

09-02-2019 3-2-2019

CORONER REPORT Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11422

Supplement No
ORIG



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

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Officer
HENSLIN, T

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information									
Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	Status				
Santa Barbara County Sheriff	19-11422	ORIG	09/02/2019	03:30	Incident				
Report Type	Location								
Coroner's investigation	PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND								
City	ZIP Code	Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date	From Time			
Santa Barbara City	95060	101	1	10	09/02/2019	03:30			
Officer	Assignment		Entered by	Assignment					
2718/HENSLIN, T	CORONER BUREAU		2718	CORONER BUREAU					
RMS Transfer	Report Title	Approving Officer	Approval Date						
Pending	CORONER REPORT	3768	02/21/2020						
Approval Time 14:22:51									
Cause of death (COR only)		Due to (COR only)		Manner of death (COR only)		Date/Time of death pronounced			
SMOKE INHALATION		BOAT FIRE		ACCIDENT		09-02-19/0443 HRS			
Date/Time body found		Determined by (COR only)		Dr. will sign		Hospitalization			
09-02-19/0443 HRS		INVESTIGATION		N		N			
Mortuary		Removal Status		Date/Time NOK notified		NOK notified by:			
CORONER'S BUREAU		CALL OUT		09-06-19/1530 HRS		DET NUNEZ			
NOK notified via		NOK relation to decedent							
TELEPHONE									
Person Summary									
Invl	Invl No	Type	Name	MNI	Race	Sex	DOB		
COR	1	I	CAMPBELL, VAIDEHI DEVI	987763	W	F			
Summary Narrative									
The decedent died as a result of a boat fire located at Platts Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara Ca. The fire is being investigated by the Unites States Coast Guard, FBI and ATF. The death investigation is being conducted by the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau. The manner death is being certified as ACCIDENT.									

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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: CAMPBELL, VAIDEHI DEVI

Involvement		Invl No	Type	
Decedent - Coroner Investigation		1	Individual	
Name		MNI	Race	Sex
CAMPBELL, VAIDEHI DEVI		987763	White	Female
DOB	Age	Juvenile?		
[REDACTED]	41	No		
Height	Weight	Hair Color		Eye Color
5'06"	140#	Blond or Strawberry		Blue
Type	Address		City	State
Home	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZIP Code	Date			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			
Type	ID No	OLS		
Operator License	[REDACTED]	California		
Type	ID No			
Social Security Number	[REDACTED]			
Relationship	Name	DOB		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
Address		City	State	
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
ZIP Code	Phone Type	Phone No		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
Relationship	Name	Sex	DOB	Phone Type
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Phone No				
[REDACTED]				

Medical

Citizenship		Place of Birth	Occupation	Coroner Case No	Premise Sealed?	Property?
USA		New York	--	19-11422	No	No
Vehicle?	Legal Document	Other Documents?	Other Agency	OA Officer		
No	No	No	USCG	---		
OA Case No	NOK Name		Mortuary Name		On Call?	
--	[REDACTED]		SIMPLY REMEMBERED		No	
Family Request?	Other?					
Yes	No					
Nature of illness						
N/A						
Injury Place						
OCEAN						
Injury Date		Injury Time		Injured At Work?		
09/02/2019		03:30:00		No		
Injury Premise						
PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA CA						
How Injured						
BOAT FIRE						
Decedent Driver	Decedent Passenger	Decedent Pedestrian				
No	Yes	No				

Narrative

Continuations:

vaidehi Campbell 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 hours, on 09-02-19.

Reports to the Coast Guard said there were possibly be 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 11415 for full details.

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Narrative

Sgt. 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.

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.

The 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 vessel air vent.

The suspected human tissue and hair were later flown to the Sacramento County Coroner's Office in Sacramento,

Coroner's Office

18/HENSLIN, T

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Narrative

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 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 Priya Surrago the decedent's sister. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

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.

Examination of decedent:

The decedent was received at the Coroner's Bureau inside two body bags, the inner bag was black in color and outer bag blue in color. The decedent was noted to be lying face down inside the body bags. All exposed bones on the decedent were discolored and either white or black in color due to charring. Indicating exposure to intense fire for different periods of time. Unknown type clothing material was visible on the left upper and lower leg. A black in color Ugg boot was on the decedent's left lower leg/foot. A partial black sock was visible upon the right foot.

