

# The Salt Lake Times

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## Officer Dies From Wounds Sustained During Warehouse Explosion

Saturday April 29, 1995

Salt Lake Police Commissioner Chris Atkinson said Saturday evening that Ingen Bio officer Sgt. Thorne passed away at the Salt Lake Regional Medical Center 10 pm Friday night.

Atkinson said Thorne passed away after sustaining injuries from the April 15<sup>th</sup> warehouse explosion that took the life of five people, including former Soviet research scientist Dr. Leonard Kendall.

Ingen Bio President, Dr. Harlan Griffin told the press that Thorne was having difficulty breathing on his own since the incident. "He made the ultimate sacrifice with unflinching sacrifice to do it," said Griffin. "We are more committed than ever to determining the cause of this incident and the circumstances responsible for his death."

"Thorne was a hero," said Griffin in a statement. "I am proud of the investigators who worked so swiftly to assist with this investigation. Despite the best efforts of the team of medical professionals at Salt Lake Regional Medical Center, Thorne has now left this world and is in the hands of God. May he rest in peace."

Thorne, 23, had responded to an April 15<sup>th</sup> offsite company laboratory emergency, where a subsequent explosion took the life of his four other Ingen Bio security officers and the life of Dr. Kendall. In an earlier statement from Ingen Bio after the incident, authorities said the lab was apparently used for offsite storage of non-hazardous materials, when an oxygen pressure-release improperly triggered the explosion as Dr. Kendall tried to release the pressure manually.

Investigators did uncover high explosive oxygen containers and combustible chemicals at the scene. Police say they allegedly had been used by Kendall for experimental chemotherapy treatments.

Thorne was released from the hospital shortly after the explosion, but apparently relapsed and died Friday evening. The case will remain on hold unless new evidence emerges, the Commissioner's office said. It said the investigation could be reopened "if new evidence emerges from any pertinent and authoritative source".