

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
 Report Type
 CORONER

(805) 681-4100

19-11419

Supplement No
 ORIG

Reported Date
 09/02/2019

Officer
 HENSLIN, T

Administrative Information									
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff	Report No	19-11419	Supplement No	ORIG	Reported Date	09/02/2019		
Report Type	Coroner's investigation	Location	PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND					Status	Incident
City	Santa Barbara City	ZIP Code	95060	Rep Dist	101	Area	1		
Beat	10	From Date	09/02/2019	From Time	03:30				
Officer	2718/HENSLIN, T		Assignment	CORONER BUREAU		Entered by	2718		
RMS Transfer	Pending	Report Title	CORONER REPORT		Approving Officer	3768			
Approval Date	02/21/2020								
Approval Time	14:20:45								
Cause of death (COR only)	SMOKE INHALATION	Due to (COR only)	BOAT FIRE		Manner of death (COR only)	ACCIDENT			
Date/Time of death pronounced	09-02-19/0443 HRS								
Date/Time body found	09-02-19/0443 HRS		Determined by (COR only)	INVESTIGATION		Dr. will sign	N		
Hospitalization	N								
Mortuary	CORONER'S BUREAU		Removal Status	CALL OUT		Date/Time NOK notified	09-08-19/1006 HRS		
NOK notified via	TELEPHONE		NOK relation to decedent						
NOK notified by: DET SOSA									
Person Summary									
Invl	1	Type	I	Name	DAHOOB-FRITZ, ADRIAN DANIELLE		MNI		
							989079		
					Race	W	Sex		
							F		
					DOB				
Summary Narrative									
The decedent died as a result of a boat fire located at Platts Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara Ca. The re is being investigated by the Unites States Coast Guard, FBI and ATF. The death investigation is being onducted by the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau. The manner death is being certified as an ACCIDENT.									

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11419

Supplement No
 ORIG

Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1 DAHOOD-FRITZ, ADRIAN DANIELLE										
Decedent - Coroner Investigation				Invl No	Type					
				1	Individual					
Name				MNI	Race	Sex	DOB	Age	Juvenile?	
DAHOOD-FRITZ, ADRIAN DANIELLE				989079	White	Female		40	No	
Height	Weight	Hair Color	Eye Color							
5'04"	140#	Brown	Brown							
Type	Address			City	State					
Home										
ZIP Code	Date									
Type	ID No	OLS								
Operator License		California								
Type	ID No									
Social Security Number										
Relationship	Name	Race	Sex							
Address				City	State	ZIP Code				
Phone Type	Phone No									
Medical										
Citizenship				Place of Birth	Occupation	Coroner Case No	NOK Notified?			
USA				New Jersey	BIOLOGIST	19-11419	Yes			
Premise Sealed?	Property?	Vehicle?	Legal Document	Other Documents?	Other Agency					
No	No	No	No	No	USCG					
OA Officer	OA Case No			NOK Name						
---	---			---						
Mortuary Name				On Call?	Family Request?	Other?				
WELCH-RYCE-HAIDER				No	Yes	No				
Nature of Illness										
N/A										
Injury Place										
BOAT										
Injury Premise				Injury Date	Injury Time	Injured At Work?				
PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA CA				09/02/2019	03:30:00	No				
How Injured										
BOAT FIRE										
Decedent Driver	Decedent Passenger	Decedent Pedestrian								
No	No	No								

Narrative

Continuations:

Adrian Danielle DaHood-Fritz is the decedent.

Narrative:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0516 hours, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office was notified by the Ventura Fire Department of a vessel on fire in the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara County. The Coast Guard responded along with Ventura Fire Department and Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Upon arrival at the scene the vessel was found to be fully engulfed in fire. The call had originally come into the Coast Guard at 0332 hrs, on 09-02-19.

Reports to the Coast Guard said there were possibly 34 subjects trapped below the water line, in the vessel.

The vessel was identified as the "Conception" and it was in jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office near Santa Cruz Island, not in Ventura Sheriff's Department jurisdiction. The location was later found to be 300 yards shore of Platts Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. See Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department case number 19-11415 for full details.

Sergeant Morris was notified of the incident by Sergeant Valencia. Sergeant Morris requested the response of Detective Henslin, Detective Biedinger, and Detective Carlson to the Coroner's Bureau to assist in the incident at approximately 0525 hours.

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11419

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

Detective Baisa was also called at that time and asked to respond to Ventura Harbor to act as the liaison for the Sheriff's Office.

It was later found the vessel, the "Conception" contained 33 passengers and six crew members. Five of the crew members were rescued, but none of the 33 passengers had been found.

During the course of the morning four deceased passengers had been located by Coast Guard personnel. The Coast Guard transported the decedents to the Santa Barbara Harbor.

At 1150 hours, on 09-02-19, Sgt. Morris, Detective Henslin and Detective Biedinger responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor to retrieve decedents documented as 1 through 4.

At 1220 hours, on 09-02-19, the decedents were brought to Santa Barbara Harbor. Detective Henslin and Detective Biedinger transported two decedent's each to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau, where physical examinations were later conducted on them.

At that time digital photographs were taken of the decedents along with samples collected for DNA analysis identification and for an expanded toxicology panel. All of the decedents retrieved on 09-02-19, were found to have significant thermal burns to their bodies with limbs missing due to the intensity of the fire. None of the decedents could be identified by physical characteristics.

At 2030 hours, on 09-02-19, Sgt Morris, Det. Biedinger, Det. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening and staff from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor for retrieval of 16 additional bodies recovered from the Conception, documented as decedents 5 through 20.

The decedents were then transported to Coroner's Bureau for examinations, drawing of fluids for toxicology and DNA analysis, and collection of personal property.

At approximately 2330 hours, on 09-02-19, all the examinations of the decedents were completed and the decedents were placed in a portable morgue provided by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

On 09-03-19, at 1930 hours, Sgt Morris, Det. Biedinger, Det. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening and staff from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor for retrieval of 13 more remains recovered from the Conception, documented as decedents 21 through 33.

The decedents were then all transported to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau, where physical examinations, digital photographs, and fluid samples for DNA analysis and toxicology were conducted on each recovered decedent.

All of the decedents recovered on 09-03-19 were placed on portable coroner racks and secured in the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau morgue.

On 09-09-19, at approximately 1400 hours, Pathologist Dr. Manny Montez, Detective Henslin, Detective Baisa, and Sgt. Morris, along with representatives from the FBI and ATF performed tracheal examinations of the remaining decedents at the Coroner's Bureau.

On 09-10-19, at approximately 1830 hours, Detective Baisa met with Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nelson, the National Park Service, 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura, Ca. Sgt. Nelson provided Detective Baisa with a bag of suspected human flesh, a backpack and an air vent from the Conception that had suspected human hair embedded in it. The suspected human tissue and other items were found in the bow of the Conception.

Items later numbered 35 and 36 were transported to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau where digital photographs were taken of the suspected human tissue and suspected human hair, which was removed from the metal air vent.

The suspected human tissue and hair were later flown to the Sacramento County Coroner's Office in Sacramento, Ca., under the care of Sgt. Morris and Deputy Bruening for DNA analysis.

At approximately 1330 hours, on 09-11-19, Detective Henslin and Detective Biedinger responded to Santa Barbara Harbor, after Divers from the Los Angeles Police Department located the remains of a decedent, near the

Officer
18/HENSLIN, T

Printed At
02/25/2020 00:51

Page 3 of 6

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11419

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

location of the Conception fire. The Los Angeles Police Department collected the remains, with a section of hair, documented as numbers 37 and 38.

The decedent and the remains were then transported to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau, where a physical examination, digital photographs, and fluid samples for DNA analysis and toxicology were conducted on the recovered decedent.

The sample of collected hair was packaged and sent along the DNA samples of decedent number 37 for DNA analysis in Sacramento California, under the care of Detective Henslin, who flew to the Sacramento Airport and provided the samples to Sgt. Morris who was still in Sacramento.

