

09/02/2019

Coroner Report Santa Barbara County Sheriff

19-11450

Supplement No
ORIG



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

Reported Date
09/02/2019

Officer
BAISA, R

(805) 681-4100

Administrative Information										
Agency		Report No		Supplement No		Reported Date		Reported Time		Status
Santa Barbara County Sheriff		19-11450		ORIG		09/02/2019		03:35		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		03:35			
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										
13:58:57										
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 hrs				
Determined by (COR only)		Dr. will sign		Hospitalization		Mortuary				
Investigation		N		N		McDermott-Crockett				
Removal Status		Date/Time NOK notified		NOK notified by:		NOK notified via				
Family request		9-11-2019/1402 hours		Detective Sosa		Telephone				
NOK relation to decedent										
Father										
Person Summary										
Invl	Invl No	Type	Name			MNI	Race	Sex	DOB	
COR	1	I	NIRMAL, KAUSTUBH			989143	O	M	[REDACTED]	
Summary Narrative										
On 09-02-19, at approximately 0443 hours, 33-year-old, Kaustubh Nirmal 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: NIRMAL, KAUSTUBH										
Involvement Decedent - Coroner Investigation				Inv No 1	Type Individual					
Name NIRMAL, KAUSTUBH			MNI 989143	Race Other	Sex Male	DOB [REDACTED]	Age 33	Juvenile? No		
Type Home	Address [REDACTED]			City [REDACTED]		State [REDACTED]				
ZIP Code [REDACTED]		Date [REDACTED]								
Type Passport	ID No [REDACTED]									
Relationship Father	Name [REDACTED]			Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]		Address [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]		State [REDACTED]						
Relationship Mother	Name [REDACTED]			Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]		Address [REDACTED]			
Address [REDACTED]		City [REDACTED]		State [REDACTED]						
Medical										
Place of Birth Foreign country not listed		Occupation ADVISOR	Coroner Case No 19-11450		NOK Notified? Yes	Premise Sealed? No	Property? No			
NOK Name [REDACTED]			Mortuary Name MCDERMOTT CROCKETT		On Call? No	Family Request? Yes	Other? No			
Injury Place BOAT		Injury Date 09/02/2019			Injured At Work? No					
How Injured DECEDENT DIED FROM SMOKE INHALATION FROM BOAT FIRE.										
Narrative										
Continuations :										
Kautubh Nirmal 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 19-11415 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.

When the vessel was later found, 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

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Narrative

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 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.

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 where 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.

Report Officer
1542/BAISA,R

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The samples were then taken to the Sacramento County Coroner's Office, for DNA analysis.

Physical evidence:

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

Identification of decedent:

The decedent was positively identified by a DNA comparison, with samples submitted by the decedent's mother, Lakshmi Sharma. 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 2130 hours, an examination of the decedent was conducted at the Coroner's Bureau.

The decedent was received clothed in dark colored shorts. The decedent was an apparent well developed male. He was in a supine position within a black colored body bag. The legs were bent at the knees and the arms were bent at the elbows. Rigor mortis was present in the extremities. A tag with case #19-11450 was attached to the body bag.

The decedent was not identifiable due to extensive and severe postmortem thermal injuries. Severe 4th degree thermal burns were present throughout. There were no recognizable facial features due to charring to the bone on the face and skull. No hair was present.

The chest and abdomen were charred from extensive thermal burns that charred through the fatty tissue. The shorts were removed and revealed 3rd degree burns of the genitals.

The left leg had severe 4th degree burns with charring to the fatty tissue around the left knee. The inner portion of the thigh and upper shin displayed 3rd degree burns. The lower portion of the calf was charred from thermal burns.

The arms displayed extensive burns and charring through the muscle tissue and bone. The left arm was burned to the bone at the wrist and the left hand was not present.

The decedent was rolled to his side and the rear of the body was examined. The back displayed extensive charring from thermal burns. 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 one tube of vitreous humor.

1 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.

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:

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Carbon monoxide 39%

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

Cyanide < 1 mcg/mL

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

Basic Drug Screen None Detected

Volatiles
(EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone) 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, 33- year-old, Kaustubh Nirmal died from traumatic injuries sustained when the vessel he was on, for a diving expedition, caught fire.

