

THE EVIDENCE LOG[®]

is the Official Publication of the International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.

HANDLING CURRENCY

IN THIS ISSUE

IAPE Standard 10 - Money

*Record Money Seizures
Not Uncommon*

*In The News: Police Employees
Sentenced for Money Thefts*

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NEW WEB-SITE LINKS & RESOURCES:

The extensive IAPE web-site now offers up-dated links to numerous law enforcement agencies, programs and resources that pertain to our field. Topics include latest DNA handling practices, training opportunities, on-line classes, new products and vendors; plus current headlines and blog entries hand-picked for your information.

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We invite comments on our format and the contents within. Submitted items should be mailed to the attention of the The Evidence Log® staff, and are subject to editorial review for appropriateness of content and length.

Volume 2011, Number 4

Please address all inquiries concerning this publication to:

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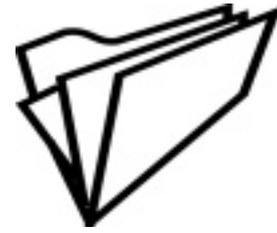
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BOB GILES

EVIDENCE LOG EDITOR

EDITOR'S CORNER



THE GILES FILES

MONEY MANAGEMENT

In this issue we will examine the practice of how law enforcement agencies handle money. Money is among one of the most often pilfered items in the evidence room. Sadly, according to the frequency of news reports, money is often taken by people who are entrusted with its safekeeping, or have access to the money storage area.

Ironically, what is reported in the news media is but a small portion of all the money that is stored by law enforcement agencies and successfully reaches its ultimate disposition; but that is not what we hear about most. What kind of news headline would attract readers if it read, "Millions of dollars are successfully packaged, stored, and released according to policy"? It's only when the system doesn't work that the news media reports the incident in its most inflammatory way. This probably says more about us as a consumer society than it does about the media. It was Hearst that discovered headlines sell; the media wouldn't print inflammatory stories if we didn't buy them.....

It's also interesting that financial institutions don't seem to have this problem. Is it just because their thefts occur on a much higher level and are written off by the oversight boards quietly to retain investor confidence? Perhaps. But the banking industry did learn a long ago that human nature is to take things that are not routinely monitored. As a result, banks set up strong internal controls and auditing procedures making the likelihood of having a loss detected by someone else very high, indeed.

For this reason, law enforcement needs to adopt many of the same internal controls and principles whenever possible. For example, having two persons count, verify, and be held responsible for the money count is a basic tenant. Most agencies should be able to find two persons to count money and seal it in a package.

Having video surveillance of money counting rooms and instructing employees to keep hands on the table while counting money is great for large agencies and Las Vegas, but small departments may be lucky to have a table to count money upon!

Having a separation of duties is helpful; the people who count and package money at submittal should not necessarily be ones who release the money. Evidence room personnel should generally not be issuing checks from an evidence account; but again, the size of the agency may determine whether or not this is practical or even possible. Keeping unauthorized persons out of the evidence storage areas is critically important if the evidence custodian is held responsible for the contents. When do banks give tours of their vaults? It generally doesn't happen.

Most important is management oversight. We all work for someone else, and that someone should always make time to review our work. Failure to inspect a subordinate's work product is inviting them to work at less than peak performance, and is ignoring a basic management oversight responsibility.

Perhaps if law enforcement had more interest in adopting the banking industry's principles, we would have less inflammatory headlines to erode the public trust.

On a slightly different topic, I would like to announce that IAPE has recently elected a new President of the Board of Directors, Ms. Joyce Riba. President Riba comes to us from the Fresno Police Department where she served 28 years in a distinctive career achieving the rank of Lieutenant. Congratulations and well-wishes to President Riba.

Robert Giles,

Evidence Log Editor

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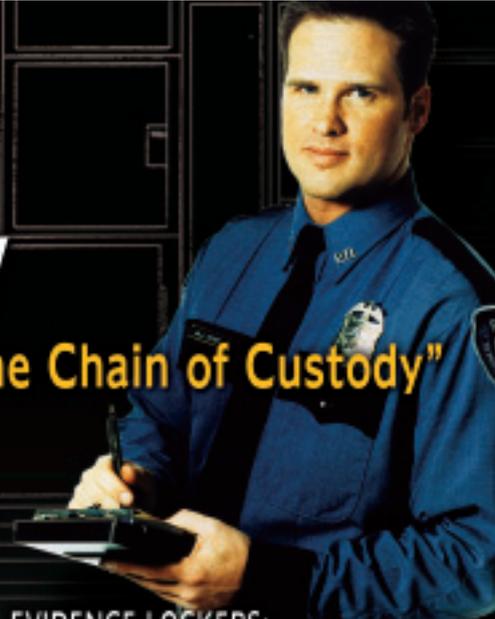
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IAPE STANDARD 10 MONEY

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Standard 10.1: Money - Packaging

Standard: Money should be packaged in uniquely colored envelopes or in containers with unique labels attached. Information on the label or package should provide sufficient data to identify the case, submitting and verifying employees, persons involved, contents and money listed by denomination and total.

Definition: Money packaging refers to the manner in which money is preserved, documented, and labeled.

Reasoning: Based upon audits, direct observations, and feedback from numerous property officers, there is a significantly high error rate in money counts by booking officers. Often, these errors can be related to simple arithmetic calculations. One method to reduce this error rate is to document the number and type of coins and bills for each denomination, e.g. $3 \times .25 = .75$, $4 \times \$1 \text{ bill} = \4.00 . There should be a subtotal for each denomination as well as a total for the money within the package. Additionally, double checking the math will help to reduce the error rate.

The package or label used should have prompts that document the date and time, case number, tracking number, denominations, sum, and the signatures of the booking and verifying parties. Verification by a second party should occur regardless of the dollar amount. The package or label should contain the booking and verifying officer's name printed in a legible manner along with signatures or initials and employee number. Verification of the count is necessary to ensure that the amount of money has been counted correctly, and that a second person is responsible for both a correct count and the sealing

of the money in the envelope or bag. Money should be sealed in a container that is tamper resistant and can be filed in an easily retrievable manner.

Most sums of money booked will generally fit in a 4" x 6" or even an 8.5" x 11" manila envelope, which is ideal for uniform size filing in a drawer or box. The manila envelope can be uniquely colored to provide a visual clue regarding the contents of the envelope and aids in locating items. The closing flap and seams may be sealed with evidence tape and initialed by both parties to prevent and identify tampering.

Some agencies prefer to use tamper-resistant plastic bags with similar prompts for documentation, but this option may lack color coding. In this event, the agency should attach a uniquely colored label consistent with the color code established for other packages of money.

Standard 10.2: Money - Documentation

Standard: Money should be described in a manner that enables the reader to visualize the item without physically examining it. Additionally, the documentation should provide a record of all parties that have handled the item, storage locations, and transaction dates and times.

Definition: Documentation refers to identifying the item with a unique number, describing the item, and providing a record of all parties handling, various storage locations, along with dates and times of the transaction.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

IAPE Standard 10 - Money *cont'd.*

Standard 10.2: Documentation *cont'd.*

Reasoning: All money evidence should be documented in a manner that provides a thorough and accurate description and chain of custody, including: chronological documentation, paper trail, details of the seizure, custody, control, transfer, and disposition of the evidence, either paper-based or electronic.

The booking officer's documentation of the money should include the subtotals by denomination, totals, the signature of the verifying employees, and dates and times.

The property room should retain a log, either manual or automated, of all monies entering and leaving the property room and the current balance. If the package is sealed and initialed there is no need to open the package for verification; however, some agencies insist that a third count by the property officer and another witness be conducted when the money enters the property room.

The desire for a count upon receipt by the property room comes from a philosophical perspective that any miscounts or thefts are easier to resolve before a lengthy period of storage time elapses. If the money is validated upon receipt in the property room by two parties, and there is a discrepancy, it can be corrected in a timely manner and the two booking officers have been excluded from any later culpability. Conversely, if the miscount is discovered five years later, anyone in the property room and the two booking officers are now part of the inquiry.

A real-time list of money items that are ready for deposit should be maintained either on paper or in a computer. This list should be itemized by case, item, amount, and running total.

Standard 10.3: Money - Documentation of Movement

Standard: Money should be deposited or transferred out of the property room as soon as practical once it no longer has evidentiary value.

Definition: Deposit or transfer refers to the movement of money from the property room into the Finance Department or a financial institution. Movement refers to a change in location.

Reasoning: Money is considered a high profile item and requires the highest level of internal controls. Documenting the person who authorized the transfer, the person who released the item, and the person who received the item along with dates and times is the preferred practice. Any time that property or evidence is released to a person, the receiving and releasing person's signature, date and time should be required.

Providing a subpoena for the court case or obtaining a supervisor's written approval provides a credible record that the money was taken out of the property room for the reasons stated.

Any time there is movement of money from the property room, there should be documentation in the form of a tickler or suspense file that notes when items are "out to the crime lab", "out for investigation", and "out to court", "out to another agency", and who is responsible for it. This tickler file will prompt the property officer to inquire regarding the item when it has not returned in a timely manner. The property officer should be required to query all signed out evidence on a periodic basis. For example, firearms, money, and narcotics should be queried on the next working day.

All money that has been taken to court and not returned by the end of the court day should have a receipt signed by an officer of the court and a court stamp. The receipt should be returned to the property officer in order to update the official record.

Standard 10.4: Money - Storage

Standard: Money should be stored separately from general evidence items in a location with enhanced security.

Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 8

IAPE Standard 10 - Money *cont'd.*

Standard 10.4: Money - Storage *cont'd.*

Definition: A money storage area refers to the location where it is segregated from items of general evidence, provided with enhanced security, and is categorized by active and pending transfer designations.

Reasoning: The size of a money storage area, or vault, is defined by the quantity of money packages that an agency has historically stored. If only five or six packages are taken in each month, a cabinet or file drawer may suffice. If larger quantities are taken in, a box on a shelf in a closet might be appropriate. Larger quantities yet may require several boxes on several shelves in a designated room/vault.

