

JAY INSLEE
Governor



JOHN R. BATISTE
Chief

STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL
WASHINGTON STATE TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

2203 Airport Way South, Suite 360 • Seattle, Washington 98134-2027 • (206) 262-6100 • FAX (206) 262-6145

February 24, 2023

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
206 10th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: **UPDATE** Evidence Storage Refrigerator Outage – Initial Notification 1/6/2023

The Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory provided notice January 6, 2023 indicating Vault Refrigerator 1 failed to operate within an acceptable temperature range, discovered December 28, 2022. The root cause of the issue was determined to be a malfunction of the refrigerator compressor unit on December 27, 2022. The compressor unit required replacement, with replacement occurring on January 3, 2023. As a result, Vault Refrigerator 1 operated outside of the Laboratory's range of acceptability (average 2 – 8 °C) from the afternoon of December 27, 2022 through January 3, 2023.

A list of cases with evidentiary items stored in Vault Refrigerator 1 from the afternoon of December 27, 2022 through January 3, 2023 is attached and will be available on the Toxicology Laboratory website: <https://wsp.wa.gov/forensics/toxicology.htm>.

Please contact the Laboratory at 206-262-6100 or toxlab@wsp.wa.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Lo".

Eric Lo
Toxicology Laboratory Division
Laboratory Manager

EL:ab/eg/el

ATTACHMENTS



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January 6, 2023

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Subject: Evidence Storage Refrigerator Outage

On December 28, 2022, it was discovered that Vault Refrigerator 1, located inside the secured evidence vault at the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory, failed to operate within the acceptable temperature range. At the time of the outage, the refrigerator contained evidence items from completed cases and cases currently under examination (no Test Report issued). The Laboratory promptly prioritized relocation of evidence items still under examination to a functioning refrigerator.

The Laboratory is compiling a list of the evidence items which were stored in Vault Refrigerator 1 at the time of the outage. An update will be provided, to include a list of cases affected by the outage.

Sincerely,

Eric Lo
Toxicology Laboratory Division
Laboratory Manager

EL:ab/eg/el

