



Forensic Chemistry Section

Fire Debris Solid Sample Handling Method

1. Scope

This document outlines the initial steps taken when managing fire debris evidence that is a solid.

2. Safety

- 2.1 Fire debris will be processed in the laboratory fume hood. The sash will be lowered as low as practicable when handling the evidence.
- 2.2 The examiner will not sniff or smell the evidence.
- 2.3 Disposable laboratory coats and 6 mil or thicker nitrile gloves will be worn when processing the evidence.

3. Method

- 3.1 Note the condition of the container, including markings and seal.
- 3.2 Open and visually inspect evidence, noting the description.
- 3.3 Determine the most effective method for extraction based on sample type and case history. If multiple extraction techniques are required, proceed in the following order:
 - Simple Headspace Extraction
 - Passive Diffusion Headspace Extraction
 - Solvent Extraction
- 3.4 Record extraction method and parameters.