

## San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division

## Coroner Investigation

**1**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison**

## CASE INFO

REPORTED BY <b>SBCSD</b>	AGENCY <b>San Bernardino Co. Sheriff's Dept. (SBCSD)</b>	DATE <b>02-12-13</b>	TIME <b>2239</b>
NEWS RELEASE <b>****</b>	NAME RELEASABLE <b>****</b>	ROLL-OUT? <b>Yes</b>	# OF PHOTOS <b>****</b>
MEDIUM <b>****</b>		SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES <b>Officer Involved</b>	

## DECEDENT INFO

1 NAME (FIRST) <b>Christopher</b>	2 (MIDDLE) <b>Jordan</b>	3 (LAST) <b>Dorner</b>
AKA <b>John Doe #20-13</b>	DOE TYPE/NUMBER <b>John 20-13</b>	PHONE
20 ADDRESS		21 CITY
		25 STATE
		23 ZIP
6 SEX <b>Male</b>	14 RACE <b>Black</b>	4 DOB <b>06-04-1979</b>
		5 AGE <b>33 yrs</b>
		RELATED CASE NUMBERS <b>N/A</b>
BODY BAG # <b>4795080</b>	TOE TAG <b>30353</b>	10 SS# <b>****</b>
		HEIGHT
		WEIGHT
		HAIR
		EYES
DRIVER'S LIC. # <b>****</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>	HOW IDENTIFIED <b>Dental comparison by Dr. Golden during autopsy. 02/14/2013. Secondary confirmation on 02/15/2013 by dental x-ray</b>

## LEGAL NEXT OF KIN

NAME <b>Nancy Dorner</b>	RELATIONSHIP <b>Mother</b>	MOTHER'S DOB/AGE	DATE/TIME NOTIFIED <b>02-13-13 1015</b>	NOTIFIED BY <b>LSDCI R. Shaw &amp; DCI R. Hunter</b>
ADDRESS <b>****</b>		21 CITY <b>La Palma</b>	25 STATE <b>CA</b>	23 ZIP <b>90623</b>
PHONE <b>****</b>	ALTERNATE PHONE #			

## PLACE/DEATH OCCURRED

7 DATE <b>02-12-13</b>	8 TIME <b>2200</b>	FND	DAY OF DEATH <b>Tuesday</b>	PRONOUNCED BY <b>SBCSD Detective</b>
101 PLACE OF DEATH <b>Found in residence</b>			102 IP-ER/OP-DOA	FAC OTHER THAN HOSPITAL <b>Other</b>
105 FACILITY ADDRESS OR LOCATION WHERE FOUND <b>40700 Seven Oaks Road</b>				106 CITY <b>Angeles Oaks</b>

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE ATTACHED ☒ YES ☐ NO

Barricaded male subject was found in burned house following law enforcement intervention.

NOTE TO PATHOLOGY

## San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division

## Coroner Investigation

**2**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison**

## MEDICAL

TRANSPORTED FROM N/A	ADMITTED TO? N/A	DATE	TIME	M/R ORDERED No	MED REC # N/A	BLOOD ORDERED Not Available
-------------------------	---------------------	------	------	-------------------	------------------	--------------------------------

## CAUSE OF DEATH

107 CAUSE (A) <b>Perforating gunshot wound of the head</b>	TIME INTERVAL Minutes	109 BIOPSY PERFORMED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
DUE TO (B)		110 AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
(C)		AUTOPSY # EXAM #
(D)		INDIGENT #

112 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN 107

None

113 WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN ITEM 107 OR 112? IF "YES" LIST TYPE OF OPERATION &amp; DATE.

☐ YES ☒ NO DESCRIBE

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN N/A	PHONE	DATE LAST ATTENDED	CAUSE GIVEN BY Dr. Fajardo, Riverside Coroner
115 PHYSICIAN TO SIGN D.C. Coroner	ADDRESS	PHONE	DATE <b>02-14-13</b> TIME <b>0000</b>

## INJURY

119 SPECIFY MODE <b>Suicide</b>	123 PLACE OF INJURY <b>Residence</b>	120 AT WK? <b>No</b>	121 DATE <b>02/12/2013</b>	122 HOUR <b>1620</b>
125 LOCATION (include Zip Code) <b>40700 Seven Oaks Road Angeles Oaks, 92305</b>				
124 DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED <b>Self-inflicted gunshot wound of the head with a 9mm handgun</b>				

## PROPERTY

PROPERTY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	PROP RLS'D? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
--	---

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

AGENCY <b>San Bernardino Co. Sheriff's Dept. (SBCSD)</b>	AGENT <b>Detective R. German</b>	REPORT NUMBER <b>601300119</b>
---	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

