

FROM: HEATHER JONES

Chief Coroner

PHONE:(867)667-5317

FAX NO.:(867) 456-6826

Heather.Jones@gov.yk.ca

Yukon Coroner's Service
206C Lowe Street, Box 2703, J-10A
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6

REMARKS:

On October 26, 2019, at 1345 hours the Mayo detachment of the RCMP and Yukon Coroner's Service were notified of a sudden death at 17 Mile Road near Mayo. The road is near km 21.5 on the Silver Trail Highway.

The scene was that of a recreational cabin, which at the time of the death was occupied by the two owners – whose primary residence is in Whitehorse – and two visiting friends from Stewart Crossing. The owners of the cabin had arrived from Whitehorse on October 23. When their friends arrived to visit on October 25, the homeowners were showing signs of illness and the visitors decided to stay the night to ensure their wellbeing. Late the next morning one of the visitors awoke to find his partner unresponsive and the other two occupants in need of medical assistance. Mayo RCMP, along with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), a local nurse and the Mayo Fire Department, attended the cabin. The Stewart Crossing resident was pronounced deceased at the scene and has been identified as 75-year-old Margaret Elizabeth CARPENTER.

Full post mortem analysis including toxicology was completed and has confirmed that Mrs. CARPENTER died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Yukon Fire Marshal's Office attended the scene and has completed a full assessment of the cabin. Their findings indicated that there were five key factors that may have contributed to altering the atmosphere within the cabin:

- 1) Two woodstoves with no fresh air return;
- 2) Propane stove/oven with no ventilation;
- 3) 12-volt batteries charging inside the structure with no ventilation;
- 4) Thermoelectric generator fueled by propane inside the structure with no ventilation; and
- 5) The cabin was well insulated and sealed with expanding foam insulation and a thermal door and windows.

Furthermore, the cabin was not fitted with either a smoke detection or carbon monoxide detection system.

Yukon's Fire Marshall Offices advises that devices that can produce carbon monoxide in our homes – water heaters, furnaces or boilers, fireplaces, both gas and wood burning stoves and ovens – should be inspected annually. Fuel burning devices that are not approved for indoor use should never be brought into a home, camper, cabin or tent.

Yukon Coroner's Service continues our investigation and appreciates the assistance of the Mayo RCMP, the Mayo Fire Department and the Yukon Fire Marshall's Office. We also extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. CARPENTER and the communities of Mayo and Stewart Crossing.