The samples were then taken to the Sacramento County Coroner's Office, for DNA analysis.

Physical evidence:

A series of digital photographs were taken of the decedent at the Coroner's Bureau by Forensic Personnel from the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department. The photo card was later downloaded for storage at the Coroner's Bureau.

Identification of decedent:

The decedent was positively identified by a DNA comparison, with samples submitted by the [REDACTED] the decedent's father. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

Examination of decedent:

On 09/02/19, the decedent was received at the Coroner's Bureau inside two black body bags. The decedent was wearing green colored pajama pants with white sea creatures printed on the pants. Purple underwear was visible underneath the pajama pants. The decedent was possibly wearing some type of shirt however due to the fire intensity, the shirt was burned and unrecognizable.

Head:

The decedent was missing the majority of her skull.
Brain matter was protruding from the base of where the skull is located.
No discernable facial features were found due to the decedent losing the majority of her face.
Only about 5% of the rear skull was noted to be still attached to the upper vertebra of the decedent.
The decedent larynx was visible due to the severity of the thermal burns she sustained.

Torso:

Severe thermal burns were noted to the upper chest/neck area with significant skin splits and charring.
Significant skin splits exposing the underlying fatty tissue was visible on the right side of the torso.

Arms:

Both arms were in a pugilistic position due severe fire damage.
The right arm sustained severe fire damage, exposing the underlying muscle tissue.
It did not appear that the decedent's right hand was still attached.
The left arm was fractured at the wrist with the hand bent outward and the bone sustained black charring.
The left arm sustained severe skin splits that exposed the underlying muscle tissue.

Legs:

Both upper thighs sustained significant skin splits with charring, that exposed the tissue underneath.
Both lower legs sustained different degrees of burns from third degree to severe skin splits and charring.

Back:

A large horizontal and vertical skin split was noted to the lower back and left side of the decedent. This skin split exposed the fatty tissue underneath.
Severe charring was noted to the upper back with exposed muscle on the right shoulder area.

At mortem examination:

Due to the severity of the decedent's thermal injuries, along with the circumstances regarding the incident,

Officer

18/HENSLIN, T

Printed At

02/25/2020 00:51

Page 4 of 6

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11419

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

regarding the vessel she was on becoming ignited, a post mortem examination was deferred.

Statements:

I made telephone contact with the decedent's [redacted] regarding the incident and the Coroner's Role in the investigation into the cause and manner of death for the decedent. I provided him with contact information regarding the fire investigation part of the incident. The decedent's [redacted] eventually made funeral arrangements with Welch-Ryce-Haider.

Once the decedent's death certificate was completed, I again contacted the decedent's father to explain the death certificate and answer any questions he had.

Forensic toxicology:

On 09/02/19, toxicology samples were obtained from the decedent to include three vials of cardiac blood. One vial of cardiac blood was submitted to Alere Forensics for testing. The remaining vial was retained at the Coroner's Bureau pending the need for further testing.

On 09/12/19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide >75 % saturation

On 09/13/19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's cyanide saturation. The report indicated the following:

None detected

On 09/28/19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent. The report indicated the following:

Positive findings:

Veclizine (Antihistamine) 36 ng/ml
Ethanol 0.01%

Copies of these reports was reviewed with Dr. Manny Montez and found the Carbon Monoxide to be contributive to the decedent's death. The other toxicology results were non-contributory to the decedent's death.

Consultations with Forensic Pathologist:

reviewed the circumstance surrounding this death with Dr. Manny Montez. Dr. Montez opined that the decedent died as a result of SMOKE INHALATION due to BOAT FIRE.

Review of the circumstances of this death:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 40-year-old, Adrian DaHood-Fritz died from smoke inhalation when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.

Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (Adrian DaHood-Fritz) died as a result of the following cause;

SMOKE INHALATION (Mins)

due to:

BOAT FIRE (Mins)

With other significant conditions:

None

Manner of death:

The manner of death will be certified by the Office of the Coroner as:

Accident

Printed At
18/HENSLIN, T

Printed At
02/25/2020 00:51

Page 5 of 6

CORONER REPORT
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11419

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

Final Disposition:

The decedent was released to representatives of Welch-Ryce-Haider in Santa Barbara. Any property that was found to be related the decedent was turned over to the FBI Victim Specialist Unit.

Case closed.



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

3650 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone 866-584-0887 FAX 707-703-1319

Agency # 19-11419

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003225

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 4, 2019

Decedent: Adrian Dahood-Fritz

The following evidence was submitted to the Laboratory by a representative of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner on 9/5/2019 via FedEx:

Submission 01: One tape sealed and initialed screw top metal canister containing a second screw top metal canister containing one tube of blood with paperwork marked in part "#1 Doe Jane". The name of "Dahood-Fritz, Adrian" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of cardiac blood collected at 1434 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003225-0001

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti".

Laureen J. Marinetti, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Laboratory Director

Date of Report: September 28, 2019

Alere Forensics at Redwood Toxicology is accredited by The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and is recognized by the State of California as a Title 17 Forensic Alcohol Laboratory.

All samples, including the sample packaging, will be retained at the laboratory for one year after the date of report. After one year, the samples and packaging will be destroyed unless the client requests that the samples be returned or an alternate retention policy has been set up with the laboratory. The laboratory cannot ship controlled substances.

Comments

IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY L

3650 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa, CA
Phone 866-584-0887 FAX 707-70

Agency # 19-11419

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-06

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 4, 2019

Decedent: Adrian Dahood-Fritz

The following evidence was submitted to the Laboratory by a representative of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner on 9/5/2019 via FedEx:
Submission 01: One tape sealed and initialed screw top metal canister containing a second screw top metal canister containing one tube of blood with paperwork marked in part "#1 Doe Jane". The name of "Dahood-Fritz, Adrian" was supplied on 9-9-19.
Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of cardiac blood collected at 1434 hours.

Service Request:

F1048B - Misc. Chemicals (Qualitative) - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Cyanide	Not Detected	Color Screen	Blood



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti".

Laureen J. Marinetti, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Laboratory Director

Date of Report: September 13, 2019

Alere Forensics at Redwood Toxicology is accredited by The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and is recognized by the State of California as a Title 17 Forensic Alcohol Laboratory.

All samples, including the sample packaging, will be retained at the laboratory for one year after the date of report. After one year, the samples and packaging will be destroyed unless the client requests that the samples be returned or an alternate retention policy has been set up with the laboratory. The laboratory cannot ship controlled substances.

Comments

The limit of detection for the cyanide color screen is 0.5 mcg/mL.



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

3650 WestWind Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone 866-584-0887 FAX 707-703-1319

Agency # 19-11419

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003225

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 4, 2019

Decedent: Adrian Dahood-Fritz

The following evidence was submitted to the Laboratory by a representative of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner on 9/5/2019 via FedEx:

Submission 01: One tape sealed and initialed screw top metal canister containing a second screw top metal canister containing one tube of blood with paperwork marked in part "#1 Doe Jane". The name of "Dahood-Fritz, Adrian" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of cardiac blood collected at 1434 hours.

Service Request:

FP760B - Carboxyhemoglobin/Carbon Monoxide - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Carbon Monoxide	> 75 %	AVOXimeter 400D	Blood



2019-003225-0002

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laureen J. Marinetti".

Laureen J. Marinetti, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Laboratory Director

Date of Report: September 12, 2019

Alera Forensics at Redwood Toxicology is accredited by The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and is recognized by the State of California as a Title 17 Forensic Alcohol Laboratory.

All samples, including the sample packaging, will be retained at the laboratory for one year after the date of report. After one year, the samples and packaging will be destroyed unless the client requests that the samples be returned or an alternate retention policy has been set up with the laboratory. The laboratory cannot ship controlled substances.

Comments

None