

Man who was found in puddle of pool chemicals in Buena Park dies



Orange County Fire Authority Hazmat neutralize chemicals after a male was found unresponsive covered in chemicals outside a garage at the Richmond Apartments in the 6300 block of Lincoln Avenue around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday night in Buena Park. He was rushed to UCI Medical Center in critical condition. he died later that night, officials said.

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By ALYSSA DURANTY and LOUIS CASIANO JR. / STAFF WRITERS

A man died late Tuesday night after he was exposed to a mixture of potent pool chemicals at a Buena Park apartment complex, officials said.

Chang Jun, 67 of Buena Park died around 11 p.m. at UCI Medical Center in Orange, less than four hours after he was found semi-conscious near spilled, yellow liquid inside a garage at the Richmond apartment complex, 6386 Lincoln Ave.

Jun, who lived in the apartment complex and possibly worked as the pool cleaner, may have inhaled toxic fumes from the chemical inside the garage, which caused him to fall unconscious, knocking them over and causing the spill, officials said.

Orange County Fire Authority officials lifted Jun out of a puddle of yellow chemicals, which omitted a yellow gas, and authorities sprayed both Jun and the exposed firefighters with water before cutting off Jun's clothes, OCFA Capt. Steve Concialdi said.

Jun had severe burns to his back, face and respiratory tract, including his lungs, Concialdi said.

He was taken by Anaheim Fire & Rescue officials to UCI Medical Center in Orange, where he later died.

OCFA Hazmat members found several pool-cleaning chemicals, including chlorine and hydrochloric acid, and the team worked for hours to neutralize the chemicals.

"With all pool chemicals we have to make sure they are separated and that they do not mix," OCFA Capt. Steve Concialdi said. "Some chemicals, when they mix, can be deadly."

Coroner officials had not determined the cause of death Wednesday morning, as they had not completed an autopsy.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/chemicals-652296-pool-officials.html>