

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Collecting a Submerged Firearm



10. VCRT Procedures

10.29 Collecting Submerged Firearm

10.29.1 Scope

This procedure provides general guidelines in the collection of a submerged firearm.

10.29.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.29.3 Chemicals and Reagents

None

10.29.4 Equipment and Supplies

Packaging materials

10.29.5 Procedure

Firearms found submerged in water or other liquids should be recovered and packaged submerged in the same water or liquid, with minimal exposure to air, which may accelerate oxidation.

1. The firearm should be made safe, when practical, before being packaged and transferred to the Laboratory's Firearms Unit. Refer to VCRT 10.1 Rendering a Firearm Safe.
2. Do not attempt to dry the firearm.
3. Record all information possible. Refer to VCRT 10.15 Recording Firearms Evidence for additional information.
4. Package the firearm in a watertight container and submerge it in water. It is preferred that the same water is used in which the firearm was discovered.

Label that package appropriately.

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If it cannot be determined whether or not the firearm is loaded, be sure that it is flagged as such and the muzzle is maintained in a safe direction at all times.