Money evidence should not be commingled with any other property types, except when a common enhanced security area is shared with the storage of firearms or currency. The following are recommended features for a money storage area:

- For a large agency, an interior money room, vault, or cage should be constructed of concrete block, lath and plaster, or drywall that has been reinforced with plywood or wire mesh. The room should not have suspended ceiling access from an adjacent room. Ingress should be via a solid core door equipped with a double cylinder dead-bolt keyed separately from the main property room. The room should have a separate alarm and video camera to monitor ingress and activity inside. A “rule of two” may be designed by providing the room key or combination to one person and the alarm code to another.
- A safe, locker, cabinet, or file drawer may be used for smaller quantities of money. There should be a separate padlock on a hasp to secure cabinet doors. Multiple hasps and locks may be used to design a “rule of two”, if needed. Do not rely solely on cabinet locks that can easily be defeated. A video camera to monitor activity is recommended.
- Storage shelf and bin identifiers should be consistent with the storage scheme of the main property room.

- Money from “Active” cases should be kept separate from money “Pending Transfer.” This may be accomplished by using separate shelves or boxes.
- Nothing precludes the enhanced security recommendations for firearms, money, and narcotics from being combined into one common secure area with 3 distinct storage locations.

Other valuables, such as negotiable securities, foreign currency, counterfeit bills, jewelry and precious stones should also be provided additional levels of security and documentation regarding their handling and ultimate disposition.

There may be instances when booking a sealed package of uncounted money may be necessary due to difficulties in accurately counting larger quantities of damaged or dirty bills. This exception should require the approval of a supervisor or a container should be placed in the money vault or room with enhanced security as soon as practical.

Standard 10.5: Money - Storage Pending Transfer

Standard: Money pending transfer to the agency’s finance department or a financial institution should always be stored in a designated area that has an enhanced level of security in the property room.

Definition: Money for transfer refers to segregating items that have been authorized for transfer from the property room.

Reasoning: Money pending transfer has the greatest likelihood of being pilfered from storage. Storing money in a locked room, safe, sealed container, secured locker, or locked file cabinet provides an enhanced level of security. This segregation may occur in the same room as active narcotics and firearm cases.

Additionally, storing money pending transfer in an area away from active currency provides a method to better track and visually monitor the quantity of money awaiting transfer.

Continued on next page

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IAPE Standard 10 - Money *cont'd.*

Standard 10.5:

Storage Pending Transfer *cont'd.*

Reasoning: (*cont'd.*) The department's policy should define a threshold which will trigger the transfer. A threshold may be based on the calendar, for example, weekly or monthly. A threshold may also be based upon quantity, such as every \$2,000. Thresholds make all parties in the transfer process accountable and ensure that the process occurs before the money becomes a target of theft.

Standard 10.6: Disposition: Release

Standard: All releases of money should be authorized in writing by the investigating officer to the custody of a specific person, or other agency.

Definition: A money release refers to the return of money to the rightful owner, designee, finder, or transfer to another agency or court.

Reasoning: All releases of money should be specifically authorized in writing by the investigating officer. The receiving party should present valid government issued picture identification to match against the authorized name listed by the investigating officer.

A second person should be present when opening the money package to witness the transaction, or the release should be done under a recording surveillance camera to document the count and release of the money. The receiving party should also sign the property release to acknowledge the receipt of the specified amount. The final record should be accompanied with the signature, date and time of the release.

Standard 10.7: Disposition: Transfer

Standard: All transfers of money to Finance or a financial institution should be specifically authorized in writing by the investigating officer or prosecutor. Policy should define the process in which inactive money is to be transferred from the property room as well as a threshold for the transfer to occur.

Reasoning: Reasoning: Money should be deposited with the agency's Finance Department or a financial institution as soon Money should be deposited with the agency's finance department or a financial institution as quickly as possible after the assigned investigator signs and authorization for

transfer. The goal should be to remove money from the property room as soon as practical to reduce the potential for theft or being misplaced.

When money is transferred from the property room to the Finance Dept. or a financial institution, a transfer list should identify the sum for each case number that comprises the total deposit. A query of the money disposition on a specific case should reveal a clear paper or electronic trail as part of the deposit.

Standard 10.8: Disposition: Asset Forfeiture

Standard: Departmental policy should provide protocols to follow when money associated with potential asset forfeiture is seized. The protocols should direct that money evidence connected with an asset seizure should be booked into the property room and subsequently deposited into a designated account in a financial institution as soon as possible.

Definition: Criminal enterprise asset forfeiture refers to the civil action against money or property seized that was gained as a result of criminal activity.

Reasoning: Large sums of money should be deposited into a financial institution as soon as practical to remove the target of theft from the property room. Transfer of asset seizure money from a law enforcement agency to a prosecutor's office should be accomplished via check, money order, or bank check so there is a clear paper trail as to the transfer.

Arrangements should be made for the money to be counted at a financial institution, with two witnesses, on the next bank day. Once the count has been verified by two witnesses the money should be deposited into the financial institution. Transfer of the money to the prosecutor's office should be accomplished in accordance with local, state, or federal asset forfeiture guidelines. A copy of the asset forfeiture application, the container in which the money was seized, the evidence envelope which contains the amount of the seizure (broken down by denomination, and the signature is of the individuals who validated the count should all be booked into the property room as evidence.

A copy of the forfeiture application, money container and evidence envelope with signatures and count, by denomination, should then be booked into evidence as another case exhibit showing the chain of custody.

See SAMPLE CURRENCY ENVELOPE on Page 15 & Editor's COMMENTARY on Page 16

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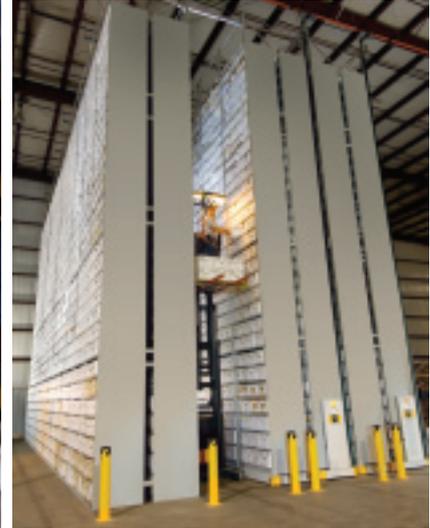
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IAPE suggests using a unique envelopes color for ease of identification.

SAMPLE

Currency Envelope

Case No. _____ Control No. _____

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence | <input type="checkbox"/> Found Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Safekeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect | <input type="checkbox"/> Finder |

(Print Name, Last Name First)

Crime Statute: _____

Date Found: _____ Time Found: _____

Location Found: _____

Found By: _____ Serial Number: _____

Currency	Coin
_____ X \$100.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$1.00 = \$ _____
_____ X \$50.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$.50 = \$ _____
_____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$.25 = \$ _____
_____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$.10 = \$ _____
_____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$.05 = \$ _____
_____ X \$1.00 = \$ _____	_____ X \$.01 = \$ _____
Subtotal = \$ _____	Subtotal = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____	

Verified By: _____ Serial Number: _____

Entered & Sealed By: _____ Serial Number: _____

Date & Time Sealed _____

PROPERTY UNIT USE ONLY:

Received By: _____ Date: _____ Intact? [] Yes [] No

Opened By: _____ Date: _____ Accurate? [] Yes [] No

Witnessed By: _____ Date: _____ Accurate? [] Yes [] No

Money Handling Commentary: IAPE Professional Standard 10

Robert Giles, Evidence Log Editor

INTRODUCTION

What is money? There are many lengthy answers for what money is, but for the very narrow purpose of this discussion, we will limit our definition to tokens that may be exchanged for goods and services in the form of the US Dollar (USD) and coins that may represent a fraction thereof.

PACKAGING

Whenever we seize or find money in the course of our employment, we need to place it in secure packaging that will keep the money separate from any other monies or evidence. In addition to the money count, IAPE recommends that the package be provided with prompts for the name of the person who the money taken from (owner, finder, suspect), the type of incidence, Evidence, Found, Safekeeping, where it was located, dates, times, and case number. Additionally the package should have the name of the person (employee or officer) who counted the money and the name of the person who verified the count. If money is taken from a suspect as a result of an arrest always consider placing in a package under the name of the suspect. If the case ever goes to court it could will show that those bills were in fact in the possession of the suspect. To whom the money belongs may be in dispute and should be clarified in the report.

A common package used by law enforcement agencies is the plain manila envelope that comes in many sizes and unique colors, and may easily be printed with prompts for the required information. These envelopes are stiff enough to be filed on edge in a drawer, bin or tray and they should be sealed with evidence tape on all seams and flaps to prevent opening without leaving the obvious signs of tampering. The unique color is important because it will stand out if misfiled among other similar sized envelopes.

An alternative used by many agencies is the clear plastic money-bag that is also pre-printed with prompts for the count by denomination and space for the person counting and the person verifying the quantity of money inside. Advantages are that the bag is clear and the money may be visible without opening, and the bags may have tamper-evident closures. The disadvantages are that the bags lack stiffness to permit filing on edge in a drawer for easy filing and retrieval. The plastic bags may be placed in a numeric order, but they may not easily be leafed through for retrieval.

Larger quantities of money that do not fit into a typical 5" x 8" manila envelope may require some special packaging or handling that will be discussed in other parts of the Evidence Log. For larger amounts the described manila envelope can also be affixed to a larger container.

DOCUMENTATION

The handling of money always has the potential to receive scrutiny by a third party whenever inspections or inventories are performed. For this reason, it is incumbent that the money package has a clear record of who counted the contents, who put the money inside the envelope, and who verified this count. The person who initially verifies the count at submission (the witnessing employee) is just as responsible for the content of the envelope as the person who counts the money initially.

Some agencies treat the envelope as a sealed package once it has been submitted, while other agencies want the evidence re-counted and re-verified when it is received (a third and fourth count). The purpose of this redundancy is to ensure that the count is accurate, and if not, that a lengthy period of time has not passed before the error is found. Both points of view are acceptable and each has advantages and disadvantages.