Cause of Death:

It was determined that the decedent (NIRMAL) 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 McDermott-Crockett & Associates Mortuary, 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

19-11450

Supplement No
 0001

Reported Date
 09/24/2019

Officer
SANDOVAL, M

Administrative Information							
Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	Status		
Santa Barbara County Sheriff	19-11450	0001	09/24/2019	10:02	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	03:35	
Officer	Assignment		Entered by	Assignment	RMS Transfer		
3703/SANDOVAL, M	FORENSICS		3703	FORENSICS	Pending		
Approving Officer	Approval Date	Approval Time					
2901	09/24/2019	12:59:33					

Summary Narrative

Photo-documentation of Decedent #32.

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 2130 hours, on Tuesday 09/03/19, I took overall photographs of Decedent #32. The body was in a body bag with a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Coroner tag #32 hanging from the zipper. The decedent was badly burned wearing partial dark colored shorts, blue colored boxers, part of a t-shirt, and sandals. I then photographed him unclothed.

Photo-documentation was completed at 2140 hours on 09/03/19. All of the photographs were later uploaded to the Santa Barbara Forensic Unit's digital evidence hard drive under 19-11450 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.

Report Officer 3703/SANDOVAL, M	Printed At 02/27/2020 08:08	Page 1 of 2
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0001

Santa Barbara County Sheriff

Narrative

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

~ END OF REPORT ~

Santa Barbara County Sheriff



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

(805) 681-4100

19-11450

Supplement No
 0002

Reported Date
 09/24/2019

Officer
SANDOVAL, M

Administrative Information															
Agency	Santa Barbara County Sheriff			Report No	19-11450		Supplement No	0002		Reported Date	09/24/2019	Reported Time	10:03	Status	Incident
Report Type	Forensics BOC			Location	66 S SAN ANTONIO RD										
City	Santa Barbara City	ZIP Code	93110	Rep Dist	137	Area	1	Beat	40	From Date	09/02/2019	From Time	03:35		
Officer	3703/SANDOVAL, M			Assignment	FORENSICS		Entered by	3703		Assignment	FORENSICS		RMS Transfer	Pending	
Approving Officer	2901			Approval Date	09/24/2019		Approval Time	12:43:15							

Summary Narrative

Additional photo-documentation of Decedent #32.

Narrative

E-FILE ATTACHMENTS:

None

NARRATIVE:

At 1320 hours on Monday, 09/09/19, I received a call from Forensic Supervisor Nancy Fabela advising our assistance was needed to take additional photographs of the victims from the 'Conception' boat fire.

WALK THROUGH:

CSI Technician Avalos and I arrived at the Santa Barbara Coroner's Office at 1430 hours and met with Forensic Supervisor Fabela, SBSO Coroner Detective, Doctor Manny Montez, along with an FBI Evidence Response Manager. Photographs were being requested of the inside of the victims' tracheas only. Doctor Montez proceeded to expose each victims' tracheas and photographs were taken at his request.

PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION :

At 1453 hours, on Monday 09/09/19, I took close up digital photographs of Decedent #32's trachea.

Photo-documentation was completed at 1454 hours on 09/09/19. All of the photographs were later uploaded to the Santa Barbara Forensic Unit's digital evidence hard drive under 19-11450 for future reference.

FINAL WALK-THROUGH:

Forensic Supervisor Fabela, CSI Technician Avalos and I gathered our equipment and left the Coroner's Office at 1545 hours.

We arrived at the Santa Barbara station at 1550 hours, downloaded all photos, and left at 1630 hours.

~ 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 # 19-11450

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003253

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Kaustubh Nirmal

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 "#32 Doe John". The name "Nirmal, Kaustubh" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 6 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	39 %	AVOXimeter 4000	Blood



2019-003253-0002

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laureen J. Marinetti", with a small flourish at the end.

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

Date of Report: September 15, 2019

Alera 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 # 19-11450

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003253

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Kaustubh Nirmal

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 "#32 Doe John". The name "Nirmal, Kaustubh" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 6 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	< 1 mcg/mL	Color Screen	Blood



2019-003253-0003

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.

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 # 19-11450

FORENSIC LABORATORY REPORT

AF # 2019-003253

To: Brice Bruening
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner

Sample Collection Date: September 3, 2019

Decedent: Kaustubh Nirmal

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 "#32 Doe John". The name "Nirmal, Kaustubh" was supplied on 9-9-19.

Item # 01-A: One gray top tube with approximately 6 mL of peripheral blood collected at 2200 hours.

Service Request:

FP222B - Expanded Pnl (Confirm) - Blood



2019-003253-0001

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>
Basic Drug Screen	None Detected	LC-MS-MS	Blood
Volatiles (EtOH, IPA, MeOH, Acetone)	Not Detected	GC-Headspace	Blood



2019-003253-0001

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 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