



---

## Idaho State Police Forensic Services

# CRIME SCENE MANUAL

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## Table of Contents

Revision History .....	4
1.0 Introduction .....	9
2.0 Definitions .....	14
3.0 Organization and Management .....	41
4.0 Personnel .....	42
5.0 Scene Security and Precautions .....	44
6.0 Coordination with the Investigating Agency .....	47
7.0 Crime Scene Investigation Methodology .....	48
8.0 Observations and Notes .....	54
9.0 Photography .....	59
10.0 Diagrams/Sketches .....	73
11.0 Presumptive Blood Tests .....	77
12.0 Evidence .....	82
13.0 Biological Evidence Collection .....	91
14.0 Blood Enhancement Chemicals .....	98
15.0 Recognition and Documentation of Evidence for Reconstruction .....	107
16.0 Latent Print Development and Preservation .....	118
17.0 Impression Evidence .....	128
18.0 Trace Evidence .....	140
19.0 Firearms and Tool Mark Evidence .....	143
20.0 Vehicle Processing .....	152
21.0 Buried Body Excavations and Scattered Human Remains .....	155
22.0 Entomology .....	160
23.0 Fire Scenes .....	164
24.0 Documentation and Evidence Collection from Victims, Subjects, and Suspects .....	167
25.0 Field Services requests in the laboratory .....	170
26.0 Crime Scene Response Vehicle .....	171
27.0 Validation .....	172
28.0 Forms .....	173
29.0 Tools and Equipment .....	174
30.0 Report Writing .....	185
31.0 Review .....	192

32.0	Proficiency Testing.....	194
33.0	Safety and Well Being .....	195

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## Revision History

Revision #	Description of Changes
1	<p>First Qualtrax revision. Changes to table of contents and section headings: Section 5 now "Crime Scene Security and Precautions", Section 6 now "Crime Scene Investigation Methodology", Section 7 now "Observations and Notes", Section 8 now "Photography", Section 9 now "Diagrams", Section 10 now "Presumptive Blood Tests", Section 11 now "Biological Evidence Collection", Section 12 now "Blood Enhancement Chemicals", Section 13 now "Recognition and Documentation of Evidence in Bloodshed and/or Shooting Scenes", Section 14 now "Latent Print Development and Preservation", Section 15 now "Impression Evidence", Section 16 now "Trace Evidence", Section 17 now "Firearms and Tool Mark Evidence", Section 18 now "Vehicle Processing", Section 19 now "Human Remains and Buried Body Excavations", Section 20 now "Entomology", Section 21 now "Fire and Arson Investigation", Section 22 now "Documentation and Evidence Collection from Victims, Subjects, and Suspects", Section 23 now "Validation", Section 24 now "Forms", Section 25 now "Equipment Calibration and Maintenance", Section 26 now "Chemicals, Supplies, and Reagent Preparation", Section 27 now "Report Writing", Section 28 now "Review", Section 29 now "Proficiency Testing", and Section 30 now "Safety."</p> <p>Addition of Presumptive Blood Testing (section 10), including addition of safety sections, clarifying language, and formatting changes.</p> <p>Addition of Organization and Management (section 3), Personnel (section 4), Crime Scene Investigation Methodology (section 6), Observations and Notes (section 7), Biological Evidence Collection (section 11), Latent Print Development and Preservation (section 14), Impression Evidence (section 15), Trace Evidence (section 16), Vehicle Processing (section 18), Validation (section 23), Forms (section 24).</p> <p>Change of manual name. Addition of references. Formatting and grammatical changes throughout.</p>
2	<p>Addition of Firearms and Tool Mark Evidence (section 17), Documentation and Evidence Collection from Victims, Subjects, and Suspects (section 22), Scene Security and Precautions (Section 5),</p>

	<p>Diagrams (Section 9), Blood Enhancement Chemicals (Section 12), Buried Body Excavations and Scattered Human Remains(Section 19), Review (Section 28), Proficiency Testing (Section 29), Fire Scenes (Section 21), Tools and Equipment (Section 25), Recognition and Documentation of Evidence in Bloodshed and/or Shooting Scenes (Section 13). Section 7.5.5.4.1 was added for bindings and ligatures. Section 7.6.2.1 added for use of markers. Section 27.2 added for ILIMS entries. Section 11.11 was modified to add menstrual cups and period panties. Section 8.24.4.3 was added to clarify photography of evidence in a crime scene. Section 8.7.1 was modified to include documentation of unintended photos. Section entitled “Chemicals, Supplies, and Reagent Preparation” was deleted; subsequent sections renumbered. Additions to definitions: Crime Scene, Defect, Evidence, Shotshell case/hull, and Transient Evidence.</p> <p>Update name of digital imaging system from Foray to Adams Web throughout. Update VIN list to include years 2020-2022. Title of Section 29 changed to Buried Body Excavations and Scattered Human Remains. Add additional references, formatting, clarifying language, and grammatical changes throughout.</p>
3	<p>Add terms, definitions, and content from “Guiding Principles for Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction”, “Standard Guide for Crime Scene Photography”, “Safe Handling of Firearms and Ammunition”, “Bloodstain Pattern Analysis”, “Best Practices for the Preparation of Test Impressions from Footwear and Tires”, “Best Practice Recommendation for Lifting of Footwear and Tire Impressions”, “Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear and Tire Evidence”, “Standard Terminology Relating to Examination of Fire Debris”, “NFPA 921”, “Postmortem Impression Recovery: Guidance and Best Practices for Disaster Victim Identification”, and “Standard Guide for Collection of Soils and Other Geological Evidence for Criminal Forensic Applications”, add methodology for post-mortem exemplars, added Section 11 “Evidence” and all subsequent section numbers were altered; replace “will” with “shall” as appropriate; add additional references; clarifying language and grammatical changes throughout.</p>
4	<p>Add section 5 “Coordination with the Investigating Agency”, added several definitions, added additional language to multiple sections as per OSAC and ASTM guidelines, clarifying language and grammatical changes throughout.</p>

5	Formatting issues; minor grammatical changes throughout; change “Crime Scene Coordinator” to “Crime Scene Discipline Lead” throughout; add additional scene security 5.1.1; add annotation on photos 8.8; add use of tablet 9.5.2; add Field Services requests in the Laboratory (Section 25); add Crime Scene Response Vehicle (Section 26); add additional forms; add clarification to requirement for name of person who conducted tests to be listed in the report 30.8.6.2.4 and 31.7.3; add heat injury to safety 33.7; add vicarious trauma resources 33.8.3; add APPENDIX (Section 34) header page, add language to conform with current OSAC standards.
6	Fix formatting issues.
7	Spelling and grammar changes throughout; formatting issues throughout. Remove 4.2.6. Add: 5.5 scene environmental issues; 5.7 travel for crime scene response; 8.6.4/9.25.2.1/15.9.2.1 use of NIST rulers; 9.3.1.1.1 LizQ archiving; 9.3.12 photography chain of custody; 10.2.2.2 measurements as descriptions; Section 11 (several places) lot #s, notes, expiration dates; 12.2.1 evidence temporary storage on scene; 12.3 general parameters for filling out evidence packaging; 15.9 training requirements for shooting reconstruction documentation; 19.7.3 GSR collection parameters; 20.3.2 addition of years to VIN; 29.1 cleaning and maintenance of tools; 30.2.9.1 specify review parameters; 30 add sentence for report writing.
8	Spelling, grammar changes, and formatting issues throughout. References added and/or modified. Changed “analyst” to “CSI” and “Coroner” to “Medicolegal Authority” throughout. Definitions modified or added: accelerant, accidental discharge, ballistics, buccal swab, bullet path, bullet wipe, cognitive bias, coning effect, contamination, coroner, defect, diagram, dithiooxamide test, downrange, drop-off distance, exterior ballistics, gunshot residue pattern, headspace, incident command system, interior ballistics, keyhole, larva, lossless compression, lossy compression, medicolegal authority, medicolegal investigation, non-penetrating impact, nymph, pellet pattern, penetrating injury, perforating injury, personal protective equipment, photogrammetry, physical evidence, point of impact, potential DNA material, possible DNA material, powder stippling, preserved samples, primer gunshot residue, projectile, projectile fragment, projectile impact, pseudostippling, pupa, range, reference measurement standard, shooting reconstruction, shot pattern, sodium rhodizonate test, spall, suppression, target, terminal

