



Questioned Documents Section – 2005

J7 Freeze-Drying Documents Revisited

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Attendees will gain an expanded knowledge on the use of freeze-drying as a resource for preserving evidential documents.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by reinforcing the use of freeze-drying as an option for preserving damaged documents.

Despite being a rarely submitted case to the Questioned Documents Section, examiners should still be familiar with the proper preservation and recovery methods for water-soaked documents. In July of 2003, an object appearing to be a checkbook and containing various slips of paper, was submitted to the Pennsylvania State Police Questioned Documents Section for examination in relation to a homicide investigation. The challenge posed by this case involved locating the proper instrument to “freeze-dry” the checkbook and recover its contents for examination purposes. This presentation will review the methods used to successfully recover numerous documents from the checkbook.

Lyophilizer, Freeze-Drying, Water-soaked