If money is accepted in the property room as a sealed package and secured without validation of amounts it may be years before the package is opened. When the package is subsequently opened and the count is short no one can substantiate if the count was wrong originally by the submitting officer or if tampered with in the property room. In this scenario the internal investigation may have to interview countless employees who have worked in the room for the time period in question. If the money is not verified at submittal it may become a greater risk of everyone being able to say the officer didn't count in right. Being the submitting officer, I want it counted when you receive it. If there is a problem it may get corrected within days of the submittal. If the money is tampered with in the property room, the submitting officer is involved in an internal investigation that he/she may have had nothing to do with.

Is it possible for a submitting officer to forget placing money evidence in a temporary locker? What proof is there that a money envelope was actually submitted to the evidence room? Again, the "rule of two" is helpful in having a witness and documenting this in the report. Some agencies have security camera coverage of the temporary lockers to witness an item going into a locker, and then again when it is received inside the evidence room. This avoids pitting the word of one employee against another. The camera doesn't lie.

MOVEMENT

When money moves from one location to another, such as to court, to lab, or out for investigation, there should be a written request in the form of a memo or

Continued on next page

Cont'd. from previous page

Money Handling Commentary: *cont'd.*

MOVEMENT (cont'd.)

some type of approval form with supervisory approval, or subpoena authorizing the movement, removal, or transfer. Having written authorization protects the evidence custodian from inadvertently making an unauthorized change in the location of a high profile item. For example, a subpoena for court could be scanned as an attachment into the computer that accompanies the record of movement and adds an extra internal control.

A tickler file is very important reminder to keep track of where money has been sent, removed, or transferred, and when it should be returned; usually at the end of the business day is the recommend practice. A ticker file can be file folder or computer entry that prompts the property officer to inquire about the status of the evidence after a specified time.

In general, personnel should not personally retain evidence overnight in their custody when court cases trail over several days; exceptions to this policy should be approved by a supervisor. Any items submitted into court as an exhibit should have a signed receipt from the Court Clerk, or other designated court personnel, acknowledging that the Court has accepted responsibility for the item.

STORAGE

Money is considered to be a high-profile item because of its propensity to "disappear". Money, drugs and firearms are probably the categories of items that are most often stolen from an evidence room. As a result, IAPE strongly recommends that money should be stored in an area that has enhanced security.

Enhanced security means that additional security measures are taken to ensure that unauthorized persons do not access the item. These measures may include, but are not limited to, security cameras, a locked room within the evidence room, a locked security screen, extra locks, second person requirement with separate keys or alarm PIN, secondary alarms, etc. The enhanced security for small departments may be a locked cabinet or small safe. The level or enhanced security is utilized is up to the agency and dependent upon how much money is stored. Banks use vaults to store their cash for a similar reason.

Placing money in an area segregated from items of general evidence does not preclude sharing space with other items also requiring segregation, such as firearms or narcotics. For a small agency, placing a locking file cabinet in the firearms or drug storage area may be an acceptable solution.

DEPOSITING MONEY - AFTER ADJUDICATION

It is very important to eliminate the target of theft from the evidence room as soon as practical by limiting the quantities of cash on hand to an established threshold amount after the case is adjudicated. The threshold amount may vary in different agencies by how often a deposit must be made. For some agencies it may be

only \$2,500 in one month, for larger agencies it could be \$2,500 per day. Whatever amount is chosen, use it as a threshold of when to make a deposit with the finance department or bank. Exceeding the size of the threshold unnecessarily increases the size of the theft target within the evidence room. Some agencies use a threshold that a deposit is made on every specified calendar day, weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. The dollar threshold amount is preferred, as one case could have thousands dollars in it.

DEPOSITING MONEY - BEFORE ADJUDICATION

Some agencies have chosen to deposit money into the bank immediately after being received. Immediately may mean as soon as practical; the next bank day, for example. All monies that are submitted that do not have any type forensic or probative value should be deposited as soon as they exceed the pre-established threshold amount.

AWAITING TRANSFER LOCATION

Have a separate drawer or bin within the money storage area to place money pending transfer. This should also be a separate file location in the computer named money pending transfer, for example, that becomes a tickler file. Once this bin or drawer reaches or exceeds the threshold amount, a deposit should be made. When the deposit is made, a transfer document should be written, or printed out from the computer that documents what amount is being deposited from which case numbers. A copy of this document should be retained in the evidence room.

Money is money, unless the individual bill itself has evidence on it in the form of writing, blood, chemical tracers, dye, some other trace evidence, or identifying markers or serial numbers. Photographs of the cash may be helpful in a trial, but the specific bills may not be necessary. Absent a reason to keep the specific bills, ask the case investigator for authorization to deposit the bills in the financial institution as soon as practical.

RELEASE OF MONEY

Whenever money is released from the evidence room to an officer, it is important to document in writing on the property record how much money is being released, to whom the money is being released, and, who actually released it, and who is authorizing the release. A signature and a legibly printed name is desirable. Larger agencies may even require serial numbers or ID.

When releasing money to an owner it is recommended a copy of the person's government issued ID be obtained, along with having them sign the release including current address, phone, along with a signature and perjury statement that they are the owners of the money.

The evidence room should not have access to a checkbook from which to write checks directly for release of money from an evidence account. The separation of duties principle is to have a third party write the check and maintain a paper trail for auditing purposes.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT !!!

Reprinted from: NYDailyNews.com
By: Michael Sheridan

October 26, 2011

A LARGE LEGO MAN APPEARS ON BEACH IN FLORIDA

An 8-foot-tall Lego man was discovered Tuesday morning on a Florida beach. The mysterious creation appeared on Siesta Key Public Beach Tuesday morning, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department said.

The clever creation - which has yellow arms, red legs and a green torso with "NO REAL THAN YOU ARE" emblazoned across it - is made of fiberglass and weighs 100 pounds.

Police have identified it as "Ego Leonard," which is written on its back along with the No. 8. "No one is sure how he arrived at the beach, whether he was placed there or if he washed up in the surf," police said in a statement. Police placed the Lego man in their property room until someone claims it.

The massive figure is likely the work of an artist located in the Netherlands, according to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. The artist's website, www.egoleonard.nl, features photos of similar Lego men with numbers on their backs. Other large-sized Lego figures emerged a few years ago. One washed up in the Netherlands in 2007 and another in England in 2008.



*Hey, on second thought -
maybe this is something I would want...*

Read on for additional info.

from The Ledger.com in Florida,
as reported by Todd Ruder:

Resident Jeff Hindman was walking the beach early Tuesday and saw the 100-pound Lego man in the pre-dawn light. He thought it was marine life, washed ashore overnight and left in the gentle ankle-deep surf.

Hindman got closer and discovered the Lego statue was made of fiberglass, like a boat hull. He took a photo of the Lego man in the surf, then dragged it out of the water and stood it up.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office was called, and responding deputies did not know what to do with the Lego man or to whom to return it. Deputies took the Lego man into "protective custody" in a truck at about 11 a.m., with plans to keep it for 90 days in a property room to see if anyone claims ownership.

If nobody does, Hindman can put in a claim and become the proud owner of an 8-foot Lego man. "I'll put it on eBay," Hindman said



*Cashing in on this guy might not be such a washed up idea -
but just think of the shipping & handling costs...*

A FIX FOR THE PROBLEM YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD

By: Joe Latta

During the last six months we have reported in the Evidence Log and in the evidenceblog@iape.org numerous stories of prescription pills being submitted to police departments for destruction and later being pilfered. Many of the systems that law enforcement has used to collect and secure have left employees in vulnerable positions in that a prescription item is deposited and generally not documented when placed into our custody. The Evidence Custodian later moves the bin of prescriptions pills to the property room without any record of the contents. The prescription pills are tossed in a container awaiting the final destruction. In this scenario, if an employee's integrity is ever questioned no one can prove or disprove that the item ever existed.

During a recent class at the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, I observed a great solution for the deposit of prescription pills to the custody of law enforcement. The product illustrated

(utilizing a 2 person rule) and secured to the floor with a chain and pad locker to ensure that it can't be removed.



in the photos is manufactured by a company www.securr.com that specializes in security containers. The container is controlled with two different keys,

What a great solution to the submission side of the issue! However when you take the items into your property room and they haven't been documented you have no way of proving any particular item was or wasn't received. In order to protect yourself, you should have the removal and transfer to the property room be conducted with someone outside of the property room function observe as a witness. Once the pills have entered your custody, have them secured in another double locked container as illustrated. You have a key and the independent person has the second key until that time the items are readied for disposal.

EVIDENCE LOG SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

We are always looking to our readers for suggestions of articles to publish in future issues of the Evidence Log.

If you have an item you would like us to consider, or other commentary / correspondence, please submit to:

www.iape.org



Property & Evidence Management Course for Law Enforcement Agencies - Year 2011

This 2 day course provides a unique training opportunity for Law Enforcement Personnel responsible for, or actively involved in, the operation, supervision or management of a Property and Evidence Unit.

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 - Destruction Processes
 - Audits / Inventories
 - Design and Layout Criteria
 - Environmental Concerns
 - Space Standards
 - Storage / Shelving
 - Firearm Storage / Handling
 - Narcotics Storage / Handling
 - Currency Protocols
 - Bio-Hazards
 - Case Studies / Liabilities
-

• Training Format

The class is an intensive sixteen hour classroom style course designed to maximize learning sound property room concepts. Extensive PowerPoint and video collections illustrate properly designed facilities and systems.

• Keeping Up and Staying Ahead

Training has been designed to help recognize and avoid the pitfalls that can lead to court challenges, lawsuits, poor press relations, disciplinary action, termination and indictments.

• Instructors

Instructors are recognized experts in the field, with both professional and academic credentials.

• Certification of Attendance

Students will receive a Certificate of Attendance, in addition to the class materials and valuable knowledge received in the class.

• Class Composition and Size

Limited size classes of both sworn and civilian personnel involved in the operation, supervisors, managers, and administrators of the property function. Classes fill up quickly - Sign Up Early!

• Tuition Fee

Course fee includes tuition, membership, student workbook, CD of forms and property manuals. Discount tuitions are available to returning members and when additional students from the same agency attend the same class.

• Transportation and Lodging

Training is usually held at hosting department's training facility or at the listed hotel. Transportation, food, and lodging are the responsibility of each participant.

