

**Coroner Report  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

**19-11440**

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	19-11440	Supplement No	ORIG	Reported Date	09/02/2019	Reported Time	03:32	Status	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					
3144/BIEDINGER, C				CORONER BUREAU		3144		CORONER BUREAU					
RMS Transfer	Report Title		Approving Officer		Approval Date								
Pending	Coroner Report		3768		01/30/2020								
Approval Time													
12:32:11													
Cause of death (COR only)			Due to (COR only)		Manner of death (COR only)		Date/Time of death pronounced						
SMOKE INHALATION			BOAT FIRE		Accident		09-02-19/0443 hours						
Determined by (COR only)		Dr. will sign		Hospitalization		Mortuary							
Investigation		N		N		JOSEPH P REARDON FUN							
Removal Status		Date/Time NOK notified		NOK notified by:		NOK notified via							
Family request		09-06-19/ 1330 hours		Detective Nunez		In person							
NOK relation to decedent													
[REDACTED]													
Person Summary													
Inv#	Inv# No	Type	Name			MNI	Race	Sex	DOB				
COR	1	I	ADAMIC, CAROL DIANA			988244	W	F	[REDACTED]				
Summary Narrative													
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 60-year-old, Carol Adamic died from smoke inhalation when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.													

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**Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: ADAMIC, CAROL DIANA**

Involvement <b>Decedent - Coroner Investigation</b>		Invl No <b>1</b>	Type <b>Individual</b>				
Name <b>ADAMIC, CAROL DIANA</b>		MNI <b>988244</b>	Race <b>White</b>	Sex <b>Female</b>	DOB [REDACTED]	Age <b>60</b>	Juvenile? <b>No</b>
Height <b>5'07"</b>	Weight <b>180#</b>	Hair Color <b>Gray or Partially Gray</b>		Eyes Color <b>Blue</b>			
Type <b>Home</b>	Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]			
ZIP Code [REDACTED]	Date [REDACTED]						
Type <b>Operator License</b>	ID No [REDACTED]	OLS <b>California</b>					
Type <b>Social Security Number</b>	ID No [REDACTED]						
Relationship <b>Daughter</b>	Name [REDACTED]	Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]	DOB [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]				
ZIP Code [REDACTED]							
Relationship <b>Husband</b>	Name [REDACTED]	Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]	DOB [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]				
ZIP Code [REDACTED]							
Relationship <b>Next of kin</b>	Name [REDACTED]	Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]	DOB [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Phone Type <b>Cell</b>			
Phone No [REDACTED]							
Relationship <b>Relative</b>	Name [REDACTED]	Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]	Phone Type <b>Cell</b>			
Phone No [REDACTED]							

<b>Medical</b>			
Citizenship <b>US CITIZEN</b>	Place of Birth <b>California</b>	Occupation <b>QUALITY AS</b>	NOK Notified? <b>Yes</b>
NOK Name [REDACTED]	Mortuary Name <b>JOSEPH P REARDON FUN</b>	Family Request? <b>Yes</b>	
Injury Place <b>BOAT</b>	Injury Date <b>09/02/2019</b>	Injured At Work? <b>No</b>	
Injury Premise <b>PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SANTA BARBARA, CA 95060 (34.02858 N 119.44172 W)</b>			
How Injured <b>DECEDENT DIED FROM SMOKE INHALATION DURING A BOAT FIRE.</b>			

**Narrative**

**Continuations:**  
Carol Adamic 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.

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**Narrative**

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 decedents 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 decedent's brother,

Report Officer

144/BIEDINGER, C

Printed At

01/30/2020 13:07

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**Narrative**

Mark Adamic. 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 2034 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, overweight, Caucasian appearing female whose appearance was commensurate with her later found stated age and who had severe burns to most of her person.

Her face and head were severely burned with all of her hair missing and her scalp visible in locations. Skin splits and muscle tissue were present from the thermal injuries. Due to the severity of the burns, her physical characteristics could not readily be identifiable.

The thermal burn injuries continued down her chest to her upper torso, which was symmetrical in shape. A purple in color burnt and tattered shirt was covering her upper chest. The shirt was latter cut and removed from her body. Third degree burns with blistering and singeing of her skin was on the front of her abdomen. The minor amount of unsinged skin was pink in color.

