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STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL
WASHINGTON STATE TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Russell Brown
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Date: September 27, 2023

**Subject: 2023-TLD-04, Initial notification
Evidence Storage Refrigerator**

On September 25, 2023, it was discovered that Vault-Fridge Bulk located inside the secured evidence vault at the Washington State Patrol Federal Way Toxicology Laboratory failed to operate within the Laboratory's acceptable temperature range (average 2-8 °C). On discovery, the refrigerator temperature was -21 °C and it contained evidence items from cases currently unassigned (no Test Report issued). Toxicology Division personnel evaluated each evidence item container for any damage and/or breakage due to the change in temperature. All evidence items were photographed where visible cracks in their container were observed. Where possible, evidence from damaged containers was transferred to a new labelled vacutainer tube. All undamaged items and items in new vacutainer tubes were transferred to a functioning refrigerator on September 25, 2023.

Attached is a list of evidence items which were stored in the Vault-Fridge Bulk refrigerator at the time temperatures were discovered to be outside of the Laboratory's acceptable range. The list will also be available on the Toxicology Laboratory website: <https://wsp.wa.gov/forensics/toxicology.htm>.

For questions or further information please contact the Laboratory at toxlab@wsp.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian Capron
Laboratory Manager – Federal Way
Toxicology Laboratory Division

Attachments

BC:bc/eg