## AUTOPSY

ORDERED BY <b>JL</b>	DATE <b>02-13-13</b>	TOX ORDERED	TOX RECEIVED	AGENT(S) TO ATTEND ****
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------	--------------	----------------------------

## DISPO OF REMAINS

PRESENT LOCATION ****	MORGUE STATUS	VEHICLE TOWED
TRANSPORTED BY ****	NOTIFIED BY ****	DATE ****
TIME ****	ARRIVED ****	
44 MORTUARY <b>Harrison &amp; Ross Mortuary</b>		PHONE OF MORTUARY <b>3106674052</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REVIEWED BY <b>Morales</b> <b>02-13-13 0943</b>		

**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****3**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison****Coroner Investigation****02/13/2013****Notification of Death to Coroner:**

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 2239 hours, I received notification from San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner Department (SBCSD) Supervising Deputy Coroner Investigator (SDCI) Cathy Notaro that SBCSD Homicide Detective [redacted] had called to report that remains had been found of an apparent barricaded subject at 40700 Seven Oaks Road, Angeles Oaks.

SDCI C. Notaro, Deputy Coroner Investigator M. Leyva and I responded from the Coroner Division Central Station at 2345 hours and arrived on-scene at 1247 hours.

Upon arrival I met with SBCSD Homicide Detective [redacted]

**Terminal Event:**

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at approximately 1222 hours, SBCSD deputies were called to 1274 Club View Drive #203, Big Bear Lake, for a report that a family had been tied up and held hostage by Christopher Dorner. Upon arrival, deputies were told that Dorner had stolen their vehicle.

At approximately 1308 hours, officers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received gunfire from a subject that also fit Dorner's description.

At approximately 1334 hours, two SBCSD deputies were struck by gunfire that had been fired from the residence located at 40700 Seven Oaks Road, Angeles Oaks. The subject inside the residence was thought to be Christopher Jordan Dorner.

The subject then barricaded himself inside the residence, which resulted in a multi-agency Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operation. During the operation, the residence caught fire at approximately 1617 hours. A single gunshot was heard at 1620 hours. Ammunition began exploding shortly after.

Due to the exploding ammunition, fire department personnel could not approach the building to extinguish the flames.

At 1656 hours, the floor above the corner of side #1 and #2 collapsed. During the body examination, the posterior side of the body was intact and had sustained minimal injury due to the fire. The main floor of the residence was also the roof of the basement where Dorner was found. The condition of the posterior body indicated that he had been lying on the concrete floor of the basement at the time of death, rather than on the main floor of the residence. Had Dorner been lying on the main floor of the residence, his entire body would have been engulfed by flame, due to the fuel source of the fire provided by the floor being beneath him, which would have caused the body to be burned on all sides.

Once the fire was out, at approximately 2200 hours, SBCSD Arson and Bomb Detail detectives discovered the body of what appeared to be a male adult in the basement located on the west side of the residence.

**Scene Description:**

**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****4****MODE Suicide****CASE # 701301336****STATUS Post****DEPUTY Jeff Lewison**

The scene was located at 40700 Seven Oaks Road, Angeles Oaks. The scene consisted of a standing chimney, concrete and block foundation. The cabin was located approximately 20 yards north of Seven Oaks Road. The perimeter of the residence was approximately 42 feet by 54 feet. The area within the foundation was covered with large amounts of charred wood and debris.

According to [www.weatherunderground.com](http://www.weatherunderground.com), the ambient temperature was 44 degrees.

The body was located in a basement located on the west side of the residence. The basement was approximately nine feet north of the southwest corner of the foundation. The basement was approximately twelve feet by fifteen feet and was approximately six feet deep.

**Body Description:**

I began the body examination at 0105 hours. Due to the charred state of the body, the race could not be positively determined, but it appeared to be an African-American male. The body was initially identified as John Doe #20-13, and thought to be Christopher Jordan Dörner. Initial indications of identification were found in a wallet located in the back right pocket of the pants found on the body. The forms of identification were as follows:

Los Angeles Police Department badge #8459

Los Angeles Police Department photo identification card #37381, bearing the name Chris J. Dörner

California Driver License #B6246942, bearing the name Christopher Dörner

United States military photo identification bearing the name Christopher Jordan Dörner

The body was found supine on the floor of the basement, lying within a pool of water that was approximately ten inches deep. There was also charred wood and related debris. The head was oriented to the northwest on an approximate ten degree azimuth. The legs were oriented to the southeast, spread apart with the knees approximately two feet apart, and bent at the knees inward, with the ankles approximately six inches apart. The left arm was pointed outward from the torso on a ninety degree angle to the east and bent slightly upward at the elbow. The right arm was pointed forward and slightly bent at the elbow. Male genitalia was present.