	<p>ballistics, trajectory, unintentional discharge, uprange, and vertical angle. 5.2.3 addition of personal protective equipment. 7.1.1-7.1.2 addition of factors related to bias. Section 9 added camera and photography equipment and procedures. Section 10 added details about taking measurements. Section 12 added packaging parameters, Wet Items/Gasses section, Digital Evidence section, additional parameters related to soil collection. 13.3.1 added timing of blood stain collection and 13.13 Collection of Buccal Swabs. Section 14 added Water-based Amido Black chemical. 15.5.7 added environmental/physical scene conditions that could affect blood stain patterns. Section 16 added procedures to collection of Known Exemplars and Post Mortem Exemplars. Section 17 added clarification to the use of gelatin lifters. 18.3.3.1.1 clarification for using Adhesive lifters. Section 19 added chemical testing of impacts, additional methods for collection of gunshot residue, and documentation of accounting of firearms evidence. Section 21 added CSI training, marking of potential evidence, collection of vegetation, and use of north indicator in photography. Section 22 additional procedures for the collection of entomology evidence. 23.9 documentation of the position of knobs and switches. Section 24 collection of evidence from domestic animals.</p>
9	<p>Add equipment information and resources for Crime Lite Auto and Polilight Flare+2, add maintenance for several pieces of equipment, modification of VIN documentation, minor grammatical changes throughout.</p>


Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Statement of Purpose/Background

The purpose of the Idaho State Police (ISP) Crime Scene Response Unit is to provide an evaluation and examination of the crime scene for the purpose of recovering physical evidence and documenting the scene's condition for use by the criminal justice system. The ISP Quality Manual and the ISP Crime Scene Manual provide the structure for these objectives.

## 1.2 Objectives/Scope:

- 1.2.1 To develop and maintain, through annual review and revision, a system of quality procedures, analytical methods, and controls.
- 1.2.2 To ensure that personnel have quality, relevant, and timely training in the subjects for which they'll conduct analyses at crime scenes.
- 1.2.3 To remain scientifically neutral by basing evidence collection and analysis decisions, case reports, and testimony on scientific rationale.
- 1.2.4 To provide high quality training, technical and informational assistance, analyses, written reports, and testimony.
- 1.2.5 To provide services in a timely and cost-effective manner.

## 1.3 References

- 1.3.1 Idaho State Police Forensic Services – Quality Manual Section 2.0 NORMATIVE REFERENCES.
- 1.3.2 Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation, Second Edition, Ross M. Gardner
- 1.3.3 Practical Homicide Investigation, Fourth Edition, Vernon J. Geberth
- 1.3.4 Principles of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Theory and Practice, Stuart H. James, Paul E. Kish, and T. Paulette Sutton
- 1.3.5 Practical Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction, Ross M. Gardner and Tom Bevel
- 1.3.6 United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov))
- 1.3.7 A Short Course in Photography, Third Edition, Barbara London and Jim Stone
- 1.3.8 Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) Glossary, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.
- 1.3.9 International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc., "Professional Standards", REV March 8, 2015, (<http://home.iape.org/>)
- 1.3.10 Advances in Fingerprint Technology, Henry Lee and R.E. Gaensslen.
- 1.3.11 Scott's Fingerprint Mechanics, Robert D. Olsen, 1978.

