG Witness; [REDACTED], BATU

Tracking:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Carrier</u>
11/11/2002	Received	MSU Baton Rouge	BATU; PO [REDACTED]	

Attachments:

- [REDACTED] report.pdf; Written Statement by [REDACTED]; MSU BATON ROUGE; [REDACTED]; 01/15/2003; Permanent

1702232 #03 [REDACTED]: Document/Written Statement

Written Statements by [REDACTED] employees onscene at time of fire

Collection Information:

Date/Time: 11/08/2002 7:52:00 AM  
Location: MSU Baton Rouge  
Collected By: USCG Gathered; PO [REDACTED], BATU  
Witnessed By: USCG Witness; PO [REDACTED], BATU

Tracking:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Carrier</u>
11/08/2002	Received	MSU Baton Rouge	BATU; PO [REDACTED]	

Attachments:



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- witness statements.pdf; Written Statements by [REDACTED] employees  
onscene at time of fire.; MSU BATON ROUGE; [REDACTED];  
01/15/2003; Permanent

1702232 #04 [REDACTED]: Document/Notes

IO Notes

Collection Information:

Date/Time: 11/08/2002 2:11:00 PM  
Location: MSU Baton Rouge  
Collected By: USCG Gathered; PO [REDACTED] BATU  
Witnessed By: USCG Witness; PO [REDACTED], BATU

Tracking:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Carrier</u>
11/08/2002	Received	MSU Baton Rouge	BATU; PO [REDACTED]	

Attachments:

- IO notes.pdf; IO Notes; MSU BATON ROUGE; [REDACTED];  
01/15/2003; Permanent

1702232 #05 [REDACTED]: Document/Other Document

Fire Dept. - post fire report

Collection Information:

Date/Time: 11/12/2002 11:17:00 AM  
Location: MSU Baton Rouge  
Collected By: USCG Gathered; PO [REDACTED] BATU  
Witnessed By: USCG Witness; PO [REDACTED], BATU

Tracking:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Carrier</u>
11/12/2002	Received	MSU Baton Rouge	BATU; PO [REDACTED]	

Attachments:

- fire dept report.pdf; Fire Dept. - post fire report; MSU BATON ROUGE;  
[REDACTED]; 01/22/2003; Permanent

**APPENDIX 2 - CORRESPONDENCE**

8402 - Narrative

Source: USCG

Type: Incoming

Received: At MSU Baton Rouge on 01/20/2003 7:52:00 AM

Attachments:

- narrative.doc; Narrative; MSU BATON ROUGE; [REDACTED].;  
01/28/2003; Permanent