PRESS RELEASE

**The DPS certifies two additional deaths**

**related to Hurricane Maria**  
  
  
(San Juan, PR) - The secretary of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Héctor M. Pesquera, certified today two additional cases of deaths related to Hurricane Maria.  
  
One of the cases certified was reported in Orocovis. The person died the day of the hurricane and the body did not pass through the Department of Forensic Sciences (NCF, per its Spanish acronym) because a doctor in the death certificate certified as natural his death.  
  
The deceased had multiple health conditions and relied on an oxygen machine. In the early hours of the day of the hurricane, the power went out in the residence and when the relatives went to see the person they found him dead.  
  
In a review of the case by the NCF and by the interview with the relatives, it was determined that the death is indirectly related to the hurricane.  
  
On the other hand, the second case that was certified was reported in Morovis. The person died the day of the hurricane; a doctor in the death certificate certified his death as natural and the NCF evaluated the documentation to authorize the cremation requested by the family members.  
  
The person had health problems, but suffered complications during the day of the hurricane. Due to the inclement weather conditions, the ambulance took a long time to reach the residence. This death is added as indirectly related to the hurricane.   
  
"These deaths that are certified today as indirect deaths related to Hurricane Maria are the result of investigations into cases that have been brought to our consideration," expressed secretary Pesquera.  
  
The secretary reiterated that the process of certification of deaths associated with the atmospheric phenomenon has not concluded.  
  
"With these two new cases, 64 deaths are now directly or indirectly related to Hurricane Maria," the secretary said.  
  
Likewise, Pesquera insisted that “each case is evaluated and certified according to the documents and evidence submitted."  
  
The DPS urges that all information related to this matter be sent to [info@dsp.pr.gov](mailto:info@dsp.pr.gov" \t "_blank). People can also contact the NCF at (787) 765-0615.  
  
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