

Coroner's Office:

On January 25th, 2000, hourly weather records were obtained from the Intellicast website for Annapolis, Maryland. The conditions available for that day were the temperature, wind direction, wind speed, and precipitation type. These were entered into the attached chart. The precipitation amounts were not available. The closest area with precipitation records was Baltimore, Maryland. These amounts were obtained from the Weather Underground website. These are also available in the attached chart.

Based on the data, it can be concluded that hypothermia was the cause of death for this case. The temperature remained at or below freezing for the entire period from 1 AM EST to 1 PM EST. The wind was relatively strong and produced wind chills in the teens for almost the entire night. The fact that the wind was also blowing from the north made it feel even colder. Spotty precipitation occurred throughout the night which added to the chilling effects since the wind caused it to blow. With such conditions, hypothermia could have developed and been a cause of death. It was probably preventable, but the person did not realize how cold it was and stayed out too long or was not dressed warm enough. He/she also did not realize how much the wind speed can influence how cold it feels. The chilling effects could have been worse, but they were fierce enough to cause the condition to develop.