

2726 19-11426

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11426

Supplement No
ORIG



4434 Calle Real

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
Report Type
CORONER

Officer
CARLSON, M

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information										
Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No 19-11426		Supplement No ORIG		Reported Date 09/02/2019		Reported Time 03:32	Status Incident	
Report Type Coroner's investigation			Location PLATTS HARBOR, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND							
City Santa Barbara City		ZIP Code 95060	Rep Dist 101	Area 1	Boat 10	From Date 09/02/2019		From Time 03:32		
Officer 2726/CARLSON, M				Assignment CORONER BUREAU		Entered by 2726		Assignment CORONER BUREAU		
RMS Transfer Pending		Report Title Coroner Report		Approving Officer 3768		Approval Date 02/21/2020				
Approval Time 11:39:30										
Cause of death (COR only) SMOKE INHALATION			Due to (COR only) BOAT FIRE		Manner of death (COR only) ACCIDENT		Determined by (COR only) INVESTIGATION			
Dr. will sign N		Hospitalization N		Mortuary CORONER REMOVAL		Removal Status CORONER REMOVAL				
Date/Time NOK notified 09-04-1530		NOK notified by: DET HOLMAN		NOK notified via TELEPHONE		NOK relation to decedent [REDACTED]				
Person Summary										
Invl COR	Invl No 1	Type I	Name CHAN, RAYMOND SCOTT			MNI 987652	Race A	Sex M	DOB [REDACTED]	
Summary Narrative										
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 59 year-old, Raymond Chan died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel he was on caught fire, burned to the water line and sank. Chan had been a passenger on the chartered dive boat, Conception.										

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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: CHAN, RAYMOND SCOTT									
Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation				Invl No 1	Type Individual				
Name CHAN, RAYMOND SCOTT			MNI 987652	Race Other Asian	Sex Male	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 59		
Juvenile? No	Height 5'07"	Weight 145#	Hair Color Black	Eye Color Brown					
Type Home	Address [REDACTED]				City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]			
ZIP Code [REDACTED]		Date [REDACTED]							
Type Operator License	ID No [REDACTED]			OLS [REDACTED]					
Relationship [REDACTED]	Name [REDACTED]		Sex [REDACTED]	DOB [REDACTED]					
Address [REDACTED]				City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]				
ZIP Code [REDACTED]		Phone Type [REDACTED]	Phone No [REDACTED]						
Medical									
Citizenship UNITED STATES				Place of Birth California	Occupation ENGINEER	Coroner Case No 19-11426	NOK Notified? Yes		
Premise Sealed? No	Property? No	Vehicle? No	Legal Document No	Other Documents? No	NOK Name [REDACTED]				
Mortuary Name COAST CITIES		On Call? No	Family Request? Yes						
Nature of illness NOT RELEVANT									
Treatment NONE									
Injury Place CONCEPTION DIVE BOAT				Injury Date 09/02/2019	Injured At Work? No				
Injury Premise THIS BOAT WAS ANCHORED IN FRY'S HARBOR OFF OF SANTA CRUZ ISLAND.									
How Injured THE DECEDENT DECEDENT SUFFERED SMOKE INHALATION AND BURNS FROM A FIRE.									
Decedent Passenger Yes									

Narrative

Continuations:

Raymond Scott Chan 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 off shore of Platts Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. See Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department case number 19-11415 for full details.

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

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Narrative

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 where 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.

09-10-19, at approximately 1830 hours, Detective Baisa met with Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nelson, at 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, 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,

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Narrative

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 decedent's son, Kevin Chan. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

Examination of decedent:

Once the decedent was received at the Santa Barbara County Coroner's Morgue, a physical examination was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau. The decedent was received partially clothed and supine within a black colored body bag. A tag with case #19-11426 was attached to the body bag.

The decedent was not identifiable due to extensive and severe postmortem thermal injuries. Severe 4th degree thermal burns were present. There were no recognizable facial features. The decedent was clothed in denim pants and was shirtless. This clothing was cut from the body.

The chest and abdomen were charred from extensive 4th degree thermal burns. The burns extended through muscle and fatty tissue.

The upper legs displayed 4th degree burns. Both legs were burnt over their entirety, with the lower legs and foot displaying third degree burns.

The arms displayed extensive 4th degree burns with charring at the ends. Both arms and hands exhibited 4th degree burns. A yellow metal band was located on the decedent's left ring finger.

