

**Coroner Report
Santa Barbara County Sheriff**



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11433

Supplement No
ORIG

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Officer
BAISA, R

Administrative Information										
Agency		Report No		Supplement No		Reported Date		Reported Time		Status
Santa Barbara County Sheriff		19-11433		ORIG		09/02/2019		03:32		Incident
Report Type			Location							
Coroner's investigation			PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND							
City		Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date		From Time			
Santa Barbara City		101	1	10	09/02/2019		03:32			
Officer				Assignment		Entered by		Assignment		
3542/BAISA, R				CORONER BUREAU		3542		CORONER BUREAU		
RMS Transfer		Report Title		Approving Officer		Approval Date				
Pending		Coroner Report		3768		02/21/2020				
Approval Time										
14:04:16										
Cause of death (COR only)			Due to (COR only)		Manner of death (COR only)		Date/Time of death pronounced			
Smoke inhalation			Boat fire		Accidental		09-02-2019/0443 hours			
Determined by (COR only)			Dr. will sign		Hospitalization		Mortuary			
Investigation			N		N		Welch-Ryce-Haider			
Removal Status		Date/Time NOK notified		NOK notified by:		NOK notified via				
Family request		9-6-2019/1525 hours		Det. Nunez		Telephone				
NOK relation to decedent										
Person Summary										
nvl	Invl No	Type	Name			MNI	Race	Sex	DOB	
COR	1	I	BEITZINGER, PATRICIA ANN			989296	W	F		
Summary Narrative										
n 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 48-year-old, Patricia Beitzinger died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.										

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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: BEITZINGER, PATRICIA ANN

Involvement		Invl No	Type	
Decedent - Coroner Investigation		1	Individual	
Name		MNI	Race	Sex
BEITZINGER, PATRICIA ANN		989296	White	Female
DOB		Age	Juvenile?	
[REDACTED]		48	No	
Type	Address		City	State
Home	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ZIP Code	Date			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			
Type	ID No	OLS		
Operator License	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
Type	ID No	Social Security Number		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
Relationship	Name	Race	Sex	DOB
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Address		City	State	ZIP Code
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Phone Type	Phone No			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			
Medical				
Citizenship	Place of Birth	Occupation	Coroner Case No	NOK Notified?
US	Ohio	NUTRITION	19-11433	Yes
Property?	NOK Name	Mortuary Name	On Call?	Family Request?
Yes	[REDACTED]	WELCH-RYCE-HAIDER	No	Yes
Injury Place	Injury Date	Injured At Work?		
BOAT	09/02/2019	No		
Injury Premise PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA, CA 95060				
How Injured DECEDENT DIED FROM SMOKE INHALATION FROM BOAT FIRE.				

Narrative

Continuations:

Patricia Beitzinger is the decedent.
[REDACTED]

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.

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.

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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, 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, 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.

A 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

Print Officer
42/BAISA,R

Printed At
02/27/2020 08:52

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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 mother, Elizabeth Beitzinger. 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:

On 9-2-19, at approximately 2308 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau.

The decedent was a well-developed female adult. She was received on her right side in a pugilistic posture within a black colored body bag. She was clothed in "Ugg" style boots, flannel pants and a green/grey jacket. The jacket was melted and the pants and boots were extremely burned. A tag with case #19-11450 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 throughout. The left side of the head displayed severe 4th degree burns with charring to the bone. The right side of the face displayed mostly extreme 3rd degree burns. Long brown in color hair remained attached to the right side of the head. There was no hair on the left side of the head.

The chest and abdomen displayed 4th degree burns through the skin and fatty tissue. The right portion of the chest displayed severe 3rd degree burns.

The legs displayed 4th degree burns with charring to the skin and fatty tissue. The left leg displayed deeper burns with charring to the bone.

The arms displayed extensive burns and charring through the muscle tissue and bone. The left arm displayed extensive burns and charring to the bone from the area of the tricep to the hand. The right arm displayed severe 3rd degree burns and gloving of the skin at the hand.

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

3 samples of bodily fluids were obtained from the decedent to include 2 tubes of femoral blood (including one for DNA).

1 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.

Forensic toxicology:

On 9-12-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide >75%

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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

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

Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine	Positive
Methamphetamine	Not Detected
MDMA	Not Detected
Basic Drug Screen	None Detected
Volatiles	
(EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone)	None Detected

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, 48-year-old, Patricia Beitzinger 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 (BEITZINGER) 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 Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels of Santa Barbara, Ca. On 9-4-19, her property was released to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11433

Supplement No
 0001

Reported Date
 09/24/2019

Officer
SANDOVAL, M

Administrative Information							
Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	Status		
Santa Barbara County Sheriff	19-11433	0001	09/24/2019	09:46	Incident		
Report Type	Location						
Forensics BOC	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	Assignment		Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer		
3703/SANDOVAL, M	FORENSICS		3703	FORENSICS	Pending		
Approving Officer	Approval Date	Approval Time					
2901	09/24/2019	11:59:55					

Summary Narrative

Photo-documentation of Decedent #15, as well as an attempted ID.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:

SBSO Coroner's Bureau Request for Fingerprint Form

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 2308 hours, on Monday 09/02/19, I took overall photographs of Decedent #15. The body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #15 hanging from the zipper. The decedent was badly burned wearing dark colored 'Ugg' type boots, flannel looking pajama bottoms, and a yellow and black jacket. The jacket contained a pink colored iphone with a 'Medicine Buddha' sticker on the back of the phone. The phone contained an 'IMEI' number: 353294073650709. There was a 'Lululemon' backpack with her in the body bag. The backpack contained clothing.

Photo-documentation was completed at 2324 hours on 09/02/19. All of the photographs were later uploaded to the Santa Barbara Forensic Unit's digital evidence hard drive under 19-11433 for future reference.

FINAL WALK-THROUGH:

Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Amezola and I gathered our equipment and left the Coroner's Office

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff

Narrative

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.

QUESTION OF ID:

At 2330 ours, the Coroner's Detectives removed Jane Doe's right thumb in an attempt to ID her. I rolled her right thumb and obtained an inked fingerprint. At 0035 hours on 09/03/19, when we returned to the Santa Barbara station, I submitted Jane Doe #15's right thumb through the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS). This search (TCN: 201909031233208687) resulted in no hits.

This was verified by Forensic Supervisor Fabela at 0050 hours, on Tuesday 09/03/19.

~ 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 # 19-11433

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003239

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Patricia Beltzinger

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 "#15 Doe Jane". The name "Beltzinger, Patricia" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 11 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 4000	Blood



2019-003239-0001

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 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



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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Phone 866-584-0887 FAX 707-703-1319

Agency # 19-11433

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

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Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 11 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	< 2 mcg/mL	Color Screen	Blood



2019-003239-0003

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

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 # 19-11433

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003239

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 2, 2019

Decedent: Patricia Beltzinger

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 "#15 Doe Jane". The name "Beltzinger, Patricia" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 11 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2330 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003239-0002

Drug Screen Results - ELISA

Drug Screen Classification	Result	Limit of Detection
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	Positive	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
Ephedrine\Pseudoephedrine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
Methamphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Basic Drug Screen	None Detected	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Volatiles (EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone)	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003239-0002

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

The presence of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine can result in a positive ELISA methamphetamine screen.

EtOH - ethanol, IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol