



“Committed Service and
Responsiveness”

OFFICE OF THE CORONER COUNTY OF CHESTER

Coroner: Christina VandePol, M.D.

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For Immediate Release

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The Uwchlan Township Police Department and the Lionville Ambulance Corps were called to the scene of a reported death at Frontage Laboratories, Inc. on Tuesday afternoon, February 28. The decedent was identified as Exton resident Ge Guo, 26, who worked at the facility. The Chester County Hazardous Materials Unit was called in when it was learned that the death might be associated with exposure to an unknown amount of potassium cyanide, a material to which the decedent had access in the course of her work. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) was notified and is in contact with Frontage Laboratories. There were no reports of illness or injury to any other employees at the site.

Potassium cyanide is a solid material but releases hydrogen cyanide gas which interferes with oxygen use in the body. Organs most susceptible to lack of oxygen are the brain and the heart. Ingestion or inhalation can cause systemic toxicity and severe exposure can be rapidly fatal.

Dr. Christina VandePol, Chester County Coroner, said “This tragic and dangerous situation illustrates the importance of training for the unexpected. Chester County is fortunate to have dedicated and highly-trained first responders. Our Deputy Coroners often work in difficult and hazardous situations and we depend on teams like those in Uwchlan yesterday to keep us safe as we do our investigations. We are also grateful to the Lancaster County Coroner’s Office which granted us permission to transport the body to an isolation unit at their Lancaster County Forensic Center. Chester County does not have a dedicated morgue or autopsy facility and it would not be prudent to use a local hospital morgue while we are unsure of the potential risk.”

The cause and manner of death are currently under investigation by the Coroner’s office. The family has been notified.

Approved for release

Christina VandePol, M.D.
Coroner