

JAN 5 16 0 6/2/2020

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11427

Supplement No
ORIG



4434 Calle Real

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002

Report Type
CORONER

Officer
BIEDINGER, C

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information										
Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No 19-11427		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		Rep Dist 101	Area 1	Beat 10	From Date 09/02/2019		From Time 03:32			
Officer 3144/BIEDINGER, C				Assignment CORONER BUREAU		Entered by 3144		Assignment CORONER BUREAU		
RMS Transfer Pending	Report Title Coroner Report			Approving Officer 3768		Approval Date 01/30/2020				
Approval Time 12:27:00										
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/				
Determined by (COR only) Investigation		Dr. will sign N		Hospitalization N		Mortuary JOSEPH P REARDON FUN				
Removal Status Family request		Date/Time NOK notified 09-06-19/ 1330 hours			NOK notified by: Detective Nunez		NOK notified via In person			
NOK relation to decedent [REDACTED]										
Person Summary										
Invl COR	Invl No 1	Type I	Name SALIK, TIA NICOLE ADAMIC			MNI 1001861	Race W	Sex F	DOB [REDACTED]	
Summary Narrative										
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 17-year-old, Tia Salika died from smoke inhalation when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.										

**Coroner Report
Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

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Narrative

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 Carlson and myself 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 34 passengers and five crew members. Five of the crew members were rescued, but none of the 34 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 I 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 I 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. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening and I, along with 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 0730 hours, Sgt Morris, Det. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening, myself, 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.

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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.

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 a sample from deceased father, Steven Salika, who was also aboard the vessel when it caught fire. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

Examination of decedent:

On 09-02-19, at 2231 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau after the decedent was transported from Santa Barbara Harbor. A tag with her assigned case number was attached to the body bag.

The decedent was a well-developed, Caucasian appearing female whose appearance was commensurate with her later found age and had severe thermal burns to most of her person.

She was received face down in a body bag, clothed in a ribbed tank top, underwear, and faux fur sweatpants. All of her clothing was significantly fire damaged and torn. The clothing was removed during the physical examination.

Severe thermal burns were on her head, with skin splits present exposing her skull. No hair was present. A portion of her skull was missing with brain tissue present on the top right side of her head. Her teeth were exposed showing braces on them. Due to the severity of the thermal burns, her identity could not be confirmed via her physical characteristics and no hair was present on her head.

Her neck, chest and abdomen were covered in fourth degree burns, with skin splits and muscle tissue exposed, including breast tissue. Her pubic area, thighs and both legs were also covered in fourth-degree thermal burns, with her right leg showing the most prominent burn marks from her thigh to the mid shin. The decedent's right lower leg was missing from mid-shin. Bone and tissue exposure were present at the base of the missing limb. The decedent's upper left hip and upper thigh were pink in color and singed, with minor skin slippage. The lower portion of her left leg was severely burnt, with fifth degree burns present on her shin and foot.

The decedent's right arm was missing below her mid-bicep, with skin splits and charring to her skin present on the remainder of her upper arm.

Her upper left arm was covered in fourth-degree burns with a large skin split present exposing her bicep. Blistering and skin sloughing was on the top of her forearm and the top of her left hand was charred black in color. Her left hand was gloving from exposure to water.

From her shoulders down to her mid-back and above her buttocks, her back was covered in third- and fourth-degree thermal burns.

Post mortem lividity could not be detected due to her thermal injuries and rigor mortis was present in all of her extremities. She did not have any visible tattoos.

Samples of bodily fluids were obtained from the decedent to include two tubes of femoral blood.

One tube of femoral blood was submitted to Alere Forensics for toxicology analysis. The remaining fluid sample was refrigerated at the Coroner's Bureau pending a need for toxicology analysis.

Post mortem examination:

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

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Statements:

Detective Nunez made notification to the decedent's [REDACTED] at 1330 hours, confirming the decedent's identification, along with her father, [REDACTED], and the decedent's [REDACTED]. Detective Nunez also informed the decedent's grandmother, [REDACTED], and her uncle, [REDACTED] of the positive identification of the decedent at that time.

