

7-2-202

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11428

Supplement No
ORIG



4434 Calle Real

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
Report Type
CORONER

Officer
BAISA, R

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information														
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11428	Supplement No	ORIG	Reported Date	09/02/2019	Reported Time	03:35	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	03:35			
Officer	3542/BAISA, R			Assignment	CORONER BUREAU		Entered by	3542		Assignment	CORONER BUREAU			
RMS Transfer	Pending	Report Title	Coroner Report		Approving Officer	3768		Approval Date	02/21/2020					
Approval Time	14:06:02													
Cause of death (COR only)	Smoke inhalation		Due to (COR only)	Boat fire		Manner of death (COR only)	Accidental					Date/Time of death pronounced	09-02-2019/0443 hours	
Determined by (COR only)	Investigation		Dr. will sign	N		Hospitalization	N		Mortuary	Coast Cities Cremations				
Removal Status	Family request		Date/Time NOK notified	09-14-2019/1145 hours		NOK notified by:	[REDACTED]		NOK notified via	In person				
NOK relation to decedent	Mother													
Person Summary														
Invl	Invl No	Type	Name	MNI	Race	Sex	DOB							
COR	1	I	HATANO, YUKO	989133	A	F	[REDACTED]							
Summary Narrative														
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 39-year-old, Yuko Hatano died from traumatic injuries sustained when she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.														

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

19-11428

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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: HATANO, YUKO									
Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation				Invl No 1	Type Individual				
Name HATANO, YUKO			MNI 989133	Race Other Asian	Sex Female	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 39		
Juvenile? No	Height 5'05"	Weight 125#	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 California					
Type Social Security Number	ID No [REDACTED]								
Relationship [REDACTED]	Name [REDACTED]			Race [REDACTED]	Sex Female				
Address [REDACTED]				City [REDACTED]					
State Foreign country not listed									
Medical									
Citizenship US			Place of Birth Foreign country not listed			Occupation ENGINEER			
Coroner Case No 19-11428	NOK Notified? Yes	Premise Sealed? No	Property? No	NOK Name [REDACTED]					
Mortuary Name COAST CITIES		On Call? No	Family Request? Yes	Other? No					
Injury Place BOAT				Injury Date 09/02/2019	Injured At Work? No				
Injury Premise PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA, CA 95060									
How Injured DECEDENT DIED FROM SMOKE INHALATION FROM BOAT FIRE.									

Narrative

Continuations:

Yuko Hatano 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 offshore of Platts Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. See Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department case number 19-11415 for full details.

Detective 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.

As 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.

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Narrative

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, of 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.

Three 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, 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.

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02/27/2020 08:23

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ORIG

Narrative

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 biological mother, Machiko Hatano. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

Also, additional identification for the decedent was confirmed via a latent print search performed by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, conducted on 09-06-19.

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:

On 9-2-19, at approximately 2237 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau.

The decedent was received in a supine position within a black colored body bag. The decedent's arms, hands and legs assumed a pugilistic posture. A tag with case #19-11428 was attached to the body bag.

The decedent was a well-developed female with dark colored hair. The decedent was not identifiable due to extensive and severe postmortem thermal injuries. She was clothed in a grey "Oxford University" t-shirt. Severe 4th degree thermal burns were present throughout.

The decedent had short length black in color hair. The face displayed extensive charring to the skin.

The chest and abdomen displayed extensive 3rd and 4th degree burns. The area around the sternum displayed severe 3rd degree burns and the surrounding chest and abdomen were black from charring. The right flank was burned through the skin, bone and muscle exposing the internal organs. The intestines were protruding.

The legs and feet displayed extensive 4th degree burns. The rear of the right thigh was charred through the muscle and fatty tissue. The right mid-calf was charred through the bone and the remainder of the leg and foot was not located. The rear of the left thigh was charred through the muscle and fatty tissue. The left foot was charred to the bone.

The arms and hands displayed extensive 4th degree burns that charred through the skin. The right arm at the elbow and tricep region were charred through the muscle and fatty tissue. Fatty tissue around the elbow was exposed.

The rear of the body was examined. The posterior aspects of the body displayed extensive 4th degree. The back was blackened and charred through the skin and fatty tissue. There were no indications of a struggle or defensive wounds to the decedent, specifically the hands, arms, and chest.

Samples of bodily fluids were obtained from the decedent to include 2 tubes of femoral blood (including one for DNA) and 1 tube of vitreous humor.

A 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

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ORIG

Narrative

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

Forensic toxicology:

On 9-15-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide 58%

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

Cyanide Not detected

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

Beta-Phenethylamine	Positive
Amphetamine	Not detected
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not detected
Ethanol	0.01 grams %
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not detected
Scopolamine	Presumptive ID

The reports were reviewed with Dr. Manny Montez and the carbon monoxide level was 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 boat fire.