Head:

The decedent's face and skull sustained catastrophic thermal burns and damage. Majority of the decedent face and skull was missing, exposing the brain and some parts of the upper facial bones and muscle. The eyes and nose were missing. The decedent's facial features were nearly unrecognizable, due to the thermal burns and damage. No indications of foul play were noted to the face, neck or skull.

Upper torso:

The decedent's chest to her abdomen sustained severe thermal burns with skin splits and exposure of the underlying muscle and fatty tissue. The decedent's intestines were partially protruding from the right lower abdomen area.

MS:

The right arm sustained extreme thermal burns with charring and severe skin splits. The decedent's right arm from the hand to the bicep area was missing. The left arm was missing from the hand to the elbow area. The exposed end of the left humerus had black charring. The right bicep muscle was retracted and sustained extreme skin splits and charring.

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Legs:

- Both legs sustained significant skin splits, charring and thermal damage.
- The left upper leg had severe skin splits exposing the underlying fatty tissue.
- The left lower leg had different degrees of thermal burns from third degree to extreme burns.
- The toes on the left foot were burned off.
- The right leg had severe skin splits exposing bone and fatty tissue.
- The toes on the right foot were burned off.

Back:

- The right of the decedent's back had large skin split that exposed underlying muscle.
- Skin discoloration and different degrees of burns were noted on entire back and buttocks.
- The degrees of burns ranges from second degree to extreme burning and charring.

Post mortem examination:

Due to the severity of the decedent's thermal injuries, along with the circumstances regarding the incident, regarding the vessel he was on becoming ignited, a post mortem examination was deferred.

Statements:

I made telephone contact with the decedent's husband 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 husband eventually made funeral arrangements with Simply Remembered Cremation Care.

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

Forensic toxicology:

On 09/02/19, toxicology samples were obtained from the decedent to include two vials of femoral blood. One vial of femoral 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 09/15/19, 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 09/15/19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's cyanide saturation. The report indicated the following:

<1 mcg/ml

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

Positive findings:

Diphenhydramine (Antihistamine)	7.4 ng/ml
Ethanol	0.05%

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, 41-year-old, Vaidehi Campbell died from smoke inhalation when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.

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Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (Vaidehi Campbell) 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

Final Disposition:

The decedent was released to representatives of Simply Remembered Cremation Care. 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 # 19-11422

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003257

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Vaidehi Campbell

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 "#4 Doe Jane". The name "Campbell Vaidehi" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 8 mL of cardiac blood collected at 2330 hours.

Service Request:

FP760B - Carboxyhemoglobin/Carbon Monoxide - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Carbon Monoxide	> 75 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



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 15, 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

None



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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Agency # 19-11422

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Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 8 mL of cardiac blood collected at 2330 hours.

Service Request:

F1048B - Misc. Chemicals (Qualitative) - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Cyanide	< 1 mcg/mL	Color Screen	Blood



2019-003257-0003

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

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

Date of Report: September 15, 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.

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Comments

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



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Agency # 19-11422

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003257

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Vaidehi Campbell

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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 "#4 Doe Jane". The name "Campbell Vaidehi" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 8 mL of cardiac blood collected at 2330 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003257-0001

Drug Screen Results - ELISA

<u>Drug Screen Classification</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Limit of Detection</u>
Amphetamine	Positive	20.0 ng/mL
Barbiturates	Not Detected	1.0 mcg/mL
Benzodiazepines	Not Detected	25.0 ng/mL
Buprenorphine	Not Detected	1.0 ng/mL
Carisoprodol	Not Detected	500.0 ng/mL
Cocaine Metabolite	Not Detected	50.0 ng/mL
Fentanyl	Not Detected	1.0 ng/mL
Marijuana Metabolite	Not Detected	10.0 ng/mL
Methadone	Not Detected	25.0 ng/mL
Methamphetamine	Not Detected	20.0 ng/mL
Opiates	Not Detected	10.0 ng/mL
Oxycodone \ Oxymorphone	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL
PCP	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL
Tramadol	Not Detected	50.0 ng/mL
Zolpidem	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL

Confirmation/Screen Results

<u>Analyte Name</u>	<u>Concentration</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
beta-Phenethylamine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
Amphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Diphenhydramine	7.4 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Ethanol	0.05 grams %	GC-Headspace	Blood
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003257-0001

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

The presence of the decomposition product, beta-Phenethylamine, can result in a positive ELISA amphetamine screen.

IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol