



San Diego Police Department
Forensic Science Section



QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORT			
Unit: Forensic Biology	Subject: Water Damage From Accidental Defrosting of DNA Freezer	Date Initiated: 6/24/13	Added to Case Packet : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Narrative: Due to work on the power for the 6 th floor of the building, a power outage lasted much longer than expected. This caused the DNA evidence freezers to defrost. Numerous DNA freezer packets were affected by water saturation to either a greater or lesser extent. This caused a concern for the potential of sample dilution or cross contamination. DNA swabs are stored in small manila envelopes which are then stored inside the larger case envelopes.			
Root Cause Analysis: The power outage to the 6 th floor lasted much longer than anticipated. As a result, the freezer ice melted and water soaked some of the envelopes.			
Laboratory Nonconformance: ISO 5.8.4.5 and QA 5.8.4, protecting the evidence against deleterious change.			
Corrective Action: All cases potentially affected were documented. The cases were dried and characterized as to the degree of wetness. The envelopes will be marked with a sticker to alert personnel that the evidence is subject to a quality assurance situation. In general this evidence, along with the evidence from new cases, will be temporarily stored at room temperature. Items that need to be frozen will be stored in waterproof containers. A copy of this QA report will be in each affected case file. A disclaimer will be added to any report issued on any of the cases listed in this documentation. The results of these cases will be tracked and monitored for evidence of cross contamination. All supporting documentation will be on file with the quality manager.			



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Follow-up Information: The decision to go to room temperature storage is based on information that can be found in "Recommendations for Storage of Biological Evidence" from the Biological Preservation Handbook, Best Practices for Evidence Handlers (January 2013).		DATE:
QA Manager: <i>J.M. Simon</i>	Laboratory Manager Approval: <i>J. Shen</i>	
Date Completed: 7/11/13	Unit Supervisor: 7/11/13 <i>[Signature]</i>	
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