



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	2022-060	Classification:	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	Section:	Crime Scene
Date of Discovery:	10/20/22	Date of Incident:	08/24/22

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2022-10070 2023-01095	111661522 012611123

Description of Non-conformance:

Two Crime Scene Unit (CSU) cases resulted in missed evidence collection during vehicle processing at the vehicle examination building.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

For 2022-10070/1116615-22: A CSU Supervisor noted during Technical Review that a cartridge case was not collected from a vehicle as request by the assigned detective but could be seen in photographs collected by the assigned Crime Scene Investigator (CSI). The vehicle had already been released to the involved party at the time that the Technical Review occurred and noted the missed item collection. After the stakeholder was notified, it was determined that there was no technical impact to the investigation and no action needed to be taken to attempt to collect the cartridge case after the fact.

For 2023-01095/0126111-23: After vehicle processing was completed, a detective conducted another search of the vehicle and located a firearm in the back seat pocket of the vehicle. The detective notified CSU Management. The search was performed because the detective had investigative information that there was a firearm in the vehicle, and this had not been submitted on the evidence list from the CSI. The firearm was not visible in any photographs captured by the CSI, and the vehicle processing request form stated "firearms evidence (firearms and ammunition)" to be collected but did not specifically indicate that a firearm was present. No technical impact occurred in the case since the agency was able to recover the evidence items prior to release of the vehicle to the involved party.



Summary of Root Cause Analysis:

Note: Incidents are documented for tracking purposes and trend analysis. Root Cause Analysis is not required for incidents.

N/A

Actions Taken:

The CSI was asked not to process vehicles for a short period of time and had regular one on ones with the supervisor while the incidents were reviewed. The CSI had been assigned multiple trainees at one time and the assignment led to distraction during the search of a vehicle due to interruptions for questions from the trainees and not being able to follow the individual's typical processing flow. The CSI returned to processing casework with limitations on the number of trainees that would be assigned at one time for training.

Instructions on when and how to ask questions and seek clarification were provided to staff members observing CSIs while performing processing (trainees and auditors) to minimize the disruption to a CSI's typical workflow. Search techniques used during vehicle processing and the risks inherent to the search process were discussed in the CSU Management meeting in July 2023. CSU Management was then tasked with providing information to each squad and logged the topic in a Squad Meeting workflow.

Section Manager: Carina Haynes

Date: 08/07/23

Division Director: Carina Haynes

Date: 08/07/23

Incidents or Corrective Actions that involve the Biology/DNA section are reviewed by the Technical Leader and CODIS Administrator.

Technical Leader: Nicole Teele

Date: 08/01/23

CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: N/A

Quality Director: Jackeline Moral

Date Closed: 08/08/23