**Clothing:**

The majority of the clothing had been burned; however, remnants of the pants worn were intact. The pants were a brown camouflage, size extra large regular. There was a large remnant of a brown belt found in the waistline. There was blood found inside the pants.

Items found in the pants were as follows:

A green lighter that had been damaged in the fire

A folding knife

A wallet containing several forms of identification and one hundred and fifty dollars in U.S. currency.

A white metal necklace was found on the neck. The necklace had a hand-cuff key and key attached.

**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****5**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison**

All items were removed from the body and given to SBCSD Evidence Technician

**Trauma:**

The head, neck, anterior torso, upper and lower extremities had been burned. The right hand and wrist were missing by the apparent means of fire to a point approximately two inches below the elbow. The left hand and wrist were also missing by apparent means of fire to a point approximately four inches below the elbow. The right foot was missing by apparent means of fire to a point approximately two inches above the ankle.

The circumference of the skull cap appeared fractured, with a portion of what appeared to be the parietal bone and frontal bone missing on the right and rear of the skull. The brain was avulsed.

There also appeared to be a possible defect located on the right side of the head, near the temporal bone. The left temporal bone appeared to be fractured in an outward manner.

There was an approximate three inch defect on the lower left flank near the area of the ribcage.

The intestines were avulsed on the lower left abdomen.

The skin was split on the upper posterior torso.

**Observations:**

The eyes were present, but clouded. The teeth were present. The posterior torso was intact, with minimal signs of major burns or charring. The left foot was intact, however, it appeared shrunken in size. The color of the skin appeared consistent with that of an African-American.

DCI M. Leyva took 91 photos of the body and scene. Due to the state of the body, I was unable to obtain fingerprints. I affixed toe tag number 30353 to the great right toe at 0216 hours. The body was placed in a yellow Coroner body pouch. The pouch was secured with lock number 4795001 at 0228 hours.

The examination was concluded at 0226 hours. After the examination, Autopsy Assistant, Mark Schrader transported the body to the Riverside County Sheriff Coroner Department (RCSD) Coroner Division, Perris facility for autopsy.

**\*\*Note, lock number 4795001 was removed by RCSD personnel on February 14, 2013, during autopsy and replaced with lock number 4795080 upon the conclusion of the autopsy. See supplemental report, SBCSD Autopsy Assistant L. Hudson.**

The scene was cleared at 0255 hours.

**Notification of Next of Kin:**

Due to the ongoing SBCSD Homicide investigation and the lack of positive identification, next of kin had not been notified at the time of this report.

**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division**

***Coroner Investigation***

**6**

**MODE Suicide**

**CASE # 701301336**

**STATUS Post**

**DEPUTY Jeff Lewison**



**Disposition:**

**Due to the involvement of SBCSD deputies, the body was taken to the Riverside Co. Sheriff Coroner Department for autopsy.**



**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****7**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison****Coroner Supplement Report****02/14/2013**

Deputy: Lisa Hudson

On 02/14/2013 at 0900, SDCI Kroeker and I, responded to the Coroner Division of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in Perris, CA, in order to be present for the autopsy of John Doe #20-13, SBSD Coroner case number 701301336. The autopsy began at about 0945 and was completed at about 1405. The autopsy was performed by Dr. Fajardo and upon completion, the cause of death was listed as perforating gunshot wound of head. Refer to Riverside Coroner case # 2013-01629. After the autopsy was completed, lock # 4795080 was attached to the body bag and we (SDCI Kroeker and I) transported the decedent to the Central Division of the San Bernardino Sheriff-Coroner awaiting disposition.



## San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division

## Coroner Investigation

8

MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison****Coroner Supplement Report****02/14/2013****Deputy: J. Lewison****Follow-up Investigation, Manner of Death/ Identification:****Incident Summary:**

The following summary was obtained using information listed in the San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner Department (SBCSD) computer aided dispatch (CAD) call recorded on February 12, 2013, related to Big Bear Incident #BL130430039.

During the incident SBCSD personnel initiated a tactical deployment. During the tactical deployment, SBCSD personnel saw a subject wearing camouflage moving inside the residence. Green smoke was seen coming from the inside of the residence. SBCSD personnel reported that the green smoke was not deployed by law enforcement personnel. Minutes after the first green smoke canister was deployed inside the residence, a second and third green smoke canister were deployed from inside the residence.

Cold gas (tear gas) was deployed, however the cold gas deployment failed to entice the subject to comply with SBCSD requests that he come out of the residence, and pyrotechnical chemical agent was deployed inside the residence. The pyrotechnical chemical agent deployment appeared effective and gas was seen coming out of the residence.

At 1618 hours, the residence caught on fire and began to burn. At 1620 hours, SBCSD personnel heard a single gunshot coming from inside the residence.

After the gunshot was heard from inside the residence, an order was issued for all personnel to maintain weapon discipline.

