

Woman contracts inhalation anthrax

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — An elderly woman who lives on her own in the farm country of southwestern Connecticut has inhalation anthrax, according to initial test results disclosed Tuesday.

The patient, who is in her 90s, was hospitalized in critical condition, Gov. John Rowland said. He said more test results were pending and there was no indication of a criminal act.

The woman tested positive for the more deadly inhaled form of the disease in five separate tests conducted by the Department of Public Health and Griffin Hospital in Derby, Rowland said.

More tests were being conducted by experts at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Results are expected Wednesday.

"Testing by the CDC could prove negative," Rowland said.

Rowland said the woman lives in Oxford, a rural community of about 9,800 people 30

miles southwest of Hartford. She was originally treated for pneumonia and admitted Friday to the Derby hospital after being brought in by a family member, said the hospital's president, Patrick Charnel.

"It's difficult to explain how the person contracted anthrax," Rowland said. "There is no evidence they contracted the disease as a result of a criminal act."

The FBI and state police have secured the woman's home and are conducting a criminal investigation, Rowland said. The woman lives by herself and has a limited routine.

Nationwide, four people have died and 13 have been sickened by anthrax since early October. It's the first case of inhaled anthrax since a New York City hospital employee died Oct. 31.

Joxel Garcia, the state health commissioner, said the state received positive tests from the hospital Monday and immediately began conducting its own investigation.

Strike a pose



An elephant, brought to campus for Elephant Walk activities, stretches during during a break Tuesday at Simpson Drill Field.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man dies in high-speed collision with duck

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A man dashing across a lake on a customized personal watercraft at about 55 mph was killed in an apparent collision with a flying duck.

Leon Resnick, an employee of Riva Yamaha, was testing the water jet-propelled craft Thursday on a lake about 20 miles north of Fort Lauderdale, investigators said Monday.

A co-worker who was watching turned to pick up a radar gun to check Resnick's speed, and when he turned back Resnick was no longer aboard the craft.

Resnick, 31, of Hollywood, died of a blow to his head, the Broward County medical examiner's office said.

"Our theory is that the bird was airborne and clocked him in the head," said David Bamdas, an owner of the dealership.

At the speed Resnick was traveling, the 10- to 15-pound duck "might as well have been a cinder block," Bamdas said.

The bird's carcass was found nearby and there were feathers on the water bike's handlebars, said Broward County sheriff's spokesman Hugh Graf.

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DEADLINES: 4:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 27**, for editor positions, and 4:30 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 3**, for staff positions. Turn applications in at 014 (basement) Reed McDonald Building. Interviews will begin immediately after application deadlines.

Extra applications available in the newsroom or online at <http://www.thebatt.com>

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