



## Mesa County Coroner's Office

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### For Immediate Release

The Mesa County Coroner's Office has completed its examination regarding the death of Celso A. Salazar a 60-year-old male resident of Grand Junction. Mr. Salazar was discovered on the sidewalk on the west side of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street midway between Ouray and Chipeta Avenues near an alley entrance. Apparently, the decedent was in route to his residence when he collapsed and was unable to get up or get help. The **Cause of Death** was **Hypothermia** and the **Manner of Death** was **Accident. Alcohol Intoxication** was considered a **Significant Condition** that led to Mr. Salazar's death.

Hypothermia is a condition where the body loses heat faster than it can replenish. This can be due to a number of factors including inappropriate clothing, weather conditions, health of the individual, type of surface the person may be on just to name a few. Hypothermia affects the central nervous system as well as the cardiovascular system.

Alcohol consumption increases the chance of becoming hypothermic. Alcohol in the bloodstream causes the blood vessels to dilate and increases the blood flow to the skin. This factor increases heat loss from the core of the body while making the person feel warm. According to research, approximately one-third to three-quarters of hypothermia cases are complicated by alcohol.

The law enforcement agency overseeing this investigation is the Grand Junction Police Department. Please contact them for any further details.

Thank you