



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

701 Ocean Street, Suite 340, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2985 FAX: (831) 454-2353

Phil Wowak
Sheriff-Coroner

Sheriff's Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: 6/30/13 @3:30 pm
Location of Incident: Bonny Doon Beach
Case Number: 1305620 and 1305623
Type of Incident: Accidental Drowning
Suspect(s): N/A
Photo(s) Available: Yes ____ No X

Description of Incident:

On 6/30/13 at about 3:30 pm, the Sheriff's Office responded to the report of a multiple person drowning in the area of Bonny Doon Beach, unincorporated Santa Cruz County. Bonny Doon Beach is located approximately 8 miles north of the City of Santa Cruz on the remote North Coast of Santa Cruz County. The area is known for surf conditions that are extremely dangerous and rapidly changing.

Sheriff's Office deputies responded and learned that 4 family members (2 brothers and their wives) were visiting the area and fishing from a cliff area near Bonny Doon Beach. Leoannie Binas-Semana of San Francisco (age 30) and Aylene Semana of Milpitas (age 28) were swept into the ocean by high surf.

The Sheriff's Office learned that a Department of Fish and Game Warden and a Ranger from California State Parks were in the immediate area conducting enforcement. At about 3:30 pm, the Warden and Ranger saw the females shortly after they were swept into the water and saw both husbands enter the water to pull their wives from the surf. The husbands were unable to rescue their wives from the treacherous conditions. The Ranger and Warden on scene immediately began coordinating water rescue efforts for the 4 subjects in the water.

Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol, State Parks Water Rescue Personnel and Coast Guard water rescue personnel were responded to the remote area. Both male victims were removed from the water with the assistance of water rescue personnel and both survived. Both female victims were recovered approximately an hour after they were swept into the water. Both female victims were pronounced dead upon recovery from the water.

There is no foul play suspected in this case. Autopsies are pending for both victims.

Press Release Prepared by: Sgt. Patrick Dimick 831-454-2191
Press Release Approved by: Lt. Bob Payne
Date/Time of Media Release: 7/1/13 12:00 pm