

Coroner Report
Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11446

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		Report No		Supplement No		Reported Date		Reported Time	Status
Santa Barbara County Sheriff		19-11446		ORIG		09/02/2019		03:32	Incident
Report Type			Location						
Coroner's investigation			PLATTS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND						
City		ZIP Code	Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date		From Time	
Santa Barbara City		95060	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									
14:15:34									
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		
Determined by (COR only)		Dr. will sign		Hospitalization		Mortuary			
Investigation		N		N		Simply Remembered			
Removal Status		Date/Time NOK notified		NOK notified by:		NOK notified via			
Family request		9-5-19/1800 hours		Detective Holman		In person			
NOK relation to decedent									
Brother									
Person Summary									
Invl	Invl No	Type	Name			MNI	Race	Sex	DOB
COR	1	I	TAN, WEI			1003608	A	F	
Summary Narrative									
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 26-year-old, Wei Tan died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel she was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.									

**Coroner Report
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Decedent - Coroner Investigation 1: TAN, WEI										
Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation					Invl No 1	Type Individual				
Name TAN, WEI				MNI 1003608	Race Other Asian	Sex Female	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 26		
Juvenile? No	Height 5'00"	Weight 115#	Hair Color Black	Eye Color Black						
Type Home	Address [REDACTED]					City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]			
ZIP Code [REDACTED]		Date 09/02/2019								
Type Operator License	ID No [REDACTED]			OLS [REDACTED]						
Relationship Brother	Name [REDACTED]				Race Unknown	Sex Male	DOB [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]					City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	ZIP Code [REDACTED]			
Phone Type Cell	Phone No [REDACTED]									
Relationship Father	Name [REDACTED]				Race Unknown	Sex [REDACTED]				
Address [REDACTED]					City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]				
Medical										
Citizenship US				Place of Birth Foreign country not listed				Occupation DATA		
Coroner Case No 19-11446	NOK Notified? Yes	Premise Sealed? No	Property? No	NOK Name [REDACTED]						
Mortuary Name SIMPLY REMEMBERED			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:										

Wei Tan is the decedent.

Narrative:

On 09-02-19, at approximately 0516 hours, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office was notified by the Ventura Fire Department of a vessel on fire in the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara County. The Coast Guard responded along with Ventura Fire Department and Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Upon arrival at the scene the vessel was found to be fully engulfed in fire. The call had originally come into the Coast Guard at 0332 hours, on 09-02-19.

Reports to the Coast Guard said there were possibly be 34 subjects trapped below the water line, in the vessel. The vessel was identified as the "Conception" and it was in jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office near Santa Cruz Island, not in Ventura Sheriff's Department jurisdiction. The location was later found to be 300 yards offshore of Platts Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. See Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department case number 19-11415 for full details.

Detective Morris was notified of the incident by Sergeant Valencia. Sergeant Morris requested the response of Detective Henslin, Detective Biedinger, and Detective Carlson to the Coroner's Bureau to assist in the incident at approximately 0525 hours.

Detective Baisa was also called at that time and asked to respond to Ventura Harbor to act as the liaison for the Sheriff's Office.

**Coroner Report
Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

19-11446

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

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 Coast Guard transported the decedents to the Santa Barbara Harbor.

At 1150 hours, on 09-02-19, Sgt. Morris, Detective Henslin and Detective Biedinger responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor to retrieve decedents documented as 1 through 4.

At 1220 hours, on 09-02-19, the decedents were brought to Santa Barbara Harbor. Detective Henslin and Detective Biedinger transported two decedent's each to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau, where physical examinations were later conducted on them.

At that time digital photographs were taken of the decedents along with samples collected for DNA analysis identification and for an expanded toxicology panel. All of the decedents retrieved on 09-02-19, were found to have significant thermal burns to their bodies with limbs missing due to the intensity of the fire. None of the decedents could be identified by physical characteristics.

At 2030 hours, on 09-02-19, Sgt Morris, Det. Biedinger, Det. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening and staff from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor for retrieval of 16 additional bodies recovered from the Conception, documented as decedents 5 through 20.

The decedents were then transported to Coroner's Bureau for examinations, drawing of fluids for toxicology and DNA analysis, and collection of personal property.

At approximately 2330 hours, on 09-02-19, all the examinations of the decedents were completed and the decedents were placed in a portable morgue provided by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

On 09-03-19, at 1930 hours, Sgt Morris, Det. Biedinger, Det. Henslin, Det. Carlson, Det. Baisa, Deputy Bruening and staff from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office responded to the Santa Barbara Harbor for retrieval of 13 more remains recovered from the Conception, documented as decedents 21 through 33.

The decedents were then all transported to the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau, where physical examinations, digital photographs, and fluid samples for DNA analysis and toxicology were conducted on each recovered decedent.

All of the decedents recovered on 09-03-19 were placed on portable coroner racks and secured in the Santa Barbara Coroner's Bureau morgue.

On 09-09-19, at approximately 1400 hours, Pathologist Dr. Manny Montez, Detective Henslin, Detective Baisa, and Sgt. Morris, along with representatives from the FBI and ATF performed tracheal examinations of the remaining decedents at the Coroner's Bureau.

