

7-1-2020

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11444

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 19-11444		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 02/27/2020			
Approval Time 09:26:14									
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 hrs			
Determined by (COR only) Investigation		Dr. will sign N		Hospitalization N		Mortuary Coast Cities Cremations			
Removal Status Family Request	Date/Time NOK notified 09-08-2019/1318 hours			NOK notified by: Det. Maxwell		NOK notified via In person			
NOK relation to decedent [REDACTED]									
Person Summary									
Inv#	Inv# No	Type	Name		MNI	Race	Sex	DOB	
COR	1	I	FIEDLER, LISA		989180	W	F	[REDACTED]	
Summary Narrative									
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 52-year-old, Lisa Fiedler 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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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: FIEDLER, LISA									
Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation				Inv No 1	Type Individual				
Name FIEDLER, LISA			MNI 989180	Race White	Sex Female	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 52	Juvenile? No	
Height 5'04"	Weight 125#	Hair Color Brown	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 [REDACTED]					
Address [REDACTED]				City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]				
ZIP Code [REDACTED]	Phone Type [REDACTED]	Phone No [REDACTED]							
Medical									
Citizenship US	Place of Birth Michigan	Occupation COSMETOLOG	Coroner Case No 19-11444	NOK Notified? Yes	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 : Lisa Fiedler 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 off shore of Platts Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. See Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department case number 9-11415 for full details.

Sgt. 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.

It was 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

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Narrative

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 13 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.

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.

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3542/BAISA, R

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

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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, Deborah Davis. 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 9-3-19, at approximately 2100 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau.

The decedent was received in the supine position within a black colored body bag. The decedent was a well developed female adult. She was clothed in a grey sports bra and grey yoga style pants. A tag with case #19-11444 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. Rigor mortis was present in the extremities. The head displayed charring. Bloody purge exited the nose.

The chest and abdomen displayed 3rd and 4th degree burns. The right side of the chest and abdomen displayed 3rd degree burns. The left side of the chest and abdomen were blackened and charred from burns.

The legs and feet displayed extensive burns with charring to the skin and fatty tissue.

The arms and hands displayed extensive 4th degree burns that charred through the skin.

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. The back was blackened. The most significant burns were located from the buttocks extending to the bottoms of the feet. This area displayed deep 4th degree burns through the skin and exposing the 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.

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

Carbon monoxide 70%

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1542/BAISA, R

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02/27/2020 09:27

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

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Narrative

On 9-15-19, 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:

Diphenhydramine	5.2 ng/mL
Bupropion	101 ng/mL
Hydroxybupropion	490 ng/mL
Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine	Positive
Beta-Phenethylamine	Positive
Amphetamine	Not detected
Methamphetamine	Not detected
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not detected
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	Not detected
Ethanol	0.05 grams %
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not 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, 52-year-old, Lisa Fiedler 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 (FIEDLER) 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 medication was collected

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11444

Supplement No
0001

Reported Date
09/23/2019

Officer
AVALOS, T

Administrative Information												
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No	19-11444	Supplement No	0001	Reported Date	09/23/2019	Reported Time	10:59	Status	Incident
Report Type	Forensics BOC		Location PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND									
City	Rep Dist	Area	From Date	From Time								
Santa Barbara City	101	1	09/02/2019	03:35								
Officer	4688/AVALOS, T		Assignment	FORENSICS	Entered by	4688	Assignment	FORENSICS	RMS Transfer			
Approving Officer	2901		Approval Date	09/23/2019		Approval Time						
						11:35:08						

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 #26, female):

On Monday, 09/09/19, at 1449 hours, I began photo documentation on a female decedent. Her body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #26 hanging from the zipper. Overall photo documentation was taken of the tracheal exam performed by Dr. Montez.

Photo documentation was completed at 1452 hours.

All digital photos were later uploaded into the South County Forensics digital imaging computer under case # 19-11444 for future reference.

~END OF REPORT~

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Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11444

Supplement No
 0002

Reported Date
 09/24/2019

Officer
AMEZOLA, V

Administrative Information							
Agency Santa Barbara County Sheriff		Report No 19-11444		Supplement No 0002	Reported Date 09/24/2019	Reported Time 11:20	Status Incident
Report Type Forensics BOC			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 3949/AMEZOLA, V		Assignment FORENSICS	Entered by 3949	Assignment FORENSICS	RMS Transfer Pending		
Approving Officer 2901		Approval Date 09/24/2019		Approval Time 13:05:39			

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 at approximately 0100 hours, prior to CSI Tech Melissa Sandoval's and my return to the North County Forensics Office, Forensics Supervisor Nancy Fabela requested we respond to the South County Forensics Office at 1200 hours, on Tuesday, 09/03/19. She advised we would continue assisting the Coroner's Office with photo documentation and fingerprint identification on the remaining bodies that were to arrive later that day.

At approximately 1100 hours, CSI Tech Melissa Sandoval and I left the North County Forensics Office, and arrived at the South County Forensics Office around 1230 hours.

At approximately 1700 hours, Supervisor Fabela contacted me, via phone, and advised that the additional bodies would be arriving at the Coroners Bureau around 2130-2200 hours.

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

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION (Decedent #26, female):

On Tuesday, 09/03/19, at 2100 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 dark colored sports bra, dark colored yoga pants, and a dark colored torn top. Overall photo documentation of her unclothed body was also taken.

Photo documentation was completed at 2115 hours.

I observed some visible friction ridge detail on her right thumb, and Coroner's Detective Chad Biedinger removed her right thumb to obtain a quality fingerprint for identification purposes. The right thumb was left with Det. Biedinger.

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

Report Officer 3949/AMEZOLA, V	Printed At 02/27/2020 08:34	Page 1 of 2
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Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11444

Supplement No
0002

Narrative

reference.

~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 # 19-11444

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003249

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Lisa Fiedler

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 "#26 Doe Jane". The name "Fiedler, Lisa" 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



2019-003249-0003

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

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FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

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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	70 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003249-0002

Respectfully,

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

Date of Report: September 15, 2019

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Comments

None



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11444

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003249

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Lisa Fiedler

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 "#26 Doe Jane". The name "Fiedler, Lisa" 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



2019-003249-0001

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	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
Diphenhydramine	5.2 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Bupropion	101 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Hydroxybupropion	490 ng/mL	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Ephedrine\Pseudoephedrine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
beta-Phenethylamine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
Amphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methamphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Ethanol	0.05 grams %	GC-Headspace	Blood
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003249-0001

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

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

IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol