



**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: Garth Evan ZORN

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202017077

Name: Garth Evan ZORN Date of Birth: 1971/06/25 Date of Death: 2018/03/26
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Watson Lake, Yukon
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: Caucasian Location of Death: Alaska Highway

Cause of Death

Multiple Blunt Force Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Collision-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

Toxicology not carried out

Circumstances of Death

Mr. ZORN was driving his 1995 Chevrolet 2500 pickup on a return trip to Watson Lake. Near km 1136 of the Alaska Highway, Mr. ZORN, who for unknown reasons, was traveling east in the westbound lane, collided with an oncoming vehicle. After the vehicles hit each other, the engine from Mr. ZORN's pickup became separated from the vehicle and ended up on the eastbound shoulder. The vehicles remained engaged as they came to a final rest, southwest of the point of impact against a snow bank. Very quickly, Mr. ZORN's pickup became engulfed in flames which had begun to spread to the second vehicle.

Mr. ZORN had received multiple blunt force injuries which would have instantly been fatal.

The weather and light conditions at the time of the collision were reported to be -9C with cloud coverage and in daylight conditions with good visibility. At the time of the collision the highway was dry and in good repair. It was confirmed that there were no defects, hazards, or contaminants observed on the highway surface.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. ZORN had driven from Watson Lake to Whitehorse, Yukon, a distance of 440 kms on the morning of March 26, 2018. He was returning to Watson Lake after attending an appointment shortly after 1430 hours on the same day. A collision occurred between Mr. ZORN's eastbound vehicle and a westbound vehicle at 1715 hours near km 1136 of the Alaska Highway. Evidence indicates that Mr. ZORN had crossed the center line of the highway and was traveling eastbound in the westbound lane encroaching the path of on-coming vehicles. Just prior to the collision Mr. ZORN swerved towards the eastbound lane, where an oncoming westbound vehicle was moving towards the eastbound lane in an effort to avoid Mr. ZORN's vehicle in its lane of travel. The vehicles collided at the marked center line of the highway.

Evidence could not determine a reason for Mr. ZORN to have been traveling in the westbound lane.

I therefore find that Garth Evan ZORN came to his death on March 26, 2018 from unnatural causes, to wit: multiple blunt force injuries as a result of a motor vehicle collision - driver. I classify his death as accidental.

Recommendations

No recommendations



Signature, Chief Coroner

Whitehorse, Yukon

Province/Territory

May 14, 2019

Date

Print

Save

Clear