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.

Report Officer
542/BAISA, R

Printed At
02/27/2020 08:35

Page 3 of 5

**Coroner Report
Santa Barbara County Sheriff**

19-11446

Supplement No
ORIG

Narrative

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.

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 brother, Shijesejay Tan. The DNA comparison was conducted via the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

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

Physical evidence:

A series of digital photographs were taken of the decedent at the Coroner's Bureau by Forensic Personnel from the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department. The photo card was later downloaded for storage at the Coroner's Bureau.

Examination of decedent:

On 9-3-19, at approximately 2108 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau.

The decedent was received in a supine position within a black colored body bag. The decedent's arms, hands and legs assumed a pugilistic posture. A tag with case #19-11446 was attached to the body bag.

The decedent was a well-developed female. The decedent was not identifiable due to extensive and severe postmortem thermal injuries. She was clothed in a red long sleeve shirt, thin dark colored pants and white sandals. Severe 4th degree thermal burns were present throughout.

The face displayed extensive 4th degree burns with charring through the bone. The top and rear portion of the skull was missing with brain matter exposed. There was apparent white foam around the lips. No hair remained.

The chest and abdomen displayed extensive 4th degree burns. The chest was blackened and charred to the fatty tissue.

The legs and feet displayed extensive 3rd and 4th degree burns. The right thigh had extensive burns that charred through the skin and fatty tissue. Charred fatty tissue was visible at the front of the thigh. The remainder of the leg and foot displayed charring. The left shin displayed 3rd degree burns. The remainder of the left leg displayed 4th degree burns with charring to the skin. The bottoms of the feet displayed 3rd degree burns.

The arms and hands displayed extensive 4th degree burns that charred through the skin. Both shoulders and hands were charred through the fatty tissue and muscle. Fatty tissue was visible in affected areas.

The rear of the body was examined. The posterior aspects of the body displayed extensive 4th degree burns. The back and buttocks were blackened and charred through the skin and fatty tissue. The skin split around the lower back and buttocks exposing charred 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 4 tubes of femoral blood (including one for DNA).

A tube of femoral blood was submitted to Alere Forensics for toxicology analysis. The remaining fluid sample was refrigerated at the Coroner's Bureau pending a need for toxicology analysis.

**Coroner Report
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Narrative

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 >75 %

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:

Beta-Phenethylamine	Positive
Amphetamine	Not detected
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not detected
Ethanol	0.02 grams %
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not detected
Basic Drug Screen	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, 26-year-old, Wei Tan 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 (TAN) 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 Simply Remembered Cremation Care of Santa Barbara, Ca. No property or medications were collected.

Case closed

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11446

Supplement No
0001

Reported Date
09/10/2019

Officer
AVALOS, T

Administrative Information																				
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff			Report No	19-11446		Supplement No	0001		Reported Date	09/10/2019		Reported Time	10:51		Status	Incident			
Report Type	Forensics BOC			Location	FRYS HARBOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND															
City	Santa Barbara City		ZIP Code	95060		Rep Dist	101		Area	1		Beat	10		From Date	09/02/2019		From Time	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	10:34:01												

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 #28, female):

On Tuesday, 09/03/19, at 2108 hours, I began overall photo documentation on a female decedent. Her body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #28 hanging from the zipper. Her body was badly burned. She was wearing a long sleeve red shirt, dark colored yoga pants with white and red flowers on them, purple underwear and white flip flop sandals. Overall photo documentation of her unclothed body was also taken. No visible scars or tattoos are noted and no fingerprints were available due to the severity of the burns.

Photo documentation was completed at 2120 hours.

All digital photos were later uploaded into the South County Forensics digital imaging computer under case # 19-11446 for future reference.

-END OF REPORT-

Report Officer	688/AVALOS, T		Printed At	02/27/2020 08:36		Page 1 of 1
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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 # 19-11446

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003255

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Wei Tan

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 "#28 Doe Jane". The name "Tan, Wei" 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	> 75 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003255-0002

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



ALERE FORENSICS AT REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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

Agency # 19-11446

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003255

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Wei Tan

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 "#28 Doe Jane". The name "Tan, Wei" 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



2019-003255-0003

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 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.

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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 # 19-11446

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003255

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Wei Tan

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 "#28 Doe Jane". The name "Tan, Wei" 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



2019-003255-0001

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	Not Detected	20.0 ng/mL
Opiates	Not Detected	10.0 ng/mL
Oxycodone \ Oxymorphone	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL
PCP	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL
Tramadol	Not Detected	50.0 ng/mL
Zolpidem	Not Detected	5.0 ng/mL

Confirmation/Screen Results

Analyte Name	Concentration	Method	Sample Type
beta-Phenethylamine	Positive	GC-MS	Blood
Amphetamine	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	Not Detected	GC-MS	Blood
Ethanol	0.02 grams %	GC-Headspace	Blood
Acetone, IPA and MeOH	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood
Basic Drug Screen	None Detected	LC-MS-MS	Blood



2019-003255-0001

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 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.

IPA - isopropanol, MeOH - methanol