

# **Forensic Clean-Up**

**Tony Falco, CR**

**September 1994**

# MASTER RESTORATION

FIRE & WATER RESTORATION  
24 HOUR SERVICE

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## Completed Project Report on a Forensic Clean up for:

Steven DeComp  
1616 Deephole Lane  
San Bernardino, California 92549

State Farm Claim #C1551-34-1

Master Restoration Project #94256  
Commencing 06/28/94

After a single shot to the head from a 12 gauge shot gun Mr. DeComp's suicide created a substantial area of contamination and a dilemma to the remaining relatives on procedures necessary to effectively clean the area. Also note during these situations family members are not in a stable emotional state to comprehend the liability and procedures involved in forensic clean up.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Falco

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner  
Title

## **RESTORER'S STATEMENT**

The following completed project report on the forensic clean up was based on a visual inspection for the safe removal and disposal of bio-hazardous waste. Because of OSHA's laws in the protection of employees from exposure to blood and the known contaminants in blood such as HIV and HBV virus special procedures are performed to protect the home owner and technician from the exposure and or spread of such disease.

The purpose of this report is to document in detail all aspects of the claim and to elicit a clear understanding of this report. Its contents are based on the sole operation and action of Master Restoration.

### **Definitions:**

"Bio-Hazardous Waste" refers to any blood or body fluids that are or have the potential to be an infecting substance.

"HIV" Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome is any of several retroviruses that infect the human T cell in the blood and cause AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

"HBV" Hepatitis B Virus is a potentially life threatening blood-borne pathogen. Most carriers suffer liver ailments which can be fatal.

"Incineration" disposal of a product through the process of burning.

"Sanitizer" and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulated chemical that cleans and disinfects.

## INTRODUCTION

On June 28, 1994 Master Restoration received a phone call from a desperate woman named Vivian DeComp. Apparently her brother had committed suicide only a few hours ago. Mrs. DeComp had received our name form the San Bernardino County Coroner for our forensic clean up services. The following report describes what steps are taken in the inspections of a death scene clean up, what the scope of repairs entail and why, the cost of labor, material, and documents that help better understand the job schematics.

This report has been prepared by Tony Fuller  
owner of Master Restoration on Sept 19, 1994.

## BACKGROUND

Since the situation called for immediate action Master Restoration was dispatched within twenty four hours form the initial call (keep in mind the Coroner and Homicide Detectives must release the so named crime scene before any persons are allowed to enter the building).

Date of Loss: 6/28/94

Type of Loss: Death by Suicide

## INVESTIGATION

This report is based on actual job performance and review of technician's job notes. No outside source or consultants were utilized to prepare this report.

## INSPECTION

After arriving on scene on June 29, 1994, one day after the incident Veranda Heape, the inspector for Master Restoration was greeted by Mrs. DeComp and a few other family members. The two technicians on the job, Allen and Nathan, waited outside until the inspection was complete.

The building is a modest single story home approximately 30 years old of average quality throughout.

The back bedroom where the incident occurred was approximately 12 x 12 x 8 feet in area. All walls and ceiling surfaces were painted lath and plaster. The entry and closet doors were also painted. The floor covering was hardwood flooring and the only interior window coverings were drapes.

Upon entering the back bedroom where the suicide took place we noticed a pungent odor best associated with stale blood. Once inside the room the naked eye observed a three cushion sofa next to a wall covered from top to bottom with blood, hair, bits of skull, and brain matter. Directly behind that on the wall was a large blood stain covering a 4' x 4' area also containing brain tissue. As we visually swept the room we observed either blood, brain tissue or both on every wall in the square room. Turning our sights to the ceiling there were three 1" - 3" holes almost directly above the sofa where the buckshot had apparently exited the head and proceeded through the ceiling and of course the tissue followed.

## **INSPECTION cont'd**

Looking to the floor we could see through the array of scattered contents a well worn wood floor also contaminated. The closet adjacent to the sofa had been left open prior to the shooting which left all contents contaminated.

Because no demolition work was required an asbestos test was not performed and no outside consultants or subcontractors were utilized during the course of this project.

## **SCOPE OF REPAIRS**

Due to the aforementioned risk of disease in blood and OSHA's ruling on occupational exposure to blood guidelines, the procedures taken by Master Restoration are as follows:

- A. All porous material (i.e. sofa, clothing, paper, etc...) must be removed and disposed of.
- B. Hard or sealed surfaces can be wiped clean and sanitized.
- C. Employee's are required to wear appropriate protective gear (i.e. bodysuit, gloves, boots and respirator when needed).
- D. All hazardous waste once removed must be secured in bio-hazardous red bags and then put in specially marked containers and transported to either a medical incineration facility or a transfer station where a certified incineration company can pick up.