She was also wearing a pair of black in color sweat/workout pants, over a pair of underwear. Both clothing items were burnt and tattered. The clothing items were removed during the physical examination.

Third degree burn blisters and burn marks were present down both of her legs, from her pubis to her ankles. The front of her left thigh was covered in skin spilt marks from her upper thigh to her upper shin. Her feet had been covered in a pair of slip on shoes, with right shoe being severely burnt, along with her right foot.

The decedent's upper right arm, from shoulder to almost her elbow was covered in forth degree burns with skin splits present. The remainder of her right arm was missing from her lower right bicep. Bone and burnt muscle tissue were present at the base of the limb.

Her left arm was also covered in forth degree burns, with skin splits and muscle tissue present. Her left hand was intact and curled up from thermal injuries.

Her back was covered in third degree burns consisting of charred skin and blistering from her upper back down to her buttocks.

Post mortem lividity could not be detected due to her injuries and rigor mortis was present in all of his extremities. She did not have any visible 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/she was on becoming ignited, a post mortem examination was deferred.

**Statements:**

Detective Nunez made notification to the decedent's [REDACTED] at 1330 hours, confirming the decedent's identification, along with her [REDACTED]

At 1750 hours, on 09-06-19, I called and spoke with the decedent's [REDACTED]. He knew of the decedent's death and that she had been positively identified via the DNA he supplied.

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**Narrative**

[REDACTED] told me the [REDACTED] of the decedent's [REDACTED] was executor of the estate for [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. He provided me a phone number to contact [REDACTED].

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

We continued talking and [REDACTED] told me she had contacted the Cremation Society of Santa Barbara for cremation arrangements for both Steven and Nicole. She had requested paperwork be sent to [REDACTED] the decedent's [REDACTED] 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 09-13-19, a toxicology report was received from Alere Forensics regarding the decedent's carbon monoxide saturation. The report indicated the following:

Carbon monoxide >10 %

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 the following:

Gabapentin 5310 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, 60-year-old, Carol Adamic 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 (ADAMIC) 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 Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Santa Barbara, Ca. No property or medication was collected.

**Case closed**

Report Officer  
144/BIEDINGER, C

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**Narrative**

# Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

**19-11440**

Supplement No  
0001

Reported Date  
09/17/2019

Officer  
**AVALOS, T**

Administrative Information												
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11440	Supplement No	0001	Reported Date	09/17/2019	Reported Time	10:37	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	Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer					
Approving Officer	2901		Approval Date	09/23/2019	Approval Time	10:26:57						

## 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 Tuesday, 09/03/19 Forensics Supervisor Nancy Fabela advised we would continue assisting the Coroner's Office with photo documentation and fingerprint identification on the remaining bodies that were to arrive later today.

At 2015 hours, we were advised that the bodies had arrived at the Coroner's Office. Forensic Supervisor Fabela and I responded, and CSI Tech's Amezola and Sandoval followed.

### PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Decedent #22, female):

On Tuesday, 09/03/19, at 2034 hours, I began overall photo documentation on body bag #22. The decedent in body bag #22 was that of a female. The body was badly burned from head to toe. The decedent was wearing a burnt purple tank top and white biking shorts under a pair of black sweatpants. There was a pair of brown shoes that laid at the foot of the body bag. No visible scars or tattoos were noted and no fingerprints were available.

Dr. Montez, SBSO pathologist stated the decedent had a blue flashlight in the right hand upon opening the body bag. This item was photographed on the chest of the decedent at the request of Dr. Montez.

Photo documentation was completed at 2045 hours.

All digital photos were later uploaded into the South County Forensics digital imaging computer under case # 19-11440 for future reference.

~END OF REPORT~

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ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11440

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003244

To: Brice Bruening  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Carol 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 "#22 Doe Jane". The name "Adamic, Carol" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 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	> 10 %	Micro Diffusion	Blood
Carbon Monoxide	Unsuitable	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003244-0001

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 17, 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

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

Agency # 19-11440

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003244

To: Brice Bruening  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

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Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 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



2019-003244-0003

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 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 # 19-11440

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003244

To: Brice Bruening  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Carol 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 "#22 Doe Jane". The name "Adamic, Carol" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 4 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2200 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003244-0002

**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>
Gabapentin	5310 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Volatiles (EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone)	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003244-0002

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren J. Marinetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

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