

JAMES 2/10/20

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11439 Supplement No
ORIG



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

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Officer
BIEDINGER, C

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information																	
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11439	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	12:33:58																
Cause of death (COR only)	SMOKE INHALATION		Due to (COR only)	BOAT FIRE		Manner of death (COR only)	Accident					Date/Time of death pronounced	09-02-19/0443 hours				
Determined by (COR only)	Investigation		Dr. will sign	N		Hospitalization	N		Mortuary	Coast Cities Cremation							
Removal Status	Family request		Date/Time NOK notified	09-06-19/ 1330 hours		NOK notified by:	Detective Holman		NOK notified via	In person							
NOK relation to decedent	Wife																
Person Summary																	
Invl	COR	Invl No	1	Type	I	Name	MCILVAIN, CHARLES SPENCER			MNI	988241	Race	W	Sex	M	DOB	[REDACTED]
Summary Narrative																	
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 44-year-old, Charles McIlvain died from smoke inhalation when the vessel he was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.																	

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: MCILVAIN, CHARLES SPENCER

Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation		Invl No 1	Type Individual
Name MCILVAIN, CHARLES SPENCER		MNI 988241	Race Sex DOB White Male
Age 44	Juvenile? No	Height 6'01"	Weight 223#
Hair Color Bald (III records only)	Eye Color Blue	PRN 1425322	
Type	Address	City	State
ZIP Code	Date		
Type Operator License	ID No	OLS	
Type Social Security Number	ID No		
Relationship	Name	Race	Sex
Relationship	Name		Sex
Address		City	State
ZIP Code	Phone Type	Phone No	
Medical			
Citizenship US CITIZEN	Place of Birth California	Occupation VISUAL EFF	NOK Notified? Yes
NOK Name	Mortuary Name COAST CITIES CREMATI	Family Request? Yes	
Injury Place BOAT	Injury Date 09/02/2019	Injured At Work? No	
Injury Premise PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA, CA (34.02858 N 119.44172 W)			
How Injured DECEDENT DIED FROM SMOKE INHALATION DURING A BOAT FIRE.			

Narrative

Continuations :

Charles McIlvain 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 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.

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Narrative

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 were 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 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.

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 [REDACTED]. 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.

Examination of decedent:

On 09-03-19, at approximately 2033 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 his assigned case number was attached to the body bag.

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

He was bald and his scalp was severely burnt exposing his skull. The decedent's face was also burnt, making his

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ORIG

Narrative

physical characteristics not readily identifiable.

The thermal burns continued down his neck to his upper chest, mid-back, and to his mid-abdomen. The green in color long sleeve shirt had been wearing was burnt and tattered on his body. He was also wearing a pair of black in color swim trunks. Both sides of his abdomen were slight singed, with the skin around the singed marks pink.

Skin blistering and pink coloration of his skin was on the front and back side of his right hip. His lower right leg, from his knee to his foot was burnt and black in color. The decedent's left leg was more burnt than his right, with burn marks starting above his mid-thigh and down to his foot.

The decedent's upper right arm, from shoulder to elbow was burnt. His forearm was singed and his hand showed signs of thermal burns, especially his fingers.

His entire left arm from shoulder to mid-forearm was singed, with his wrist and his hand black in color from thermal burns.

Fourth degree thermal burns were on the decedent's back, with skin splits and charred flesh, from his shoulders down to his mid-back. His lower back had third degree burns on it.

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

Samples of bodily fluids were obtained from the decedent to include two tubes of femoral blood and one tube of vitreous humor.

One tube of femoral 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 thermal injuries and obvious traumatic injuries, along with the circumstances regarding the incident, regarding the vessel he was on becoming ignited, a post mortem examination was deferred.

On 09-09-19, at 1457 hours, a tracheal examination was performed on the decedent, by Dr. Manny Montez, to determine the presence of soot in the decedent's airway. During the examination soot was detected in the decedent's airway.

Statements:

At approximately 1330 hours, on 09-06-19, Detective Holman contacted the decedent's [REDACTED] and informed her that the decedent had been positively identified.

On 09-06-19, at 1741 hours, I called and spoke with [REDACTED], informing her the decedent could be released to a mortuary of her choice. [REDACTED] responded she understood and replied she would be contacting a crematorium the forth coming week.

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 09-15-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide 53 %

On 09-18-19, 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

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14/BIEDINGER, C

Printed At
01/30/2020 13:06

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the following:

Diphenhydramine 54 ng/mL

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, 44-year-old, Charles McIlvain died from smoke inhalation when the vessel he was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.

Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (McILVAIN) 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:

The decedent was released to representatives of Coast Cities Cremation in Santa Barbara, Ca. No property or medication was collected.

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11439

Supplement No
0001

Reported Date
09/23/2019

Officer
AVALOS, T

Administrative Information

Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff			Report No	19-11439	Supplement No	0001	Reported Date	09/23/2019	Reported Time	10:57	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	03:32								
Officer	4688/AVALOS, T			Assignment	FORENSICS	Entered by	4688	Assignment	FORENSICS	RMS Transfer	Pending		
Approving Officer	2901			Approval Date	09/23/2019	Approval Time	11:32:14						

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, 09/09/19 Forensics Supervisor Nancy Fabela advised that our services were requested at the Coroner's Office by Sgt. Morris with photo documentation in the mass casualty that had occurred in Santa Cruz Island on 09/02/19.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Decedent #21, male):

On Monday, 09/09/19, at 1457 hours, I began photo documentation on a male decedent. His body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #21 hanging from the zipper. Overall photo documentation was taken of the tracheal exam performed by Dr. Montez.

Photo documentation was completed at 1502 hours.

All digital photos were later uploaded into the South County Forensics digital imaging computer under case # 19-11439 for future reference.

~END OF REPORT~

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1002
Report Type
FORENSICS

(805) 681-4100

19-11439

Supplement No
0002

Reported Date
09/24/2019

Officer
SANDOVAL, M

Administrative Information						
Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	Status	
Santa Barbara County Sheriff	19-11439	0002	09/24/2019	09:54	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	12:12:08				

Summary Narrative

Photo-documentation of Decedent #21.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:

None

NARRATIVE:

At 0100 hours on Tuesday, 09/03/19, (prior to our departure from the Santa Barbara office) Forensic Supervisor Nancy Fabela advised CSI Technician Amezola and I return to the Santa Barbara office at 1200 hours.

At 1700 hours on Tuesday, 09/03/19, Forensic Supervisor Nancy Fabela advised CSI Technician Amezola that additional recovered bodies would be arriving at the Santa Barbara Coroner's Office between 2130 and 2200 hours.

At 2015 hours on Tuesday, 09/03/19, Forensic Supervisor Fabela advised the recovered bodies were enroute to the Coroner's Office.

Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Amezola, CSI Technician Avalos and I gathered our equipment and left the Santa Barbara station at 2015 hours.

WALK THROUGH:

CSI Technician Amezola and I arrived at the Santa Barbara Coroner's Office at 2025 hours and met with Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Avalos and Sergeant Mike McCoy. The 12 recovered bodies were already at the Coroner's Office. The Coroner's Bureau Detectives, Doctor Manny Montez, and the Los Angeles Coroner's Bureau were present as well.

PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION :

At 2033 hours, on Tuesday 09/03/19, I took overall photographs of Decedent #21. The body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #21 hanging from the zipper. The decedent was badly burned wearing dark colored 'Volcom' shorts, and a green colored t-shirt. I then photographed him unclothed.

Photo-documentation was completed at 2041 hours on 09/03/19. All of the photographs were later uploaded to the Santa Barbara Forensic Unit's digital evidence hard drive under 19-11439 for future reference.

FINAL WALK-THROUGH:

Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Amezola, CSI Technician Avalos, and I gathered our equipment and left the Coroner's Office at 2202 hours, on Tuesday 09/03/19.

We arrived at the Santa Barbara station at 2209 hours, downloaded all photos, and left at 02248 hours.

Report Officer	Printed At	
3703/SANDOVAL, M	01/30/2020 13:06	Page 1 of 2

Santa Barbara County Sheriff
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~ 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 # 19-11439

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003248

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Charles McIlvain

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 "Doe John #21". The name "McIlvain, Charles" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2200 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



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

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 # 19-11439

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003248

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Charles Mclvain

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 "Doe John #21". The name "Mclvain, Charles" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2200 hours.

Service Request:

F1048B - Misc. Chemicals (Qualitative) - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Cyanide	Not Detected	Color Screen	Blood



2019-003248-0003

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 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

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 # 19-11439

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003248

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Charles Mclvain

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 "Doe John #21". The name "Mclvain, Charles" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 10 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2200 hours.

Service Request:

FP760B - Carboxyhemoglobin/Carbon Monoxide - Blood

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
Carbon Monoxide	53 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003248-0001

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 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