Following these procedures Master Restoration proceeded to remove all porous contaminated contents. Wash, seal, and paint all walls and ceilings including patching the bullet holes, and remove

## **SCOPE OF REPAIRS cont'd**

and replace curtains.

Our initial observation on the wood flooring was to wash, sand, and refinish. But as the job progressed we found the floor absorbed too much blood to save it. Therefore, we recommended to either pull up the existing wood and install new or put down pad and carpet because the remaining flooring in the house was carpet. The sister choose the carpet so that she could put extra money into mini blinds instead of curtains.

## **SPECIFICATIONS AND PRICES**

See attached price list labeled Exhibit "A" and "B" by item.

## **PRICE BASIS**

In looking at the price list attached as exhibit "C" which charges for bio-hazardous cleaning you will note a substantial increase in labor and cleaning material. These increases are due to the overhead brought on Master Restoration's transport licensing, liability insurance, cost of bio-hazardous incineration, and employee hazardous pay.

In comparison, the repair price break down is based on a nationwide price list created by the construction industry known as Exactimate.

## **CONCLUSION**

After three days of bio-hazardous clean up and five days of painting and flooring work the remaining DeComp family took their first look at the restored area since before the entire incident took place. Their response was gratitude and relief that there was

## CONCLUSION cont'd

absolutely no smell nor sight of the horrible incident that took place there only two short weeks ago.

Moreover, we received some what the same response from the State Farm adjuster who was on the job, Bob. He too did not enter the room until all the work was final. His only visual basis for damage where the quite descriptive pictures we took prior to the clean up. Bob had no problems with either the clean up nor the repair portion of the bill. It was paid promptly and we filed it away as another job well done.



Room: BEDROOM 1  
Subroom 1: Closet

LxWxH:	12'4" x	12'3" x	8'0"
LxWxH:	5'6" x	2'4" x	8'0"

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Forensic cleanup - emergency response	1 EA
Infectious solid containment/cleanup - 6/28/94 2 men 1:15-4:45 - 3.5 hours each	7 HR
Infectious solid containment/cleanup - 6/29/94 2 men 9:30-4:30 - 7 hours each	14 HR
Infectious solid containment/cleanup - 6/30/94 2 men 10:00-3:00 - 5 hours each	10 HR
Germicide - per gallon	2 GA
Infectious solid disposal - 9 barrels - transportation and disposal	9 EA

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Subroom 1: Closet

LxWxH:	12'4" x	12'3" x	8'0"
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R&R Plaster patch ready to paint - patch several small holes in ceiling and walls	1 MN
Seal then paint the walls & ceiling (2 coats)	682 SF
Stain & finish door (per side)	2 EA
Paint door - bypass (sliding) set (per side)	1 EA
Paint - closet package (shelf, jamb & casing)	1 EA
Sand, stain, and finish wood floor	164 SF
R&R Window drape - unlined	2 EA
Clean and deodorize carpet - clean carpet in Hallway and Living Room.	1 MN

## EXHIBIT C

### Bio-Hazardous Price List

#### Service Call - Emergency Responce

Includes 2 men and equipment

Weekdays and Weekends.....ea

Holidays.....ea

Job Minimum.....ea

#### Job set up and preparation

Includes safe rest areas and walk off areas (if required)

Safe Area.....ea

Walk off area.....ea

#### Topical barrier of contaminment

ie; Alcohols, Quats, Phenols,

Idophores and Oxidizers.....sf

#### Infectious solids containment

Per man hour.....hrs

#### Pull up and discard - contaminated

Carpet.....sf

Pad.....sf

Tile, Vinyl, Subflooring.....sf

Tack Strip.....lf

Base Molding.....lf

#### Bio-wash and rinse

Walls, doors, concrete slab,

subflooring.....sf

#### Wet solution base fogging

Fungi to bacteria

By the cubic foot.....cf

By the square foot.....sf

#### Ozone, heat, uv, HEPA and

Carbon filtering.....By

#### OSHA required bio-wash down of meand equipment

By the hour.....hrs

Minimum charge.....m/c

#### Hauling waste and disposal

Includes transprtation and disposal fee

Per barrel.....ea