



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

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February 7, 2023

Kim Tart
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Enterprise Records Service (005R1B)
Washington, DC 20420
kim.tart@va.gov

Dear Kim Tart,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) report regarding the loss of 49 boxes of Research Study records that were located at the VA Healthcare System (PVAHCS), Phoenix, Arizona.

We understand the records were damaged due to a main drain backup that caused black water (sewage) to flow into the records storage area. We also understand that remediation efforts were planned, but the records were destroyed before such efforts could get underway. To prevent future loss of records, PVAHCS is relocating the records storage area to a centralized, more secure space. Also, the records management emergency disposal policy is being revised to mandate that a records destruction can only be performed by Environmental Management Service (EMS) staff with a completed destruction receipt signed by the Records Liaison Officer (RLO).

Based on this information, NARA is satisfied with the actions VA has taken and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER

Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government