



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAGNETIC MEDIA: REEL TO REEL TAPES

Priority: Air dry within 72 hours.

Handling: Pack vertically into plastic crates or cardboard cartons. Don't put heavy weight
Precautions: or pressure on the sides of the reels.

Supplies Needed

blotter paper	bubble pack	brushes (soft bristle)
cheese cloth	clothes line	dehumidifier
distilled water	Falcon squeegee	drying racks for RC prints
fans	plastic bags	Kodak Photo Flo solution
plastic trays	rust-proof clips	Salthill dryer
scissors	sponges	

Preparation: Often contamination by water and other substances is mainly confined to the outermost
For Drying: layers of tape. Do not unwind tapes or remove from the reel. In these cases, wash the exposed edges with deionized water from the Objects Conservation or Photo Labs or with distilled water.

Drying: Air dry by supporting the reels vertically or by laying the reels on sheets of clean
Methods: blotter. Leave the tapes to dry next to their original boxes. Use fans to keep air moving without blowing directly on the items.

Use portable dehumidifiers to slowly remove moisture from the area/objects. Bring relative humidity down to 50%.

Additional: Once dry, the tapes can be assessed for further cleaning and duplication. This
Steps: procedure is done by specialized professional vendors; consult Appendix 4 for names and numbers.