• Exchange Ideas

Network with property room professionals from agencies across the United States and Canada.



BOLO

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

UP-COMING PROPERTY & EVIDENCE CLASSES 2012

- Fort Worth, TX - March 6 & 7
- East Providence, RI - March 28 & 29
- Gulfport, MS - April 24 & 25
- Lenexa, KS - April 30 & May 1
- Plainfield, IN - May 3 & 4
- Calgary, AB - May 15 & 16
- St. Peters, MO - May 24 & 25
- Allegheny County, PA - June 20 & 21
- Springville, UT - June 26 & 27
- Acton, MA - July 11 & 12
- South San Francisco, CA - July 17 & 18
- Fort Collins, CO - August 1 & 2
- San Antonio, TX - August 15 & 16
- Sykesville, MD - September 12 & 13
- Minneapolis, MN - September 26 & 27
- Los Angeles - October 17 & 18

*Also being scheduled:
Greenville, SC, Portland, OR, Burbank, CA
and Botswana!*

Check web-site for all current classes.

Hotel Reservation Information

- When making reservations, ask the hotel for the International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc. participant's special discount rate.
- To be guaranteed a room at the discount rate, make reservations 30 days in advance.
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- Questions ??? Call (800) 449-IAPE (4273)

Registration Information

- Completed registration forms should be submitted 2 weeks prior to the training session along with credit card, check, money order or purchase order, made out to *IAPE Training* at the address shown below.
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- *(incls IAPE 1 year membership & Evidence Log)*

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(incls. subscription to Evidence Log)

Credit Card Type:   

Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

ASSET FORFEITURE ASSISTS PURCHASE OF DRUG TERMINATOR

Double-Duty Drug Fighter for Community Prescription Take-Back Programs and the Destruction of Confiscated Drugs

Contributed by: Linda Henning - lhenning@elastec.com

The safe and controlled destruction of confiscated drugs by law enforcement agencies is mandated by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and is enforced by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. Federal and state hazardous waste rules and regulations, enforced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, must also be followed when disposing of impounded drugs.

But who controls and enforces the disposal of medications from the household medicine cabinet and why should law enforcement agencies be concerned?

According to the Department of Justice's 2009 National Prescription Drug Threat Assessment and the Office of National Drug Control Policy's 2008 Report:

- The number of deaths and treatment admissions for Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs) has increased significantly in recent years, especially among teens.
- 1/3 of all new abusers of CPDs are aged 12 to 17
- Teens abuse CPDs more than any other illicit drug except marijuana - more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined.
- CPDs are often found in the home.
- Violent & property crime associated with CPDs has increased greatly in the U.S. in the past 5 years.

Pharming Parties

Storing unused or outdated medications in the home is a prescription for danger. One in five teens pop pills to get high and almost half admit they pilfer the medications from friends' and relatives' medicine cabinets. Some even participate in clandestine gatherings, called "pharming parties," where pain-killers, anti-anxiety medicine, stimulants, antidepressants, and even blood pressure medicine are mixed for a cheap and potentially lethal high.

Ecological Aquatic Harm

Not only are stored household drugs inviting unlawful use, there is concern that pharmaceuticals are negatively impacting human and aquatic life through the contamination of waterways. Many household unused and expired medications are flushed down the toilet or sink drain. The Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) contained in these medications are difficult to eliminate by municipal wastewater treatment methods and may pose a serious threat to human and marine health.

In a 13-month study in Clark County, Las Vegas, coroners conducted a survey of flushing excess medications down the toilet after someone dies. More than 325,000 meds or about 225 pounds of APIs were swilled into the sewer system. Estimates from this study suggest that left over meds from the deceased population alone may account for as many as 19.7 tons of APIs disposed of into US sewage systems annually. There is some evidence that the reproductive system of male fish has been altered as a result of drug contamination

as well as possibly eliminating some species of aquatic populations. The harmful effects of pharmaceuticals in our water system on humans is still under investigation.

What is the solution?

The Drug Terminator

Manufactured by Elastec/American Marine in Carmi, IL, the Drug Terminator is a portable, cyclonic incineration system originally designed for the destruction of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, opiates, pharmaceuticals, and methamphetamine labs. Easy to use, environmentally safe, and economically priced, the Drug Terminator employs two high velocity electric blowers creating a cyclone of intense heat eliminating illicit drugs quickly and completely. The drug residue is reduced to an average of 1% ash. Non-combustible drug paraphernalia is sterilized by the extreme heat and can be disposed of in municipal landfills.

The Drug Terminator is also becoming an important community service tool. The Benton County Sheriff's Office in Bentonville, Arkansas features the mobile incinerator in their Prescription Drug Take-Back program.

Return & Burn

In 2010, Congress passed the "Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act" giving communities a safe and responsible way to dispose of unused prescription drugs. The Act seeks to reduce the risk of drug abuse, poisonings, and environmental problems by allowing consumers to give controlled substances to specially designated individuals for disposal, such as law enforcement officials.

Law enforcement agencies with limited budgets are considering using asset forfeiture funds to purchase devices such as the Drug Terminator. According to Sheriff Doug Maier of the White County Illinois Sheriff's department, "The Drug Terminator is a double-duty drug-fighting tool for law enforcement in that it can be used as an incinerator for the destruction of confiscated drugs as well as a community involvement instrument to keep illicit prescription medications off the street."

For more information about the Drug Terminator and Elastec/American Marine, visit www.elastec.com/portableincinerators/drugterminator or contact Jeremy Pretzsch at 618.382.2525.

About Elastec/American Marine

The world headquarters of Elastec/American Marine is located in Carmi, Illinois, USA, encompassing over 200,000 square feet in four manufacturing and warehousing facilities in Southern Illinois and a facility in Cocoa, Florida. Four satellite sales offices are located in Virginia, India, Turkey and China. With over 140 employees, the Company manufactures pollution recovery systems with a core competency in domestic and international oil spill recovery. Elastec/American Marine products are distributed through a global network of dealers and direct sales.

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WE GET MAIL...

Editor's Note: *We try to respond to as many letters as we can, with information which may be relevant to the broadest audience possible. However, on occasion, we are unable to come up with a suitable response, as in the letter below, and open up the question to you, our membership, in an effort to broaden use of the Evidence Log as a resource and open forum. We thank you for your continued participation in this process.*

Dear Joe:

In reading the material from your book CD, *By The Book*, on page ix, there is a paragraph lead with "Property Seized -- Search Warrant", and toward the end of the paragraph, it reads, "Some agencies have written a release to the owner as part of the Warrant that is signed by the Judge. This would help us out considerably. Do you know of anyone I could contact for more info?"

Vikki Eilts
Vermillion Police Department
South Dakota

Vikki:

Here is some wording from a department in Butte County, California. Hope the sample gives you some ideas.

Be sure to run this by your legal counsel to see if it flies in your state before you implement.

- Joe

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTE - SUPERIOR COURT

RETURN OF SEARCH WARRANT

I _____, being sworn, says that he conducted a search pursuant to the below described search warrant:

Search Warrant Number: _____

Issuing Magistrate: _____

Date of Issue: _____ Date of Service: _____

That the listed location(s), vehicle(s), and person(s) were searched:

That the following items were seized: _____

Items are described in the attached and incorporated inventory

I further swear this is a true detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the search warrant, and pursuant to Penal Code sections 1528 and 1536, this property will be retained in my custody until a final disposition has been rendered, whereupon all property, except contraband which will be destroyed, will be returned to its rightful owner or disposed of according to any other court order. Further, by this return, I am authorized, without necessity of further court order, to return seized item(s) to any known owner(s) if such item(s) have been photographically documented.

Signature of Affiant _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Judge of the Superior Court

Continued on page 28



EVENT OR TREND ?

STOP SMOKING!

By: Joe Latta

If you're a bad guy, stop smoking; it can bad for you health, and now your freedom. As you know, I routinely peruse the Internet for stories in the news that impact property rooms. You may start seeing an influx of cigarettes coming into the property room in the near future; a quick internet search finds many stories of how smoke ended the freedom of some real bad guys. Watch out smokers DNA is going to get you. - JL

DNA on Cigarette Links Charlton Man to Webster Break-In - News Telegram.com

December 9, 2011

WEBSTER, MA - A man who allegedly left behind a cigarette during a June 2010 burglary has been arrested after DNA from the discarded butt was matched to him. Joshua Piehl, 24, of 34 Worcester St., Charlton, on a warrant Wednesday and charged with breaking and entering in the daytime with intent to commit a felony and two counts of wanton destruction of property. Police were called to the home of an elderly woman on Gore Road on June 27, 2010, after she reported hearing strange voices in her basement. Officers found the home had been broken into and discovered the cigarette butt, which was sent to the state police crime laboratory.

Affidavit: Discarded Cigarette Led to Maine Arrest - Boston.com

December 7, 2011

SKOWHEGAN, ME - A court document reveals that it was a discarded cigarette that led to the arrest of a Maine man in a 31-year-old murder case. Jay Mercier was arrested in September and charged with murder in the July 1980 death of 20-year-old Rita St. Peter, whose beaten body was found along the side of a road in Anson. According to an affidavit filed by state police detective Bryant Jacques, DNA recovered from the cigarette butt matched DNA from the victim's body.

Kris Shin Arrested After Officials Get DNA Hit From A Cigarette Butt - OCWeekly

November 23, 2011

FULLERTON, CA - Take the goods and get out. Don't dilly-dally. And, definitely don't leave your DNA. It seems, however, Kris Shin missed these tidbits of advice from the first day of Burglary 101.

After breaking in to a Fullerton home in August, Shin stopped for a smoke break before he left. Sure, an addiction's an addiction, but dude, put the butt in your pocket or something, don't throw it on the floor. Or, if you don't want to singe your pants, you could try those e-cigarettes that the creepers at the mall peddle. Shin supposedly took a couple of drags of the cigarette and threw it on the bathroom floor before allegedly making off with laptops, \$4,000 in cash and jewelry.

