



FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY POLICY/PROCEDURES

Policy# 15-0213-1 Forensic Entomology Policy/Procedures Policy **Total pages=** 2

Purpose: To provide procedural guidelines for the collection of insects and other arthropods at a death scene when needed to assist in the investigation.

Justification: The investigator shall use all resources available to him/her while investigating any death. Forensic Entomology will be used when available and necessary to assist in the investigation; especially when time of death is in question and vital to the investigation.

Policy:

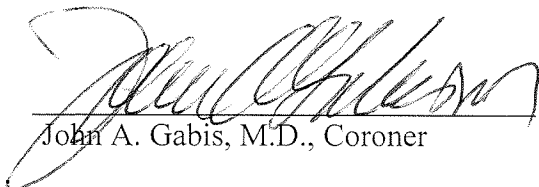
1. The investigator will follow guidelines set forth by Policy# 14-0703-2 Scene Investigation Policy and all other policies that apply to the death investigation.
2. All forensic entomological evidence must be collected and processed in a manner that follows Policy# 13-0715-1 Chain of Custody Policy.
3. The investigator may defer the collection of forensic entomological evidence to a higher qualified individual if available.
4. The investigator should consider calling the forensic entomologist that will be requested to process the evidence for advice and instructions. The contact information is available in DropBox.
5. Photographs of the scene and insect activity shall be shared with the forensic entomologist.

Procedures:

1. Documentation of the scene will include the location of the body and description of surroundings/environment. (Example if outside, sun or shade conditions; if inside, proximity to any open windows or doors.)
2. Document ambient air temperature, two readings, one taken at approximately (4) four feet above the body and the second at chest level.
3. Document the maggot mass temperature.
4. Document the ground surface temperature.

5. Document the temperature between the body and the ground.
6. Document the temperature of the soil directly under the body (taken immediately after the body is removed.)
7. When taking temperatures, do not allow the thermometer to be in direct sunlight.
8. Obtain weather data from the National Weather Service for approximately 1 month prior to finding of the body and 3-5 days after the body was discovered. This information will be submitted to the forensic entomologist at a later date.
9. Collect the adult flies and beetle and place in a "killing jar" containing 75% ethyl alcohol.
10. Collect the largest larva (several dozen, if numbers permit) and place in a "killing jar" as above.
11. Collect a large amount of additional larva and place in a "killing jar" as above.
12. Collect a sample of eggs, if present, and place in a "killing jar" as above.
13. All specimen containers must be labeled using provided specimen labels in the Forensic Entomology Kits and a dark graphite pencil. The label must be placed inside the 'killing jar' and a duplicate label on the outside of the container.
14. Once the preserved specimens have been collected, duplicate live specimens should be collected and placed in Styrofoam cups along with a moist paper toweling with tight makeshift lids. Add a food substrate such a beef liver or pork meat when possible. Make tiny air holes in the Styrofoam cup.
15. Collect 4-6 inch cubes of soil from underneath the body at the location of the head and torso, and extremities. 4-6 different samples; label each sample.
16. All label should contain the following information:
 - a. Geographical location, use GPS when appropriate
 - b. Date and time collected
 - c. Case number
 - d. Location on/under the body where removed
 - e. Name of collector
17. The investigator will complete and send copy of the Forensic Entomology Form that is included in this policy along with the collected entomological evidence.
18. All collected specimens will be sent to the forensic entomologist consulted using overnight express/tractable for Chain of Custody either by USPS or UPS. FedEx will not ship insect evidence.
19. The above guidelines may be altered upon if the receiving forensic entomologist is consulted.

This policy and procedural guide has been approved and is in effect until further notice:


John A. Gabis, M.D., Coroner

June 19, 2015
Date



ENTOMOLOGY INFORMATION FORM

Date: _____ Case # _____

Decedent: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Last Seen Alive: _____ Reported Missing: _____

Date Found: _____ Time Found: _____ Time Removed: _____

Site Description:

Body Location:

☐ Indoor ☐ Water ☐ Outdoor ☐ Rural ☐ Urban ☐ Forest ☐ Field ☐ Buried ☐ Hanging

Detailed Scene Description:

Stage of Decomposition:

☐ Fresh ☐ Bloat ☐ Advanced ☐ Dry/Skeleton ☐ Saponification

Potential Insect Barriers:

☐ Clothing ☐ Concealment ☐ Submerged Scavengers _____

Detailed Notes:

Temperature Measurements:

Above Body(chest high) _____ Body Surface _____ Ground Surface _____

Under Body _____ Soil: _____ Water _____

Thermostat (indoor) _____ Maggot Mass:(center of mass) _____

Weather Data:

☐ Direct Sun Exposure ☐ No Sun Exposure ☐ Partial Sun Exposure

Recent Rain/Snow _____

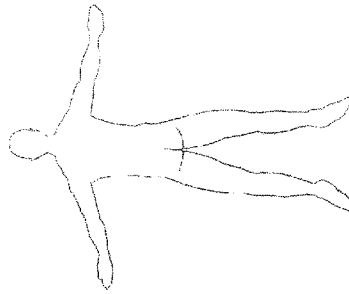
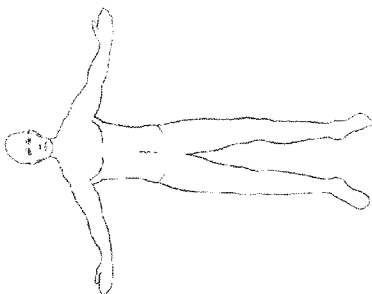
Nearest Airport or Weather Station _____

Clothed:

☐ Fully

☐ Partially

☐ Nude



Notes: