



# "UNDERWATER" ITEMS

West Manheim Twp. Police Dept.

Property Manual



**Metallic items found submersed in water** that require forensic processing should be *collected without exposure to the air* to reduce oxidation (rusting). SCUBA divers may assist.



**Place in a PVC evidence tube** while keeping item submersed. **Fill tube with water from the same water source and depth.** Cap open end by screwing on lid.



Wipe exterior of tube dry. **Seal capped end with evidence tape** and affix tag to side with clear tape. Do not mark tube. Hand carry *Lab Request* form and transport to Lab same day, if possible.



## Points of Interest

- **Arrange for return of PVC tube to this Department** upon completion of Lab analysis. Tube is re-usable.
- A *pipe wrench* may be necessary to securely cap and uncapped the evidence tube. Do not overtighten.
- Metallic (i.e. iron) items recovered underwater should be dried *under laboratory conditions*. Do Not air dry. If Latent print processing is not necessary, spent ammo *casings* may be softly wiped and air dried.
- If possible, *identifying characteristics* of weapons such as make, model, serial number, caliber, etc. should be ascertained and recorded while item is still submersed.
- Firearms recovered in a *loaded condition* may remain loaded. A plastic tie locking device is not necessary. Attach labels to tube exterior warning of "Loaded Firearm" and notify Lab personnel.
- *Samples of water, soil and vegetation* may also be placed in the tube, if necessary for Lab analysis.