



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMAN IDENTIFIED IN APPARENT SUICIDE

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 11/16/10) – A woman who apparently committed suicide Monday night in Temple Terrace has been identified as Chitra Chauhan, 33, of 5125 Palms Springs Blvd., Tampa. She was pronounced dead at University Community Hospital in Tampa around 10:30 p.m., authorities said.

Temple Terrace police and emergency-medical personnel were called to Extended StayAmerica hotel, 12242 Morris Bridge Road, around 8:15 p.m. Monday evening, in report to a cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, emergency personnel found a woman in distress. Resuscitation efforts were attempted, and she was transported to University Community Hospital. The cause of death has not yet been determined, police said.

Witnesses at the hotel said Chauhan mentioned she possessed cyanide. About 75 to 100 hotel guests were evacuated for safety reasons. A suicide note was discovered at the scene.

Technicians with the Department of Environmental Protection determined that a white, coarse, granular substance found in Chauhan's hotel room was cyanide. The Temple Terrace Fire Department, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Hazardous Incident Team and DEP officials made the decision to evacuate the hotel in the interest of public safety.

Hotel guests were relocated to nearby hotels, and invited inside a nearby Bob Evans restaurant to warm up. Guests were allowed to retrieve their belongings from the hotel Tuesday morning around 9:30 a.m.

American Compliance Technologies, a Bartow bio-tech company hired by the hotel, was conducting an environmental cleanup at the hotel Tuesday morning.

Chauhan worked at the Global Health laboratory at University of South Florida.