

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

HOME NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC SPORTS THINGS TO DO ENTERTAINMENT SMART SHOPPER VIDEO ABOUT US

ALERTS

SEARCH: Hottest events in October

MCSO: Body parts found near Tonopah canal in West Valley

Video

Photo



SHARE THIS

Recommend

96 people recommend this.

Tweet 16

0

Posted: 10/01/2012
Last Updated: 18 hours and 12 minutes ago



By: MaryEllen Resendez

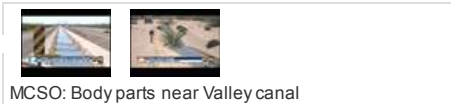
By: ABC15.com staff



By: Adam Slinger

TONOPAH, AZ - The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is investigating a suspicious death after body parts were found Monday morning near a West Valley canal.

MCSO spokesperson Christopher Hegstrom said at least two legs and a torso were found spread out over a mile near 387th and Orangewood avenues.



MCSO: Body parts near Valley canal

Air15 video over the scene around 10:30 a.m. showed search crews stationed in the area, and a human leg inside the canal.

Workers say that a boot discovered in the canal has been in the water for quite some time.

"Unbelievable because I saw it for two months, I never thought it was going to be a bone inside the boot and I've worked here for 21 to 25 years, so I never thought it would be a bone from a body," said Juan Rodriguez, a worker who watched over the irrigation canal.

Rodriguez told ABC15, it wasn't until Monday they saw the leg bone.

"The boot was moved or somebody moved it, so now I could tell there was a bone inside," said Rodriguez.

A dairy farmer near the fields reported the discovery to MCSO.

Hegstrom told ABC15 the body parts are severely decomposed, and it is unclear if the body separated during decomposition or was separated prior.

By early afternoon deputies had collected enough bones to form an entire body. They say the body parts appear to all be from the same person.

Authorities will also try to determine the cause of death.

"If this is an exposure death, somebody who died of something like dehydration, you're not going to see that on the skeleton," said Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D., a forensic anthropology professor at Mesa Community College. Alvrus told ABC15 that if it is a homicide, the cause of death may be more apparent, for example, a gunshot wound.

Detectives are now combing through missing person's reports hoping to find a match.

Buckeye, AZ

100° Clear
ABC15.com Weather Forecast

FORECAST: When will these 100s end?

[More West Valley News](#)

advertisement

Sign up for Breaking News Alerts

Email:

Did You Hear?



Teen changes into real-life anime girl

A Ukrainian teen is getting attention Tuesday for her ability to transform herself into a real-life anime girl.

INSIDE: Watch video of her transformation



Woman skips laundry for years to save

A New York woman featured on TLC's Extreme Cheapskates claims she hasn't done laundry in three

years and doesn't use toilet paper, according to a Tuesday report.



Dog in car grill survives 11-mile ride

Animal welfare authorities say a dog survived an 11-mile ride from Massachusetts to Rhode Island -- at

speeds of up to 50 miles per hour -- after it was hit by a Toyota sedan and became wedged under the front grill.