In review of the circumstances of this death:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 39-year-old, Yuko Hatano died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.

Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (HATANO) 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 of Ventura, Ca. No property or medications were collected.

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
 Report Type
FORENSICS

(805) 681-4100

19-11428

Supplement No
 0001

Reported Date
 09/19/2019

Officer
FABELA, N

Administrative Information						
Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	Status	
Santa Barbara County Sheriff	19-11428	0001	09/19/2019	13:29	Incident	
Report Type	Location					
Forensics BOC	PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND					
City	Rep Dist	Area	From Date	From Time		
Santa Barbara City	101	1	09/02/2019	03:35		
Officer	Assignment		Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer	
2901/FABELA, N	FORENSICS		2901	FORENSICS	Pending	
Approving Officer	Approval Date	Approval Time				
2901	09/19/2019	13:31:10				

Summary Narrative

This report contains information pertaining to the trachea photo-documentation of female decedent #10 on Monday, 09/09/19, in Case#: 19-11428.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:
 None

NARRATIVE:

On Monday, 09/09/19, Coroner's Sgt. Jarrett Morris requested additional Forensic assistance with photo-documentation in the mass casualty that had occurred in Santa Cruz Island on 09/02/19.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Body #10, female):

On Monday, 09/09/19, the Forensics Unit assisted Coroner's Detectives with photo-documenting the tracheas of the recovered bodies. The examination was conducted by SBSO Dr. M. Montez.

I assisted by taking digital photographs of the tracheal examination conducted on female decedent #10. Photo-documentation began at 1529 hrs and was completed at 1532 hrs on Monday, 09/09/19.

A total of 8 digital photographs were later uploaded into the Forensic Unit's digital imaging computer under Case#: 19-11428 for future reference.

-END OF REPORT~

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11428

Supplement No
 0002

Reported Date
09/24/2019

Officer
AMEZOLA, V

Administrative Information												
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11428	Supplement No	0002	Reported Date	09/24/2019	Reported Time	11:09	Status	Incident
Report Type	Forensics BOC		Location PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND									
City	Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date	From Time							
Santa Barbara City	101	1	10	09/02/2019	03:35							
Officer	3949/AMEZOLA, V		Assignment	Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer						
Approving Officer	2901		Approval Date	09/24/2019		Approval Time	13:04:10					

Summary/Narrative

This report contains information in reference to the Coroners request for Forensics assistance in photo documenting the bodies recovered from the Conception Boat Fire Incident.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:
 None

NARRATIVE:

On Monday, 09/02/19, at 1904 hours, Forensics Supervisor Nancy Fabela advised that our assistance was requested by 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. Coroners Sergeant Jarrett Morris was requesting we meet at the Coroner's Office at 2100 hours.

At approximately 1955 hours, CSI Tech Melissa Sandoval and I left the North County Forensics Office, and arrived at the Coroner's Bureau at 2100 hours.

Upon our arrival we met with Patrol Sergeant Mike McCoy and several Los Angeles County Coroner's Office personnel were also standing by in the parking lot.

At approximately 2140 hours, our Coroners Bureau detectives arrived with the bodies.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Decedent #10, female):

On Monday, 09/02/19, at 2237 hours, I began overall photo documentation on a female decedent. Her body was on a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag hanging from the zipper. Her body was badly burned. She was wearing a grey top with "Oxford University" written on the front. A piece of a dark colored bottom was found on her lower extremities. Overall photo documentation of her unclothed body was also taken.

Photo documentation was completed at 2248 hours.

Supervisor Fabela, CSI Tech Sandoval and myself left the Coroner's Bureau at 0020 hours, on Tuesday, 09/03/19.

All digital photos were later uploaded into the South County Forensics digital imaging computer for future reference.

END OF REPORT~

Report Officer 3949/AMEZOLA, V	Printed At 02/27/2020 08:24	Page 1 of 2
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Santa Barbara County Sheriff
Narrative

19-11428

Supplement No
0002



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11428

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003238

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Yuko Hatano

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 "#10 Doe Jane". The name "Hatano, Yuko" 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	> 75 %	AVOXimeter 400D	Blood



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 8 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 "Laureen J. Marinetti".

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

Date of Report: September 13, 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

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 # 19-11428

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003238

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Yuko Hatano

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

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003238-0002

Drug Screen Results - ELISA

Drug Screen Classification	Result	Limit of Detection
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

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
beta-Phenethylamine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
Amphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Ethanol	0.01 grams %	GC-Headspace	Blood
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood
Scopolamine	Presumptive ID	LC-MS-MS	Blood



2019-003238-0002

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 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

Analytes reported as Presumptive ID are unconfirmed results.

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

IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol