A. Purpose:

1. To ensure that the examination of a firearm submitted in a condition other than normal, is followed. Rusty firearms or those found in water, etc., may be submitted for examination. Immediate attention must be given to prevent further damage to the firearm. The examiner should instruct the agency recovering a firearm in a fluid, such as water, to submit the firearm in a container with the fluid. If this is not practical, the agency can be instructed to immediately and thoroughly spray the firearm with a water-displacing product to prevent further deterioration. It should be noted that the firearm might be too rusted to function.

B. Responsibility:

1. It is the responsibility of the examiner to ensure that all safety precautions are taken with consideration that the firearm may still be loaded.

C. Safety:

1. Protective eyewear must be worn during this examination process. It is at the discretion of the examiner to use any other personal protective devices.
2. Any firearm that cannot be unloaded must be examined in a designated safe area in the laboratory such as the water trap recovery room or the indoor range.

D. Procedure:

1. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded. If it cannot be readily verified as unloaded, it must be examined in a designated safe area of the laboratory. Determining whether a firearm is unloaded may necessitate a complete disassembly, or in some cases destruction, by means of cutting the firearm into pieces.
2. Ensure that the firearm is not subjected to extreme rough handling and that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction.
3. Determine to what level the firearm must be restored, (i.e., for test firing, recovering manufacturer information, determining serial number, etc.).
4. Soak the rusted firearm in penetrating oil, de-rusting solvents, or a similar material.

5. Periodically check the firearm until the firearm functions, or until the desired information can be recovered.
6. Swab the bore, breech face, or slide, by alternating solvent soaked patches and dry patches until those areas are as clean as possible. Only clean parts of the firearm necessary to allow it to function.
7. Only use non-marring items to clean the barrel and breech area of the firearm.
8. Once the firearm is cleaned, functioning properly, checked for safety, and all pertinent information is recorded, proceed to test fire the firearm if necessary.

E. Equipment:

1. Safe designated laboratory work area, water trap recovery room, or indoor range.
2. Sink with running water.
3. Solvents, patches, brushes, and non-marring tools.

F. References:

1. Laboratory safety manual
2. AFTE procedures manual

G. Appropriate Appendices:

1. Appendix 1 – Worksheets