



Regional Medical Examiner's Office

Media Release
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Medical Examiner Releases Cause of Death for Three Who Died at Burning Man Festival

Reno, Nev. Oct. 16, 2026. The Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office has determined the causes of death for the three men who died at or were transported from the Burning Man Festival and then passed away.

Tshombe Sampson, 62 years old, of Santa Monica, California, was pronounced dead at Rampart Medical Center inside the Burning Man Festival on 9/3/2026, after a sudden collapse followed by unsuccessful resuscitative efforts. His cause of death was hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and the manner of death was natural.

Armando Ramirez, 51 years old, of Truckee, California, was transported from the Burning Man Festival for medical care in the early morning hours of 09/04/2026 after the onset of chest pain, and was subsequently pronounced dead in an ambulance after unsuccessful resuscitative efforts. His cause of death was toxic effects of methamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA); hypertensive cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and chronic methamphetamine use were other significant conditions contributing to his death. The manner of death was accident.

Craig Mann, 60 years old, of Yuma, Arizona, was found unresponsive in his recreational vehicle at the Burning Man Festival on 9/5/2026, and was subsequently declared dead at the scene by emergency personnel. His cause of death was combined cocaine and methamphetamine toxicity; hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease contributed to his death. The manner of death was accident.

The Pershing County Sheriff's Office is handling the law enforcement investigation regarding these cases.

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