

Boca Grande FD Firefighters Warned About Poison Suicides

By Terry O'Connor, Gasparilla Gazette

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Deadly residual effects from chemical suicides are among the latest on-the-job dangers faced by firefighters.

Boca Grande Fire Chief C.W. Blosser discussed the new trend in suicide July 21 before getting into the details of proposed budget cuts and millage rate increases.

"People are getting in the car and creating a hydrogen-cyanide gas by mixing together a couple of chemicals in a bucket with the windows closed and they basically gas themselves in the car," Blosser said. "

The disturbing mode of suicide has been employed in four Sarasota deaths, and one in Port Charlotte and one in Cape Coral, according to Blosser.

"In a lot of cases the people put the sign in the window saying 'POISON GAS, don't open the door,' " Blosser said. "At least they've done that so somebody else doesn't get hurt. But a couple of them haven't done that. If you see somebody slumped over in a car and a 5-gallon bucket sitting on the floor, don't open the door."

Charlotte County Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit detectives determined the deaths of a 90-year-old mother and her 58-year-old son found July 12 in the garage of her Port Charlotte home had used chemical suicide.

CCSO received a call from a friend of the mother at 12:33 p.m. to check on the elderly woman. When deputies arrived they found two badly decomposed bodies inside.

MCU detectives say the bodies were there possibly a week before being found. They were transported to the Charlotte County Medical Examiner's office in Murdock for autopsies where the chemical suicide determination was made.

Detectives said no foul play was suspected as the two bodies were found in a car in the garage at the home.

Source: <http://www.bocagrandetalk.com/page/content.detail/id/506863/BGFD-firefighters-warned-about-poison-suicides.html?nav=5051>