
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Coroners Services

Aug. 9, 2007

CAUSE OF DEATH KNOWN IN VICTORIA HOUSE FIRE

VICTORIA – Preliminary post-mortem testing results show that two young women who died in a house fire in Victoria on Aug. 6, 2007, both succumbed to smoke inhalation.

Tests to determine the amount of carbon monoxide in the blood of the two victims were concluded today at Royal Jubilee Hospital. The tests showed a lethal level of carboxyhemoglobin in both cases. The level of carboxyhemoglobin is a measure of the degree of carbon monoxide exposure.

University of Victoria students Chelsea Elizabeth Robinson, 22, and Brenna Jaclyn Innes, 21, died in the fire that broke about 4 a.m. in one side of a duplex at 860 Villance Street in Victoria. The two were among seven occupants of that half of the duplex at the time of the blaze.

No further information will be available from the Coroners Service for several weeks, until further testing is completed.

Investigation into the blaze by the BC Coroners Service and the Victoria Fire Department continues.

The mandate of the Coroners Service is to ensure that a thorough and independent inquiry is made into all sudden and unexplained deaths in the community.

The BC Coroners Service is part of Emergency Management BC, an overarching body mandated to ensure co-ordinated emergency response in crisis and disaster situations. EMBC also leads prevention initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for all British Columbians through enhanced public safety

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