



**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest
Inquisition and Recommendations**

Department of Justice, Legal Services
Yukon Coroners Service
206C Lowe Street
PO Box 2703 (J-10A)
Y1A 2C6
Whitehorse, YT
Tel.: 867-667-5317 Fax.: 867-456-6826

Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Elizabeth Caroline BOYD

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202018018

Name: Elizabeth Caroline BOYD Date of Birth: 1999/01/28 Date of Death: 2018/06/13
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Whitehorse, Yukon
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: Km 1566 Alaska Highway

Cause of Death

a) Multiple Blunt Force Trauma b) Motor Vehicle Incident-driver

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

An external body examination revealed multiple blunt force injuries which would have been instantly incompatible with life.

Toxicological Findings

Blood alcohol content (BAC) levels were detected to be 0.17%..

Circumstances of Death

In the early hours of the morning of June 13, 2018, Ms. BOYD and a friend had been driving from Whitehorse to Haines Junction in a Dodge pickup truck registered to the friend's mother. They intentionally drove the truck 'off road' and became stuck in a muddy ditch near a Yukon Government's Department of Highways and Public Works jobsite at Cracker Creek. After approximately 2 hours of trying to get the vehicle unstuck and attempting to get help from people passing by on the highway, they were able to gain access to an Emergency Transport Vehicle (ETV*) parked at the jobsite. Ms. BOYD drove herself and the friend the 43 kms to Haines Junction to pick up a second vehicle to return to Cracker Creek to pull the Dodge out of the mud. It is understood that Ms. BOYD left Haines Junction, driving the ETV ahead of the friend and was en route to the Cracker Creek jobsite, presumably to return the ETV.

A witness driving towards Haines Junction reported that the ETV had overtaken him, driving in an "erratic" manner. Shortly after 0700 hrs the same vehicle passed him heading east. He was able to discern that the female driver did not appear to be wearing a seat belt and was looking down as they passed. Skid marks on the highway confirm that Ms. BOYD lost control of the ETV approximately 6 kms later, rolling it in the north ditch where it came to rest on the driver's side. Ms. BOYD was found deceased under the over turned vehicle.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Ms. BOYD had indicated, via text message, at 0245 hrs on June 13, 2018 that she "had been drinking and could not drive". Approximately two hours later she found herself in a situation where the vehicle in which she was a passenger became stuck. Not having success in flagging down a passing vehicle, she made the decision to enter vehicles at a Yukon Government's Department of Highways and Public Works jobsite at Cracker Creek. She chose to drive the accessible Emergency Transport Vehicle the 43 kms to Haines Junction, with the intent to return to the jobsite with the help required to free the stuck vehicle.

As far as could be determined, Ms. BOYD had not slept in the 24 hours preceding the incident and she was not familiar with the ETV she chose to drive. Witnesses reported the ETV being driven in an erratic manner between the jobsite and Haines Junction. Ms. BOYD was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the incident and records show that she was using her cell phone moments before the fatal incident occurred.

Sleep deprivation, moderate to heavy levels of alcohol, driver inexperience, lack of seat belt use and driver distraction all factored significantly in this incident.

Recommendations

Directed to Government of Yukon, Department of Highways and Public Works, Transportation Maintenance Branch:

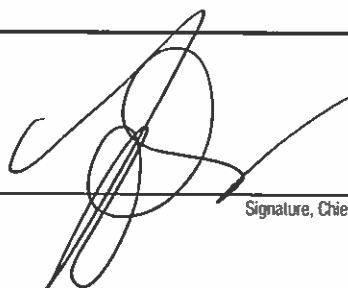
- 1) Develop and activate procedures based on Safe Work Practice which:
 - a. identifies jobsite crew member responsible for the Emergency Transport Vehicle on a daily basis.
 - b. includes the consistent removal of the Emergency Transport Vehicle from the jobsite at the end of the day's shift.
 - c. insures that all other equipment left at the jobsite at the end of the shift be locked and secured.

Directed to Government of Yukon, Department of Highways and Public Works, Transportation Branch, Motor Vehicles:

1) Provide renewed public education and awareness of the following "Road Safety Initiatives" taken on by this department:

- a. Alcohol Impaired Driving
- b. Fatigued Driving
- c. Distracted Driving
- d. Motor Vehicle Restraint Systems

*ETV's are full ambulances which had originally been used by Emergency Medical Services and then repurposed for duties by Yukon Government's Department of Highways and Public Works. These vehicles are used on highway maintenance sites primarily to service crew members, should emergency medical needs arise.



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

Nov14, 2018

Date

Print

Save

Clear