



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

Department of Justice, Legal Services
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Kimberly Chambers

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202016038

Name: Kimberly Chambers Date of Birth: 1988/05/18 Date of Death: 2016/08/15
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

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

Ethnic Origin: First Nations Location of Death: Whitehorse General Hospital

Cause of Death

(a) Acute Intracranial Injury (b) Complex Left Skull Base Fracture with associated occipital bone fracture (c) Fall from a horse

Manner of Death

Accidental

Autopsy Findings

No autopsy

Toxicological Findings

No toxicology testing performed.

Circumstances of Death

Kimberly Chambers was a 28 year old female living in Champagne, Yukon. Ms. Chambers had been around horses most of her life and was experienced and comfortable around horses. On the morning of August 14, 2016, she and another individual were horseback riding on a trail near Dezadeash Lake going to Million Dollar Falls (ca. 50 km NW of Haines Junction). Ms. Chambers and the other rider were riding separate horses and each leading a pack horse. Ms. Chambers was familiar with the horse she was riding, but the pack horse she was leading was unexperienced. It is believed that the horse Ms. Chambers was riding was bit by the pack horse she was leading. This caused the horse she was riding to rear up, throwing Ms. Chambers to the ground. The witness located another camper in the area who had a SPOT device, and emergency medical services was alerted to the situation at 13:14hrs. Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene from Haines Junction at 14:10hrs and transported Ms. Chambers to Haines Junction Health Centre. At 15:10hrs Emergency Medical Services air transport made patient contact with Ms. Chambers at Haines Junction Health Centre. The medevac landed back in Whitehorse at 17:09hrs and transferred care to Whitehorse General Hospital at approximately 17:20hrs. A computerized tomography (CT) scan revealed acute intracranial injury. Ms. Chambers died as a result of her injuries on August 15, 2016 at 20:28hrs.

Significant Factors/Conclusions

Ms. Chambers was well experienced with horses and being in the outdoors. Horses can have unpredictable behavior such as rearing, spooking, and bucking. Ms. Chambers sustained traumatic head injuries when she was thrown to the ground.

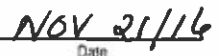
Serious head injuries related to horses can be prevented or mitigated by wearing an approved helmet that is properly fitted and secured.

Recommendations

No recommendations


Signature, Chief Coroner


Province/Territory


Date

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