



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: January 18, 2024

**Subject: 2024-TLD-01, Initial notification  
Evidence Storage Refrigerator – Seattle Vault Refrigerator 2**

On January 10, 2024, it was discovered that Vault Refrigerator 2, located inside the secured evidence vault at the Seattle Toxicology Laboratory, failed to operate within the Laboratory's acceptable temperature range (average 2-8 °C). On discovery, the refrigerator contained evidence items from completed cases, cases currently under examination (no Test Report issued), and cases currently unassigned (no Test Report issued). All items were relocated to functioning refrigerators on January 10, 2024.

The root cause of the issue was determined to be a malfunction of the refrigerator compressor. As a result, Vault Refrigerator 2 operated outside of the Laboratory's acceptable temperature range from the afternoon of January 9, 2024, through discovery on the morning of January 10, 2024. During this time, operational temperatures of the refrigerator were between approximately 10-31 °C. The compressor will require replacement.

Attached is a list of evidence items which were stored in Vault Refrigerator 2 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 any questions or further information please contact the Laboratory at [toxlab@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:toxlab@wsp.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Eric Lo  
Laboratory Manager - Seattle  
Toxicology Laboratory Division

Attachments

EL:el/eg