The decedent was rolled to his side and the rear of the body was examined. The entirety of the back of the torso and buttocks displayed 4th degree burns. The tissue was cracking and displayed fatty tissue beneath the skin. There were no indications of a struggle or defensive wounds to the decedent, specifically the hands, arms, and chest.

1 tube of heart blood was submitted to Alere Forensics for toxicology analysis. The remaining fluid samples were refrigerated at the Coroner's Bureau pending a need for toxicology analysis.

Post mortem examination:

Due to the severity of the decedent's injuries and in consideration of the circumstances associated with this tragic incident including: Extensive vessel fire which consumed the craft below the water line resulting in all decedents being submerged with the wreckage. All decedents were recovered by open water and confined space divers. Following a review of these circumstances and a physical examination of all decedents, a post mortem examination was deferred.

Forensic toxicology:

On 09-12-2019, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide 47%

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On 9-13-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's cyanide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Cyanide < 2 mcg/mL

The reports were reviewed with Dr. Manny Montez and found to be contributive to the decedent's death.

On 9-28-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding a toxicology screen. The report indicated the following:

Expanded Drug-Screen Positive Findings:

Meclizine 56 ng / mL

Nortriptyline 88 ng / mL

Volatiles
(EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone) None Detected

The report was reviewed with Dr. Manny Montez and found to be non-contributive to the decedent's death.

Consultations with Forensic Pathologist:

I reviewed the circumstances surrounding this death with Dr. Manny Montez. Dr. Montez opined that the decedent died as a result of smoke inhalation due to boat fire.

In review of the circumstances of this death:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 59 year-old, Raymond Chan died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel he was on caught fire, burned to the water line and sank. Chan had been a passenger on the chartered dive boat, Conception.

Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (CHAN) died as a result of the following cause;

SMOKE INHALATION (MINS)

Due to:

BOAT FIRE (MINS)

Manner of death:

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

Final Disposition:

The decedent was released to representatives of Coast Cities Cremations in Santa Barbara, Ca. The decedent's property was released to the family via the mortuary.

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11426

Supplement No
 0001

Reported Date
 09/19/2019

Officer
FABELA, N

Administrative Information												
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11426	Supplement No	0001	Reported Date	09/19/2019	Reported Time	07:57	Status	Incident
Report Type	Forensics BOC		Location	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	03:32						
Officer	2901/FABELA, N		Assignment	Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer						
Approving Officer	Approval Date	Approval Time										
2901	09/19/2019	08:02:06										

Summary Narrative

This report contains information pertaining to the Forensics photo-documentation of unknown male body #8 on Monday, 09/02/19, in Case#:19-11426.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:
 None

NARRATIVE:

On Monday, 09/02/19, Sgt. Jarrett Morris advised that our assistance was requested at the Coroner's Office for the mass casualty that had occurred earlier in the morning off the Santa Cruz Island. They were requesting assistance with photo documenting the recovered bodies from the Conception boat fire, and if possible, rolling fingerprints for identification purposes.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Body #8, male):

On Monday, 09/02/19, the recovered bodies were transported to the Santa Barbara County Coroner's Bureau. The Forensics Unit assisted Coroner's Detectives with photo-documentation of the recovered bodies.

I began photo documentation on a body bag labeled #8. Its contents were that of a male body #8. The decedent's body was badly burned. The decedent was wearing a pair of dark colored trousers (with belt), one black sandal (right foot), and one brown/black hiking boot (left foot). The decedent was holding a silver colored cell phone in their right hand. A gold colored wedding band was also found on the decedent's ring finger (left hand). Both the cell phone and the wedding band were collected by Coroner's Detectives. The clothing described above remained inside the body bag with the body.

No visible scars or tattoos were noted and no fingerprints were available.

A total of 97 digital photographs were later uploaded into the Forensic Unit's digital imaging computer under Case#:19-11426 for future reference.

~END OF REPORT~



2019-003229-0001

Drug Screen Results - ELISA

<u>Drug Screen Classification</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Limit of Detection</u>
Amphetamine	Not Detected	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>
Meclizine	56 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Nortriptyline	88 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Volatiles (EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone)	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003229-0001

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti", written over a horizontal line.

Lauren 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

EtOH - ethanol, IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11426

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003229

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Raymond Chan

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 peripheral blood with paperwork marked in part "#8 Doe John". The name "Chan, Raymond" was supplied on 9-9-19.

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

Service Request:

FP760B - Carboxyhemoglobin/Carbon Monoxide - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Carbon Monoxide	47 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003229-0002

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti", written over a horizontal line.

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