The residence continued to burn and began to collapse at 1656 hours.

The last recorded action attempted by Dorner was the deployment of the green smoke canisters at 1609 hours.

**Statement, SBCSD Detective \_\_\_\_\_:**

On February 14, 2013, at 1832 hours, I spoke with Detective \_\_\_\_\_ via telephone. Detective \_\_\_\_\_ told me that on February 13, 2013, during an extended search of the basement, a 9 millimeter Glock slide and barrel were found in the area where the body was discovered.

**Weapons Used During Deployment:**

On February 15, 2014, at approximately 1230 hours, I spoke with SBCSD Captain \_\_\_\_\_, Incident Commander, while in the Central Coroner Facility.

Captain \_\_\_\_\_ told me that all weapons fired by SBCSD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel



**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****9**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison**

fired 5.56 rounds. All weapons fired by SBCSD patrol personnel were fired from a standard SBCSD issued mini 14 that fired .223 rounds. No hand guns to include SBCSD department issued 9 millimeter or .45 caliber weapons were fired during the incident.

According to Captain [redacted] there were no weapons fired from law enforcement personnel following the deployment of cold gas inside the residence prior to the deployment of Tac Tracker at 1545 hours.

**Last Known Movement:**

At 1620 hours, Captain [redacted] reported that he heard a single shot coming from inside the residence. He stated that after hearing the gunshot there were no signs of movement and all deployment of smoke and gunfire coming from within the residence ceased.

**Identification:**

During the autopsy performed on Dorner by Riverside County Sheriff Coroner Department (RCSCD), Coroner Division, Dr. M. Fajardo, February 14, 2013, a dental examination was performed by SBCSD Odontologist, Dr. G. Golden. During the examination a comparison was made to a dental retainer supplied by Irvine Police Department personnel. The retainer was reported to have belonged to Dorner and had been obtained during the service of a search warrant.

Dr. Golden placed the retainer in Dorner's mouth and found it to fit. Following the placement of the retainer, Dr. Golden positively identified the decedent at Christopher Jordan Dorner.

Further studies were performed by Dr. Golden on February 15, 2013, using antemortem x-rays. (See supplemental report, SBCSD Deputy Coroner Investigator, R. Hunter)

**Manner of Death:**

On the morning of April 02, 2013, a panel review was performed to determine the manner of death. After review, it was the conclusion of the panel that the manner of death was determined to be suicide, by means of a **self-inflicted** gunshot wound of the head.

## San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division

## Coroner Investigation

**10**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison****Coroner Supplement Report****02/18/2013**

Deputy: Dave Carter,

On 02/14/13 at 0900 hours, I responded to Seven Oaks Rd., located in Angeles Oaks to perform a final search of the burned out residence, where the decedent's charred body was found in the basement. I was to meet Dr. Alexis Gray, Anthropologist, at the scene. I arrived on scene at 0935 hours and met with Dr. Gray and Detective who directed us to the location.

I observed the residence that had burned completely to the ground. All the walls and roof were missing. All that was left of the cabin was the cement slab and stone chimney. The basement appeared more than 12 to 15 feet wide and had a depth of 6 to 8 feet deep. The bottom portion of the basement was completely covered with burned debris with piles of debris pushed into each corner. There was also about four inches of water mixed in. Detective was able to show me the exact location the body was found.

There were also members of the San Bernardino Fire Department (SBFD) present who were assisting in the clean up. SBFD personnel were also assisting in an ongoing search being performed by SBCSD personnel for additional weapons, possibly a rifle and handgun that were unaccounted for. They were also attempting to locate multiple fired cartridge casings related to the incident that were mixed up in the charred debris. SBFD personnel stated they would work around the area where the body was found until the area had been cleared by coroner personnel.

Dr. Gray had to leave, but with the help of the SBFD personnel, I was able to slowly sift through the debris. During the search, I located a charred foot, and what appeared to be possible bone and skull fragments. Sheriff Department personnel also recovered a burned rifle frame, a possible barrel to a pistol, multiple gun magazines and multiple fired cartridge casings. There were also unfired cartridges found during the search.

The foot along with possible bone fragments, will be sent to Riverside Coroner's Office and added with the decedent's body for the autopsy.

I cleared the scene at 1530 hours and returned to the office.

**San Bernardino County Sheriff - Coroner Division****Coroner Investigation****11**MODE **Suicide**CASE # **701301336**STATUS **Post**DEPUTY **Jeff Lewison****Coroner Supplement Report****02/19/2013**

Deputy: R. Hunter

On Friday, February 15, 2013, antemortem x-rays were delivered to Dr. Golden. He compared the antemortem and postmortem dental x-rays and confirmed the match to Christopher Dorner.

**AUTOPSYFILES.ORG**  
http://www.autopsyfiles.org