On 09-06-19, at 1800 hours, I made telephone contact with Jean Allen, who was listed as executor of the estate for decedent, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. She had already spoken with Detective Nunez and knew about positive identification of the decedent, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

We continued talking and [REDACTED] told me she had contacted the Cremation Society of Santa Barbara for cremation arrangements for both the decedent and [REDACTED]. She had requested paperwork be sent to [REDACTED] brother, to be filled out from the Cremation Society of Santa Barbara, as she did not have all of [REDACTED] personal information.

Consultation with primary care physician:

The decedent's primary care physician was unknown and no contact was made with any physician regarding medical history for the decedent.

Forensic toxicology:

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 58 % saturation

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

Cyanide None detected

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

Basic Drug Screen None detected

Copies of these reports was reviewed with Dr. Manny Montez and found to be contributive to the decedent's death.

Consultations with Forensic Pathologist:

I 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 a boat fire based on the circumstances of the decedent's death, along with toxicology results.

In review of the circumstances of this death:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 17-year-old, Tia Salika 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 (SALIKA) died as a result of the following cause;

SMOKE INHALATION (Minutes)

Due to:

BOAT FIRE (Minutes)

Manner of death:

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

Final Disposition:

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The decedent was released to representatives of Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Santa Barbara, Ca. No medication or property was collected.

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
Report Type
FORENSICS

(805) 681-4100

19-11427

Supplement No
0001

Reported Date
09/24/2019

Officer
SANDOVAL, M

Administrative Information													
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11427	Supplement No	0001	Reported Date	09/24/2019	Reported Time	09:41	Status	Incident	
Report Type	Forensics BOC		Location	66 S SAN ANTONIO RD									
City	ZIP Code	Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date	From Time							
Santa Barbara City	93110	137	1	40	09/02/2019	03:32							
Officer	3703/SANDOVAL, M		Assignment	FORENSICS		Entered by	3703		Assignment	FORENSICS		RMS Transfer	Pending
Approving Officer	2901		Approval Date	09/24/2019		Approval Time						11:48:28	

Summary Narrative

Photo-documentation of Decedent #9.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:

None

NARRATIVE:

At 1715 hours on Monday, 09/02/19, I received a call from Forensic Supervisor Nancy Fabela advising my assistance would be needed to photograph the recovered bodies from the 'Conception' boat fire. This incident occurred in Santa Cruz Island earlier that morning. Supervisor Fabela advised the bodies would arrive at the Coroner's Office between 2130 and 2200 hours.

At 1905 hours on Monday, 09/02/19, I received a call from Forensic Supervisor Fabela advising I respond to the Coroner's Office at 2100 hours along with CSI Technician Amezola.

CSI Technician Amezola and I arrived at the Santa Maria station, gathered our equipment and left the station in the Forensic Crime scene van at 2000 hours.

WALK THROUGH:

CSI Technician Amezola and I arrived at the Santa Barbara Coroner's Office at 2100 hours and met with Forensic Supervisor Fabela and Sergeant Mike McCoy. Sergeant McCoy advised the recovered bodies were enroute to the Coroner's Office. The Los Angeles Coroner's Bureau was present as well.

At 2140 hours, our SBSO Coroner's Bureau arrived with the recovered bodies.

PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION

At 2231 hours, on Monday 09/02/19, I took overall photographs of Decedent #9. The body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #9 hanging from the zipper. The decedent was badly burned wearing a tank top, pajama looking bottoms, light colored underwear. The decedent also had green colored braces on her teeth. I then photographed her unclothed.

Photo-documentation was completed at 2245 hours on 09/02/19. All of the photographs were later uploaded to the Santa Barbara Forensic Unit's digital evidence hard drive under 19-11427 for future reference.

FINAL WALK-THROUGH:

Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Amezola and I gathered our equipment and left the Coroner's Office at 0020 hours, on Tuesday 09/03/19.

We arrived at the Santa Barbara station at 0025 hours, downloaded all photos, and left at 0106 hours.

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff

Narrative

~ END OF REPORT ~



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11427

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003237

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Tia Salika-Adamic

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 "#9 Doe Jane". The name "Salika-Adamic, Tia" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2330 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003237-0001

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 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 # 19-11427

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003237

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Tia Salika-Adamic

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 "#9 Doe Jane". The name "Salika-Adamic, Tia" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2330 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".

Lauren 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 # 19-11427

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003237

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Tia Salika-Adamic

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 "#9 Doe Jane". The name "Salika-Adamic, Tia" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 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	58 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003237-0002

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 12, 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