DNA on Cigarette Butt Leads to Burglary Arrest – Chicago Tribune

November 21, 2011

EVANSTON, IL - Police say DNA on a cigarette butt has pinpointed the man responsible for a 2010 apartment burglary. Police allege that John Bernard Lathon, 61, of the 900 block of West Wilson Avenue in Chicago, is responsible for breaking into an apartment in the 2100 block of Sherman Avenue between 5:30 and 6:20 p.m. on Sept. 11, 2010.

NO SMOKING

Good thing that cigarette butts are small and don't take up too much space in the evidence room! - JL

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

FBI Can't Figure Out What Happened to Thousands of Dollars

The Christian Science Monitor reports on Nov 30, 2011 that a former FBI agent in Illinois pled guilty to submitting a false evidence inventory receipt for more than \$43,000 in seized drug money that somehow went missing and has never been recovered.

Jerry Nau of Peoria, Ill., was also ordered to serve five months of house arrest and pay \$43,643 in restitution to the US government. The case is interesting because despite an extensive internal Justice Department investigation and the involvement of a small army of local and federal investigators, Mr. Nau was only charged with submitting a false document. There is no formal allegation - or finding - that he had lost, misapplied, or stolen the funds.

And yet the money is gone.

At the time of his arrest, Nau had \$15,000 in credit card debt, an \$800-a-month alimony obligation, and three dependant daughters, one of whom is unmarried and expecting a child, according to court documents.

Some of the money was found in a basement heating duct in Robinson's home during a court-authorized search. Agents found \$3,733 in cash on Robinson when he was taken into custody.

Questions about the missing money arose months before Robinson's October 2009 trial. In August, Nau told federal prosecutors that the \$43,000 had been administratively forfeited and was no longer available as evidence, according to court files.

During the trial, Nau testified that the confiscated money had been put into a seizure fund account, court files say. Later that month, after Robinson's conviction, Nau advised a Peoria drug task force official that the funds had been moved to the FBI, prosecutors say.

In January 2010, FBI officials asked Nau about the cash. He assured them he was "taking care of that right now," according to court documents.

A federal judge issued the final order of forfeiture for the \$43,643 in May 2010, but the whereabouts of the cash itself was still a mystery.

In June 2010, Nau told his FBI supervisor that he had verified with Peoria law enforcement officials that the money was with them, prosecutors say. On July 1, 2010, Nau faxed an evidence inventory and receipt form to his FBI supervisor. It said the missing money had been recounted and placed into evidence. The form included signatures from two other law enforcement officials.

The problem was that the signatures turned out to be forgeries - and the money was still nowhere to be found.

By September 2010, the Justice Department

Inspector General's office entered the fray. Nau told them the money had been held at the Peoria FBI office, but when he went to recover it for the Robinson trial he discovered it was gone.

He said he panicked and then lied to the prosecutor about the whereabouts of the cash. He told the Inspector General agents that he was hopeful the money would "show up."

"Beyond the perjury and the inconsistency in his earlier statements, Nau's explanation defies logic and is not credible," Assistant US Attorney James Warden wrote in his sentencing memorandum in Nau's case.

"It is contrary to reason that a veteran FBI agent who has innocently misplaced drug money evidence would keep that to himself and simply hope that it would 'show up,' " he wrote. "Logically, the agent would notify his supervisor and his colleagues and seek their assistance in locating the missing evidence."

Mr. Warden continued: "Instead, Nau also suggested that another agent who had retired from the FBI in March 2009 may have stolen the funds. That claim is without merit and reprehensible."

Warden called Nau's behavior "contemptible." He said, "What further aggravates the facts here are the continuing false statements of [Nau] and his forgery of the signatures of two other law enforcement officers whom he falsely claimed would substantiate his false statements. The impact of his criminal conduct is startling."

In this very troubling story of deceit, the FBI illustrates what happens when one of its own agents fails to have adequate oversight by his superiors. The agent was permitted to fabricate cover-up stories and alternatives that never produced the money. The cover-up was not sustainable and eventually the entire story collapsed, just like a house of cards.

The argument could be made that there was adequate oversight because the theft of money was discovered and the dishonest agent was prosecuted. The system that allowed a forged receipt to suffice as proof that a deposit was made shows an inherent weakness in the administrative asset forfeiture procedure that permitted this shell game to go on as long as it did.

It is also entirely possible that the reporting of this crime oversimplifies the circumstances that permitted this charade to exist leading the reader to incorrectly draw conclusions that there was incompetence involved. We can't really judge absent additional information. - Ed

Continued from page 25

WE GET MAIL... Cont'd.



DEPARTMENTAL CPES TRAINING

Good morning,

I am the Supervisor of the Winnipeg Police Service, Evidence Control Unit and recently attended the IAPE conference in Minneapolis. First off, let me say, the program was fantastic and one of the most relevant and useful training sessions I have participated in.

I am exploring the viability of having my entire staff of 11 obtain their Certified Property & Evidence Specialist (CPES) designation. This will require a significant shift in support from my leaders and an influx of money into our training budget. I read on your web site what it takes to become certified by I'd like to know the long term commitment required to keep my staff certified. Can you give me a better sense of what I'm looking at?

Thank you,
Chris Puhach
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Chris:

Thank you for our email and your kind words about the I.A.P.E. training class. The initial certification and each subsequent recertification are valid for a period of five (5) years. In order for a CPES designee to be recertified, they must have accomplished continuing education by one of two methods: first, they can attend another two day I.A.P.E. Property and Evidence Management Class; or, they can do the same course in the online, on-demand video version. So, as to ongoing costs, it is the cost of the class or video and the cost for recertification (\$100). I hope that this answers your questions, if not, please contact me directly. I.A.P.E. looks forward to seeing your entire Evidence Control Unit staff as Certified Property and Evidence Specialists.

*Sincerely -
Bill Kiley, IAPE Board*

IN THE NEWS



Police Employee on Leave After 'Cash Accounting Irregularities' Found in Evidence Room

The Salisbury Post in North Carolina reports on May 28, 2011 that the Salisbury Police Department has placed its evidence and property custodian on paid administrative leave as authorities investigate "cash accounting irregularities" in the evidence control room. Chief of Police Collins said after "the discovery of a potential problem" in the evidence control room, he asked the State Bureau of Investigation to perform a review. The review will include an investigation of irregularities and audit of the department's evidence and property control room, the press release said.

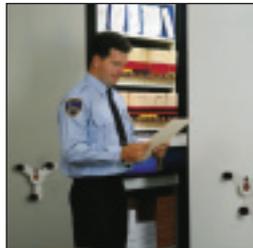
According to Chief Collins, on July 21, Jeffery Emerson was terminated from the police department after a two-month investigation into the missing cash within the department's Evidence Control Room. No details of the investigation were released.

The lack of information disclosed in this incident leaves much room for speculation on what rules were violated, but there was no disclosure on whether or not any crimes were committed. Maintaining the public's trust generally demands full disclosure of information in this area once the investigation has concluded. The full accounting of all money on hand, or where it was spent, is a basic governmental function, and it is the watchdog function of the local media to publish this information.

Nothing was disclosed how the 'cash accounting irregularities' were discovered, but IAPE strongly recommends that audits of all money held should be conducted by supervisors and managers on both a regular and unannounced basis. The routine inspection of money held makes the likelihood of a theft being detected very high, and discourages improper handling. - Ed.



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 3. Submit an application & testing fee for the Online CPES Certification Test
 4. Achieve a satisfactory grade on the CPES Certification Test
 5. Be a current, dues paid member of I.A.P.E. & maintain membership during the period of certification.

- Procedures:** **Here are the steps for the CPES application procedure:**
1. Complete the CPES application form
 2. Have your Chief of Police, Sheriff, or agency CEO, or his/her designee, sign the confirmation of your length of serve in the Property Officer function (see the CPES application form)
 3. Send your completed CPES application form along with either a check or money order in the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) made payable to: "I.A.P.E." Credit Card payment can be made using MasterCard, VISA, or AMEX credit card authorization for the same amount, to:
International Association for Property & Evidence, Inc.
903 N. San Fernando Blvd. (Suite 4)
Burbank, CA 91504

CPES Online Test Information: Once your application and payment have been received and processed you will be sent an e-mail message containing the online test administration information and login procedures. To take your online test you will need a computer that has Internet access for a period of sixty (60) minutes. When the test is completed you will be notified of the test outcome. (Note: Should you not pass the test, you will be given one opportunity to take another version of the test. The second exam is covered in your initial fee) The online exam contains fifty (50) multiple choice questions and all of these questions are based upon the I.A.P.E. Professional Standards that can be found on the I.A.P.E. Web site at: www.iape.org

VERY IMPORTANT: Your online test is a timed assessment, once you log into the actual test the clock begins to run. Do Not open the test until you are ready to actually take and complete the exam.

After the successful completion of the CPES online test, you will be mailed your official I.A.P.E. Certified Property & Evidence Specialist certificate.

Questions: Should you have any questions, please contact us at the numbers below:

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Signature of Applicant: _____

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Tuition waiver to which IAPE Property and Evidence Class is being requested?

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Has a prior tuition wavier request been made? [] Yes [] No If so, when? Date _____

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Please give a brief explanation why a tuition scholarship to attend the Property and Evidence Management Class for this person is needed, or why the CPES or Membership fees should be waived. (copy this page and contine on reverse if necessary.)

Four horizontal lines for providing a brief explanation.

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IAPE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO NEEDY EVIDENCE PROFESSIONALS

IAPE has a history of providing assistance to evidence professionals in time of need. The IAPE Board of Directors recently voted to provide a limited number of scholarships at each class for those evidence professional who can justify a need.

If you know someone from an agency that can't fund the training and is in need of the training, have them complete this scholarship application. All Applications will be subjectively reviewed by the IAPE Scholarship Committee to access the level of need.



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DNA EVENTUALLY LEADS TO ARRESTS

DNA evidence is being used to identify perpetrators in all types of crimes, and in some cases may even prevent future crimes. Is a serial sex offender someone who could evolve into a serial rapist? The argument could be made that there is a big difference between someone who expresses sexual frustration in public and someone who commits an assault of power and domination over his victim. But, why take a chance? Individually, the cases may not have the highest priority - but collectively, they identify, and could stop, offenders with the potential to do much more harm.

The following article vividly illustrates why we need to make every effort to minimize the backlog of untested sexual assault kits, but also recognize the importance of entering DNA results into CODIS - even if the suspect is known; it may identify source of the DNA as a suspect in another crime. There is an outstanding website that is dedicated to informing the public of the problem at: endthebacklog.org.

SUBWAY MASTURBATER IDENTIFIED BY SEMEN

A man who allegedly masturbated on three women in crowded New York subway trains in 2002 and 2005 has finally been arrested after police identified his semen.

According to DNA Info (via New York Magazine), a man named Darnell Hardware (yes, really) allegedly masturbated against three young woman on separate occasions in packed subway cars until he ejaculated on them. Investigators collected semen from the woman's clothes, but couldn't identify it until last month, when Hardware was convicted of a drug charge. At that time, police took a sample of his DNA and found it matched

the subway semen. Hardware's now being held on bail and goes to court September 19.

The case is a victory in the fight against subway perverts. It's also a reminder of the importance of testing for DNA in sexual assault cases. As Neal Baer and Mariska Hargitay pointed out last year, New York has been doing a good job of this, at least when it comes to rape kits - it eliminated its backlog of untested kits in 2003. But other cities have yet to follow suit, and the arrest of Hardware should remind them that DNA can catch a sex offender even long after his crime has been committed - if somebody actually tests it.



ENDING THE BACKLOG

Posted 9.28.10 on endthebacklog.org

Imagine the unimaginable: You've been raped. You manage to pull yourself together to report your rape to the police or a hospital. You tell them what happened, reliving the nightmare. You receive essential medical attention. Then, for the next four to six hours, you submit to the collection of DNA evidence. Your body is swabbed and combed - literally - for evidence. This invasive and traumatic procedure produces a small package called a sexual assault evidence kit -

commonly referred to as a rape kit.

As tough as this procedure can be on you both physically and emotionally, you go through it because you know that gathering evidence of this crime will insure that the perpetrator is not only caught, but also incarcerated so that he can never hurt anyone again.

Continued on page 40

Continued from page 39

DNA EVENTUALLY LEADS TO ARRESTS

ENDING THE BACKLOG - cont'd.

You go through it because the potential benefits of doing a rape kit are enormous: Evidence from the kit can identify an unknown perpetrator whose DNA is already in the system; confirm the presence of a known assailant; corroborate the victim's account of the rape; and exonerate innocent suspects.

If - and only if - the kit is actually tested.

Unfortunately, in too many cases, rape kits sit untested in police and crime lab storage facilities throughout the country. Though no federal entity collects rape kit data, experts in the federal government estimate that hundreds of thousands of rape kits remain untested in cities across the United States. In the past two years alone, the cities of Los Angeles, Detroit, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, San Diego, Birmingham and Albuquerque and the states of Illinois and Massachusetts have discovered tens of thousands of untested kits in police stations and crime labs.

By failing to test these rape kits, we are telling victims that pursuing justice doesn't matter, that convicting violent perpetrators and taking them off our streets is not a top priority.

The most common reason given for not testing these kits is the expense, with an average cost of around \$1200. But we must find ways to fund this important work to send out the word that raping someone has serious criminal consequences. That rape will be punished. And that our justice system cares about victims.

In light of the rape kit backlog, it seems fair to ask: Why should we put women through hours of an invasive procedure if we don't follow through and test

their kits? The last thing anyone wants is for news of the rape kit backlog to discourage women from coming forward to have a rape kit collected.

And while testing rape kits is important to advance investigations, it also sends an important message: It shows victims that their cases - and their pain and their anguish - matter.

What else can opening a rape kit personally do for a woman, in addition to providing evidence to prosecute and convict her attacker? Here's what a woman who was raped in California had to say when her rape kit was tested after thirteen years and her rapist was finally identified: "Finally, my nightmares have stopped almost altogether. I have a sense of

security that I haven't felt in over a decade. My home is my own. My family is safe."

The good news is that we can fix this problem. New York City eliminated its backlog in 2003 to dramatic effect -- the arrest rate for rape jumped from 40 to 70 per cent.

Season 12, Episode 3 of Law and Order: SVU,

"Behave," shows the dire consequences of the rape kit backlog. We hope it will move you to action. To learn more about how you can help, go to a new website launching on September 29th, endthebacklog.org. Together we can end the rape kit backlog and bring justice to victims.

Neal Baer is the Executive Producer of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit on NBC; Mariska Hargitay is the Emmy-winning star of SVU and the founder of the Joyful Heart Foundation.



For more information, please visit: endthebacklog.org

Stuff Happens!!!



FIRE SPRINKLERS SOAK EVIDENCE ROOM

KOMO News reports on June 13, 2011 that fire sprinklers activated and soaked the evidence room at the Washington State Patrol's state crime lab. The sprinklers were shut off after 20 minutes, but had already covered the floor with a 2-inch pool of water, said crime lab manager Jim Tarver. Each envelope and box, laid out inside the lab in Seattle, holds a crucial piece of evidence collected by police departments all over Puget Sound.

Tarver says problems began on Monday when a sprinkler inside the refrigerated evidence room snapped for an unknown reason. Gallons of water rained down on more than a hundred pieces of evidence sitting on the shelves below. "It's devastating to us, the possibility that some of the evidence might have been compromised or lost," he said.

Sealed canisters protected some of the evidence. But other items, like DNA samples, are stored in manila and cardboard as they need to breathe. "I have forensic staff examining the evidence to determine the extent to which it was exposed and whether or not any of the evidence was compromised," said Tarver. He indicated it could be days before they know for sure whether the water destroyed any evidence. Any extensive damage could potentially affect a number of past or future cases linked to the evidence.

The lab is now looking into other ways to store their evidence far away from any sprinkler heads while the state fire marshal investigates the cause of the sprinkler glitch.

This is a great illustration that water and evidence don't mix. We have ample experience with evidence from New Orleans being ruined as a result of Katrina storm flooding. A large percentage of those items needed to be repackaged, and a large portion of those items were completely ruined and could not be saved. In the illustration above, there is a good chance that many items can be repackaged before mold and mildew grow on the manila envelopes used.

How can we avoid this type of water intrusion in the future? In general, by not placing evidence rooms in basements, which tend to attract water from broken supply pipes, sewage pipes, and storms. Water seeks its own level, and the lowest point is always more vulnerable than higher ground. If a basement is the only option, it is suggested to have a contingency for large capacity sump pumps to evacuate unwanted water - even with a power outage.

The water in the story above came from a broken pipe in a water-based fire suppression system. Water sprinklers systems are tested and generally very reliable; they are used in both residential and commercial applications. This incident does appear to be unusual, but devastating nonetheless. - Ed.

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CURRENCY HANDLING

Large Amounts of Money, Precious Metals, Foreign Currency

Robert Giles, Evidence Log Editor

Occasionally I read about large money seizures that make the news and how these agencies try to muddle through uncharted territory because no one has written protocols for such an event. The likelihood of a small agency stumbling upon a large cash haul is small indeed, but there are drug interdiction patrols by small agencies along major highway corridors that attempt to do just that. I will try to initiate some discussion by bringing "what if" scenarios to light with this article. The information and suggestions provided below are not found in IAPE Standards and should be considered solely as my opinion.

When we speak of currency, we most often speak of something of value that is used to exchange for wanted goods or services. Most people use currency in the form of money; in this country, the money standard is the US Dollar (USD) that may be lawfully tendered for all debts, private and public.

The advent of electronic banking has also created electronic debits and credits to our bank accounts equivalent to the dollar that we tender through the use of a bank card or electronic transaction with a computer or phone. Every time we make an online transaction we use electronic means to take money out of our bank account and transfer it to another person or business in exchange for goods or services. If someone steals a gift card, is it any different than stealing money?

Foreign Currency

Although the US dollar is the official government backed currency in this country, does not preclude foreign currencies from having value and being accepted for some debts. This is common practice, especially in border areas of this country where the Canadian Dollar and the Mexican Peso are almost commonly accepted. Even the Euro may be accepted in international locations such as New York and Washington DC. Many years ago, foreign currency was thrown into a bag and eventually auctioned off because it wasn't worth the trouble to exchange. Those times have changed as foreign currencies are often worth more than the US Dollar. One thing is probable, if the currency is in common

use, it will eventually end up in our evidence rooms. Consider finding a money exchange services that are located in most major cities that can exchange foreign currency for a small commission.

Precious Metals

There are other forms of currency that most persons will rarely see, but law enforcement should also be prepared to handle. This includes precious metals, especially gold and silver. Precious metals are frequently shipped to residential addresses, not just banks. This means that thieves will steal these items of value and it may eventually become recovered property.

Gold bullion coins and ingots are valued by weight rather than face value. This is very important if you consider that a coin with almost an ounce of gold may have a face value of \$20, yet by weight they are worth almost \$1,900 each, and the collector's value may far exceed both of these valuations. There are gold coins minted from many foreign countries that may be purchased as a gold investment, such as the South African Krugerrand, which has no face value at all, only the weight of the coin.

Because of its value, precious metals and suspected fine jewelry should be provided with the same level of enhanced security as money. For purposes of the evidence room disposal of unclaimed property, precious metals in coin or ingot form should not just be sent to auction; an appraisal should be performed when making the determination on how to dispose of them when unclaimed. Local coin dealers may be willing to exchange coins and ingots for a small commission. The type of practice may have to be authorized by city or county code and through a bidding process.

Large Amounts - Rule of Two

Large money seizures from drug raids or transportation of proceeds presents unique problems that may require special handling. Whenever a large quantity of cash is encountered in the field, calling a second person immediately to witness the cash

Continued on page 49



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CURRENCY HANDLING cont'd.

Large Amounts (cont'd)

handling until it is sealed in a container is recommended. There are too many allegations that can be made and not easily defended when a witness is not present. Audio and video recordings of the event may also be helpful in providing a historical record of the event.

Packaging Large Amounts

The commonly used 5" x 8" or 9" x 12" manila money envelope is large enough to hold the majority of cash seized at one time by most agencies. The money envelope should be of a unique color that is different from other envelopes in use and have prompts pre-printed with the suspect/victim/finder's information, a count by denomination and totals, and a space for the signature of two persons who have counted and verified the amount of cash inside.

These two verifying signatures are extremely important because of the evidence room corollary – "cops can't count cash" (CCCC, or C4 as it is sometimes known). The recommended form for the money envelope is located on page 15.

The money envelope should be sealed with initialed evidence tape. Any evidence of tampering should be immediately brought to the attention of a supervisor.



Plastic moneybags with tamper evident seals are available in multiple sizes to accommodate most all seizures that do not fit in the standard 5" x 8" money envelope. These tamper evident bags may be used at a crime scene to bag and seal uncounted money in the field and transport it to a location where it may be witnessed and counted at a later time.



Submitting Large Amounts of Money

A supervisory decision needs to be made when a large bag of sealed and uncounted money is brought in to the station. Do you count it immediately, or do

you leave it sealed and uncounted until it is deposited the next bank day? Does your agency policy permit uncounted and sealed money to be temporarily stored in the evidence room? A temporary locker is generally not recommended for storing large amounts of money because it often lacks enhanced security.

Money that is to be seized as drug asset forfeiture generally requires a cashier's check to be submitted with the application. This makes holding the sealed and uncounted money for a bank to count as soon as practical a desirable option. A professional money counter(s) may count the money in a designated room with security cameras and officers as witnesses more efficiently than having the investigating officers do the count.

If the decision is made to count the money, a second person to count and verify should be present. A recorded security camera is generally a desirable option to document the count. Once counted and verified, the money should be sealed again in a new evidence envelope or bag with the appropriate prompts for the count by denomination, totals, and verifying signature completed. The evidence custodian should be called in to place the money in a designated location with enhanced security. Some agencies have a policy to re-count and re-verify the money when it enters the evidence room to avoid a miscount. This has the advantage of discovering any mistakes immediately instead of days, months, or even years later. The amount of money needing to be counted may be a factor in deciding whether or not to re-count and re-verify.

Criminal enterprise forfeiture money should always be kept separate from money seized from other cases. A court order to release seized money for legal costs could be produced by someone with a claim if civil forfeiture proceedings against the money is not initiated in a timely manner. It is generally better to remove the target of theft from the evidence room as soon as practical, especially for smaller agencies.

I hope the suggestions discussed in this article provides some guidance to our members in the event a that any of these "what if" scenarios actually occurred in your agency. – Ed.

Two Houston Police Department Divisions Are Certified to International Standards

Contributed by:



John Cantu

The Property and Emergency Communications Divisions of the Houston Police Department (HPD) were certified to ISO 9001:2008 in September 2011. Certification under ISO 9001 ensures the soundness of an organization's processes and procedures and is a prestigious mark of quality. Similarly, the initial independent third-party evaluation (and subsequent surveillance audits) of compliance to the ISO standards provides the objectivity to substantiate the HPD Property and Emergency Communications Division's identity as quality organizations. Preparing for this achievement required a disciplined approach that transformed how the Property Division functions. Implementing the ISO 9001:2008 quality management system required adherence to a specific architecture that consists of eight (8) principles. These tenets guide the system and, in effect, are pillars that frame and sustain it. They include:



HOW THE ISO QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (QMS) WAS IMPLEMENTED

1. Customer Focus - A reaffirmation of "customer" was the first order of business for the HPD Property Division. Customer focus became a priority at the outset of implementation as it was important to know who the customers are and what they consider to be of value. Once realized, Property

Division stakeholders developed a greater sense of responsibility to their internal customers (police officers, officers of the court, etc.) in addition to their existing external customer base, the citizens of Houston, Texas.

2. Leadership Commitment - A project of this magnitude must have leadership commitment at all levels of the organization. It was equally important that both HPD's higher echelon and all stakeholders support this effort in order to redefine how work would be performed. True leadership is more about doing what is right than it is about authority, so stakeholders would now have to hold each other accountable.

3. Involvement of Stakeholders - Those who actually perform a task typically understand its detail and should be encouraged and entrusted to improve it. Over time, work methods had evolved without regard (in some cases) to their inefficiency or ineffectiveness. It was also discovered that inconsistencies existed between shifts due to personal preference or loosely defined processes. While chain-of-custody protocols were not violated, some work activity was redundant and lacked value.

New process maps allowed stakeholders to provide input which was vital in achieving standardization. Buy-in was essential to successful implementation of the QMS so stakeholder involvement was critical. After repeated process map revisions and acceptance to new process defining roles, the traditional top-down mindset began to change. Numerous opportunities for improvement were introduced during these collaborative meetings.

4. Process Approach - In addition to the benefits of a new facility, redefining intake, storage and disposal activities into their specific processes was necessary. Using process maps allowed HPD

Continued on next page

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Houston P. D. Divisions ISO Certified - *cont'd.*

to look at specific tasks in greater detail and to evaluate every step for efficiency and effectiveness. Stakeholders with process expertise were designated as Process Owners to define and facilitate process map evolution among their peers. It is important to note that new top-level leadership (resulting from periodic transfers) no longer dictates how work is to be performed in HPD's Property Division.

5. **System Approach to Management** - The supplier-customer relationship was defined as the fundamental interconnection that affects process work flow. Stakeholders soon appreciated that preceding (or successive) processes are synergistic and can greatly impact the success or failure of the service delivery. They began to see how their work directly impacts other processes and the interconnected system, as a whole. As such, when inefficiencies resulted from preceding processes, the respective Process Owners were encouraged (and more inclined) to meet, discuss and resolve these matters resulting in a mutually beneficial supplier-customer relationship.
6. **Continual Improvement** - This principle is at the very core of the ISO quality management system. It conveys that the organization cannot rest on past achievement and that stakeholders must constantly seek ways to improve their processes. HPD Property Division Process Owners and their colleagues were empowered to question their respective processes and to improve them better without breaching the integrity of the desired outcome. Initial reticence quickly dissipated when stakeholders realized that many of their ideas for improvement would be implemented. For many, this was an opportunity to express ideas for improvement that had remained dormant. Stakeholders quickly realized that work processes could be changed for effectiveness and would only be limited by their creativity.
7. **Factual Approach to Decision Making** - The ISO model places emphasis on utilizing information and data to make effective decisions. Our new quality-oriented culture is learning to trust and utilize

these tools in daily operations. As such, decisions are based less on intuition and authority and more on metrics and performance. Understanding the value of information and data has enabled Process Owners / Users to evaluate performance, and make corresponding adjustments, if needed, sooner rather than later.

8. **Mutually Beneficial Supplier Relationships** - Effective supplier-customer relationships result in win-win outcomes and the ISO model recognizes the impact it can have on overall performance. As process map revisions continued, a visual exercise was conducted to show how interconnected all processes are. This resulted in a more profound appreciation for preceding and successive process synergy. Process Owners and Users now share feedback with their interconnected colleagues which has diminished silos and promoted dialogue for operational problem-solving.



*ISO 9001: 2008 Certificate Presentation
at Houston's City Hall*

LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

In the early stages of the ISO journey, employees had to adjust to their new role as Divisional Leaders. This was clearly a departure from the traditional top-down leadership environment, but reluctance rather than resistance was the true obstacle during this transition. In time, employees became more engaged and comfortable in "owning" their processes, resulting in a significant increase of process improvement.

Continued on page 57

I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT !!!

DULUTH POLICE TAKE DOWN PROTESTERS' TENTS

AP reports on November 22 that police dismantled a camp set up by anti-Wall Street protesters in downtown Duluth, Minnesota. Officers roused about a dozen people at the encampment on the Civic Center plaza about 6:30 Tuesday morning. No one was arrested. As officers took down two tents and confiscated other camping equipment, they told protesters they were free to stay at the plaza. Police have told the demonstrators they need a permit to put up a tent on the public property. Demonstrators say the insurance fee is too expensive.

Protesters yelled at officers as they took down the camp. Assistant Police Chief Mike Tusken told the demonstrators their belongings would be taken to the police property room and returned to them later.



In light of recent Occupy Movement demonstrations in most major cities, the possibility that officers in the field will seize tents and camping supplies is growing. Although this seizure is small, consider what problems dismantling a large encampment would bring.....

What contingency plans are in place in your agency? Do officers merely undo tent stakes and roll up the tent? What happens to the contents of the tent? Is the tent identified in some manner? Are tents tagged by the officer who found them and where?

There is significant motivation at the encampment sites for the officer to “scoop and run” to avoid confrontation that might create an incident. What happens when a truckload of tents, sleeping bags, camping equipment and clothing arrive at the evidence room? Is someone designated to complete the necessary paperwork? Is someone there to properly package or roll the items onto their smallest size? Are the tent rolls taped and labeled?

How are items supposed to be released at a later time without any identifying information, as stated by the Chief in the above incident? This “scoop and run” scenario places the needs of the field units at odds with the needs of the evidence custodian. The evidence custodian has the obligation to refuse accepting the property until all the required information and packaging has been completed. The field officers are merely following directions under hostile conditions to “scoop and run”. Both sides have conflicting needs. Management needs to designate someone to be a scribe and to take photos.

Would we consider arresting people en-masse without noting who made the arrest, where and when it occurred, and what the charges were?

- Ed.



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RECORD MONEY SEIZURES NOT UNCOMMON (and what can be done to keep these assets secure)

The Herald-Republic of Washington state reports on November 26, 2011 that Yakima police conducted a series of drug raids around town that netted a total of nearly \$300,000 in cash in a matter of hours.

Whiles searching a vehicle in the location pursuant to the search warrant, detectives discovered a hidden compartment in the vehicle. The compartments yielded 12 bundles of cash totaling \$104,170. Armed with another search warrant, detectives raided another home. In a woman's boot, detectives found \$4,300. Some of the cash turned out to be pre-recorded buy money the informant had been using in the sting.

Again, however, the real haul was out in the garage. There detectives found a white 2002 GMC Yukon, which also had three hidden compartments in the floorboard. This time there were 14 bundles of cash totaling \$175,095. Employees of Key Bank carefully counted the money before the detectives entered it into the evidence room. Grand total: \$279,265.

