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IAPE Monthly Newsletter & Updates

September 2023



Ask Joe... Each month, IAPE's primary instructor and Executive Director, Joe Latta, answers one of your questions pertaining to your everyday property and evidence room questions. To submit a question for Joe, [Contact Us](#)

Dear Joe,

We have been doing a great deal of purging since attending your class in 2022. In fact we have purged more the 30,000 items. Within that 30,000 items we have accumulated hundreds or batteries of all types. Having never been through this process before, I know we are not supposed to throw in the trash. Does IAPE have any recommendations?

Thanks,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

The proper disposal of batteries depends on the type of batteries you are dealing with, as different types (e.g., alkaline, rechargeable, lithium-ion) have specific disposal requirements. Here's a general guide on how to dispose of batteries safely and responsibly:

1. **Identify the Battery Type:** Determine the type of battery you want to dispose of. Common types include alkaline, rechargeable (NiMH or NiCd), and lithium-ion.
2. **Check Local Regulations:** Research and follow your local regulations and guidelines for battery disposal. Different areas may have specific rules for battery disposal and recycling.
3. **Recycling Centers:** The preferred method for disposing of most batteries is to take them to designated recycling centers or drop-off locations in your area. Many electronics stores, hardware stores, or recycling facilities accept batteries for recycling.
4. **Cover Terminals:** Before disposing of any battery, especially lithium-ion batteries, cover the terminals with non-conductive tape (e.g., electrical tape) to prevent accidental short-circuiting.
5. **Damaged Batteries:** If a battery is damaged, leaking, or swollen, treat it as hazardous material and dispose of it immediately at a recycling center. Do not handle damaged batteries without gloves.
6. **Transport Safely:** When transporting batteries for recycling, store them in a non-conductive,

sturdy container to prevent damage or short-circuiting during transport.

7. Consider E-Waste Recycling: If you are disposing of electronic devices that contain built-in batteries (e.g., smartphones, laptops), consider recycling the entire device through electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs.

8. Remember that improper disposal of batteries can harm the environment and pose safety risks, so it's essential to follow the appropriate disposal methods for the specific battery type and adhere to local regulations to ensure safe and eco-friendly disposal.

A quick google search found there are a myriad of companies that provide disposal services where you can drop off the batteries for disposal and some companies will send you a container (for a fee) and you mail back to them via a prepaid UPS label



Below are a few of the companies located:

BatteriesPlus+ <https://www.batteriesplus.com/recycling>

Terracycle <https://tcrwusa.com/collections/batteries/products/easypak%E2%84%A2-battery-recycling-container>

Battery Recyclers of America <https://www.batteryrecyclersofamerica.com/>

Thank you,
Joe Latta
 Executive Director
 International Association for Property and Evidence

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For More Registration Information

January

Anaheim, California

February

Las Vegas, Nevada
 St. John County, Florida

March

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 Tucson, Arizona

April

Kansas City, Missouri
 Salem, Oregon

June

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

June

Hurst, Texas

September

Overland Park, Kansas

More Coming in 2024!

Need Training Right Now? IAPE also offers ONLINE TRAINING

**ONLINE FULL CLASS OPTION:**

The Full online course class option is a great choice if you want much of the same training as the Live classes but without the travel and time away from the department. The IAPE Property and Evidence Management video Course is approximately 14 hours in length and was prepared by Law Enforcement Personnel for Law Enforcement Personnel. Completion of the course meets the training requirements for becoming a Certified Property and Evidence Specialist (CPES).

**Registration to any 2-Day class now includes the digital download of "Property and Evidence By The Book" 2nd Edition.*

Headlines**Poor Record Keeping Can Hurt Your Reputation**

September 21, 2023

Philadelphia Sheriff's Office can't account for nearly 200 guns, city controller says

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office can't account for nearly 200 guns, despite statements the sheriff made suggesting that her office had not misplaced any weapons, according to a new report released by the City Controller.

The 185 firearms that are unaccounted for are a mix of guns that were part of the Sheriff's Office's arsenal and weapons that were confiscated from people subject to protection-from-abuse orders.

Acting City Controller Charles Edacheril and investigators in his office conducted the review as a follow-up to a 2020 report that said the office couldn't account for more than 200 weapons. At the time, the controller said the Sheriff's Office under former Sheriff Jewell Williams had haphazard record keeping practices and unclear procedures around handling guns.

During a City Council budget hearing earlier this year, Sheriff Rochelle Bilal said all but 20 of the weapons were accounted for – they were either located, had been disposed of, or were sold. An April news release on the office's website is titled: "In the Bilal Administration, we have not lost or misplaced any weapons."

But Edacheril wrote in a letter Wednesday to Bilal that there wasn't sufficient evidence to account for 76 Sheriff's Office guns and 109 weapons that were surrendered to the office. The controller still considers the guns unaccounted for and recommended the office report them to police as missing.

Bilal's office did not respond to the report Wednesday. A spokesperson said Bilal plans to host a news conference Thursday to discuss the findings. She has in the past blamed previous administrations for practicing poor record keeping, saying in 2020: "They left us with a crazy mess."

But nearly three years later, the Sheriff's Office can't provide documentation for the whereabouts of several categories of weapons, according to the controller's report.

"found" had been either traded or burned. But the only documentation offered for 36 of them was that they were on a list of weapons in a folder labeled "Weapons Burn List" that did not include details such as when or where they were disposed of.

The Sheriff's Office also considered 20 guns "presumptively found." For 15 of those guns, the office said there was documentation that other guns that were registered on the same date had been disposed of – but they did not provide a record that those actual guns were destroyed.

Bilal's office said that in addition to the 20 guns that remain unaccounted for, there are 18 more registered to retired Sheriff's Office deputies. Under previous administrations, retirees could opt to take their service weapons with them into retirement. The Controller's Office recommended that Bilal's office confirm whether retired deputies have the guns in their possession or proof of their disposal.

The report expressed particular concern that one is assumed to be in the possession of former Sheriff John Green, who was sentenced to five years in federal prison in 2019 after pleading guilty to public corruption charges. Bilal made headlines that year because she threw a going-away party for

Green before he headed to prison.

The controller's review is the latest in a string of controversies surrounding Bilal, who took office in 2020 after campaigning on a pledge to reform the Sheriff's Office after years of documented dysfunction. In 2021, top staffers filed a lawsuit alleging that abuse and retaliation was rampant in the office. A sheriff's deputy was arrested last year for allegedly selling weapons that were later used in crimes.

Earlier this year, The Inquirer reported that a top legal adviser in the office was illegally working as a defense lawyer.

Read Entire Story

COMMENTARY:

Commentary: Everyday I review a myriad of nationwide news stories about property rooms. Frequently, I say to myself, you just can't make this stuff up.

When I first came across the story I conducted a simple Google Search for more about this case and found over 50 related stories on the internet, including one where a deputy was arrested for stealing weapons.

As I perused several of these stories it appears there is more of a problem with the numbers reported missing than the fact there are missing guns. One gun is too many, and one gun should have prompted an investigation years ago. Now that an election is coming, it is time to blame the predecessors.

If the new sheriff had followed these simple standards I wouldn't have a story to write about!

The IAPE Profession Standards state:

16.1.1. Policy will define when an inventory should be completed.

16.1.1.1. Policy will define how often an inventory will occur along with the scope of the inventory.

16.1.1.2. An inventory should include a full accounting of all items in the Property Room. An inventory of guns, money and drugs will be conducted annually.

16.1.1.3. Inventories should be conducted when items of property or evidence are unaccounted for during routine job duties.

16.1.1.4. An inventory should be conducted when there is a change in authorized key-holding personnel or the Chief Executive Officer.

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Resources

Got a Job? Need a Job?

IAPE is delighted to announce that we have a new section for posting a job announcement or checking job opportunities.

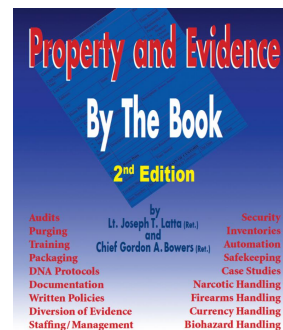
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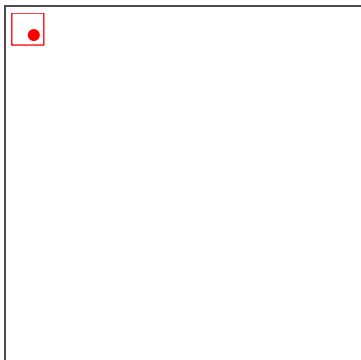
Along with the IAPE's extensive evidence training courses, the IAPE offers our members the opportunity to become Certified Property and Evidence Specialists.

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