Similar scenarios in Walla Walla, Sunnyside & Grants Pass

According to court records, in July of that year police in Walla Walla investigating a noise complaint

discovered a pile of cash in a rental home totaling just over \$401,000. Because the man's conviction had been reversed, the burden of proof shifted to the city, to prove the money was not his. After a civil trial, the city won.

Closer to home, city officials in Sunnyside had to fight off a counterclaim to nearly \$60,000 that was found in the aftermath of a 2005 drug ripoff.

Given the sums of cash that change hands in a region where pound-quantity drug busts are not uncommon, \$280,000 to the police just isn't that big of a figure, he explained. "It's not so big that it's beyond the expectation of what's going on here," he said, recalling reports of a traffic stop near Grants Pass, Oregon, in the 1980s that yielded \$450,000 in cash. The driver, he said, was from Yakima.

Hidden compartments like this one were found on numerous vehicles seized during police drug raids in August. Yakima police seized \$104,170 in a pickup in August.



IAPE Professional Standard 10.8 suggests that an agency develop protocols to follow in the event a large seizure is made. Protocols should direct that money evidence connected with an asset seizure be booked into the property room and subsequently deposited into a designated account in a financial institution as soon as possible.

Although beyond the scope of the IAPE and the evidence room, this article illustrates the need for writing comprehensive protocols from the moment a large seizure is discovered. Any agency that engages in narcotics trafficking enforcement and does not have such policies in place leaves the door open for to "winging it", with potential exposure for the agency and personnel to allegations of misconduct.

The above news reports illustrate how the evidence custodian can suddenly become the keeper of large sums of money, especially over long holiday weekends and after hours. This can happen to even small agencies that stumble across a "mule" or courier. It is imperative that agencies have a plan for safely handling large sums of money which does not place personnel in jeopardy or create too much of a temptation to steal portions of it. The following discussion contains editorial suggestions (not official IAPE recommendations) of what may be done to mitigate the risk. They contain the word "may" and are permissive in nature, not the word "should".

Policy may start with a principle that no single employee (including a supervisor) should ever be

assigned to guard uncounted cash, and that a supervisor may be called to oversee the cash handling as soon as practical. This may be difficult to accomplish in smaller rural agencies without team support. Full photographic documentation and forensic examination of the find may be made before the cash is removed.

Investigating officers may then decide if any of the cash has evidentiary value. For example: the article above mentions bills with serial numbers that were recorded as part of a "controlled buy". Money may also be examined under alternate light sources and electronically for markers or tracers that should be separated once the sealed bag is opened.

Prosecutors generally want cash converted to a cashier's check along with the appropriate application to initiate forfeiture proceedings against the money. Ideally, an appointment at a local bank to take a count in their cash counting room is an efficient method to accomplish this task. This method utilizes professional money counters and also removes officers from counting duties, as we all know the evidence corollary: cops can't count cash...

The goal is that the only money to remain in the evidence room are bills that have evidentiary value. It is strongly recommended by IAPE that money, one of the most frequent targets of theft, be removed from the evidence room and taken to a financial institution as soon as practical, when it exceeds a pre-established threshold. - Ed.

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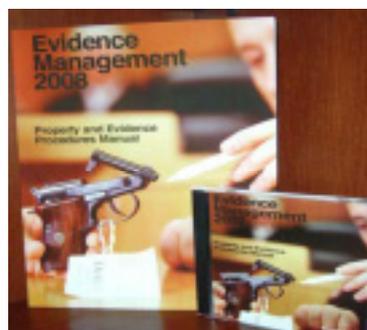
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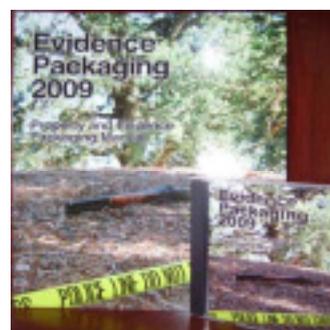


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Houston P. D. Divisions ISO Certified - *cont'd.*

OTHER BENEFITS REALIZED

Continual improvement is a cornerstone ISO tenet that helps guard against complacency and regression. Consequently, processes are continually refined which leads to time savings, increased productivity, elimination of unnecessary redundancies and innovative ideas for performing work more efficiently. Encouraging stakeholders to strive for even the slightest improvement has fostered a more participative and creative environment.

One of the most recent improvements is in the gun disposal process. Previous “gun burns” have been replaced with a new process that involves shearing technology to destroy guns in-house on a regularly scheduled basis. As an added bonus, sheared guns become scrap metal that is now sold to a local recycling facility.



The Houston Police Department is one of the country's first law enforcement agencies to seek compliance with ISO 9001:2008. This is a management standard certified through the International Standards Organization. Over a million organizations worldwide are independently certified, making ISO 9001 one of the most widely used management tools today. This model implements the tenants of ISO's Quality Management System in the daily decisions of the Property Room. - Ed.

IN THE NEWS



Former Detective Sentenced for Stealing from Department

On June 24, 2011 the Union Leader reports that a former Farmington, New Hampshire detective was sentenced to jail after admitting that he stole more than \$3,700 out of the police evidence room to pay his bills.

Brendon June, 28, of Middleton, said he has lost his wife, his home and his job in the fallout from the theft, discovered in May 2010 when Farmington police noticed cash missing from the evidence locker

Judge Marguerite Wageling sentenced him to a year in jail, with nine months of that suspended.

June was a detective, one of only two officers who had control of the Farmington Police Dept.'s evidence locker, when officers asked him about the missing money last year. They initially thought it had simply been misplaced, but June told them he had stolen it.

Asst. Attorney General James Vara, who handled the case for the state, said June initially told officers he took only \$2,400, but they later discovered the total to be \$3,790. June has since repaid all the money. Durkin said June stole the money to pay his mortgage. As part of his plea deal, June will lose his police certification and cannot be an officer in New Hampshire again.

This is a sad illustration of how someone who is entrusted with evidence violates the public trust and takes money that does not belong to him. The motivation for the theft reported was that the detective was behind on some bills, yet he found the money to repay the stolen money in full. This fact would support the theory that the money taken was more for greed than need.

Would having a policy that regularly inspected all money have provided a disincentive to pilfer money? Would having regular supervisory audits to ensure that all department policies were being adhered help prevent evidence mishandling. Would having a written evidence room manual have assisted the supervisor and manager with knowing what needs to be adhered to? Would a financial background update have discovered a lack of personal reserve funds?

While we can speculate on what would have prevented this theft, knowing that someone is looking creates the certainty that the loss will be discovered and the thief will eventually be caught. - Ed.



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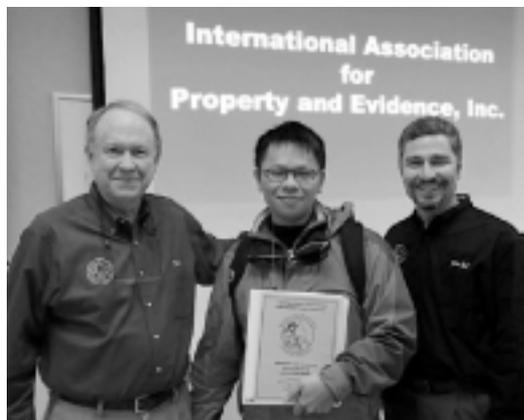
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IAPE Expands International Profile With Taiwanese Attendee

The IAPE is excited to announce that we have our first attendee from the Republic of China. Chen Chuanyi has attended law enforcement related classes in the U. S. as part of his training as a technical firearms examiner in the Criminal Investigative Bureau of Taiwan. Part of his duties is to manage the firearms stored in the evidence room, which accounts for his interest in the IAPE curriculum. The IAPE welcomes our international students who seek better ways to implement the rule of law in their own countries.

Pictured from L to R: Joe Latta, Chen Chuanyi, Joe Moralli





Bits and Pieces

This page is designed for members who would like to publicize up-coming property and evidence related events. Please contact us via the web-site if you have something to include for the future.

Property Association Websites

International Association for Property & Evidence
www.iape.org

Arizona Association for Property and Evidence
www.azape.org

Arkansas Association for Property and Evidence
www.arproperty.org

California Association for Property & Evidence
www.cape-inc.us

Colorado Association of Property & Evidence Technicians
www.capet.com

Property & Evidence Association of Florida
www.peaf.net

Illinois Association of Property and Evidence Managers
www.iapem.org

Nebraska Association of Property & Evidence
www.ne-nape.com

North Carolina Association of Property & Evidence
www.ncape.net

Texas Association of Property,
 Evidence & Identification Technicians
www.tapeit.net

Property and Evidence Association of Florida ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: February 22 -24, 2012
Where: WorldGate Resort & Convention Center
 Kissimmee, Florida

For more more info. and details, visit:
www.peaf.net

California Association for Property & Evidence 23rd ANNUAL SEMINAR

When: April 2 - 6, 2012
Where: San Francisco Airport Marriott
 Burlingame, California

For more more info. and details, visit:
www.cape-inc.us

Illinois Association for Property & Evidence Managers ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: April 11 - 13, 2012
Where: Crowne Plaza O'Hare Conference Center
 Rosemont, Illinois

For more more info. and details, visit:
www.iapem.org

Please refer to Page 21 for the most current schedule of up-coming IAPE classes.

IAPE MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2012 ARE DUE

The International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc. (IAPE) Annual Membership Dues statements are arriving electronically this month, with hard copies to follow soon. For your membership to remain active, a payment must be received and cleared by March 31, 2012, or your membership, and your subscription to the Evidence Log, will be cancelled. We are unable to sustain lapsed memberships while awaiting delinquent payments. To ensure your continued benefits of membership, without interruption, we encourage you to submit your payment of dues as soon as possible.

A copy of the Membership Application can be found on Page 33. Or for your convenience, you can complete your



application and make your payment on-line, by going to: www.iape.org and following the link on the home page. We know you'll want to stay current with all the new events and developments in the field of property and evidence management throughout 2012, and look forward to providing you with all the latest information.

QUESTIONS • SUBMISSIONS • CLASS REGISTRATION • ADVERTISING
Get in touch with us for more information about the IAPE and what we have to offer.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE, INC.

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