- 1.3.12 Fingerprint Techniques, Andre A. Moenssens, 1971.
- 1.3.13 Manual of Fingerprint Development Techniques Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch, 1998.
- 1.3.14 Friction Ridge Skin, Comparison and Identification of Fingerprints, James F. Cowger, 1993.
- 1.3.15 "Decoding a Sample VIN", DMV.ORG
- 1.3.16 Ada County Sheriff's Office, Crime Scene Analytical Method, Impression Evidence.
- 1.3.17 "Latent Print Development", The Fingerprint Sourcebook, US Department of Justice, 2011, Section 7.10.4, Brian Yamashita and Mike French.
- 1.3.18 "Buried Body & Surface Skeleton Workshop" course notebook, "Handbook of Forensic Archaeology & Anthropology", edited by Dan Morse, Jack Duncan, and James Stoutamire, 1983.
- 1.3.19 ISPFS quality and analytical methods for various disciplines, including latent prints, biology, fire, and firearms.
- 1.3.20 "Handbook of Forensic Pathology", Vincent J.M DiMaio and Suzanna E. Dana, 2017.
- 1.3.21 "Guiding Principles for Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction," Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Version 2.0.
- 1.3.22 "Standard Guide for Crime Scene Photography", American Society for Testing and Materials.
- 1.3.23 "Safe Handling of Firearms and Ammunition", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, First Edition, 2020.
- 1.3.24 "Terms and Definitions in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ASB Technical Report 033, First Edition, 2017.
- 1.3.25 "Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear and Tire Evidence", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ASB Technical Report 097, First Edition, 2019.
- 1.3.26 "Best Practices for the Preparation of Test Impressions from Footwear and Tires", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 021, First Edition, 2019.
- 1.3.27 "Best Practice Recommendation for Lifting of Footwear and Tire Impressions", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 049, First Edition, 2020.
- 1.3.28 "Standard Terminology Relating to Examination of Fire Debris", E3197-23, American Society for Testing and Materials.
- 1.3.29 "Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations", NFPA 921, 2021.

- 1.3.30 "Postmortem Impression Recovery: Guidance and Best Practices for Disaster Victim Identification", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 094, First Edition, 2021.
- 1.3.31 "Standard for On-Scene Collection and Preservation of Document Evidence", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Version 2.0.
- 1.3.32 "Best Practice Recommendation for the Detection and Collection of Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence".
- 1.3.33 "Standard for Methodology in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Draft edition.
- 1.3.34 "Standard for Scene Response: Initial Response by Scene Investigators", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Version 2.0.
- 1.3.35 "Collecting and Preserving Entomological Evidence from a Terrestrial Environment", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2022-N-0039.
- 1.3.36 "Medicolegal Death Investigation: Terms and Definitions", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Version 2.0.
- 1.3.37 "Best Practice Recommendation for the Chemical Processing of Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, Version 1.0.
- 1.3.38 "Best Practice Recommendation for Casting Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence at the Crime Scene", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 126, First Edition, 2020, Errata 1, 2022.
- 1.3.39 "Standard for Photographing Dental Evidence", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2024-S-0013.
- 1.3.40 "Standard Guide for Photographing Scars, Marks, and Tattoos", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2023-S-0006.
- 1.3.41 "Standard for Forensic Trace Evidence Recovery", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2023-N-0027.
- 1.3.42 "Standard Practice for The Collection of Primer Gunshot Residue (pGSR) Particles from Clothing, Vehicles, and Other Inanimate Objects using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) Stubs, Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2023-N-0010.
- 1.3.43 "Standard Practice for the Collection and Preservation of Organic Gunshot Residue", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2021-N-0009.

- 1.3.44 "Standard Method for the Chemical Testing of Copper and Lead from Suspected Projectile Impacts", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2022-S-0036.
- 1.3.45 "Standard for Scene Documentation Procedures", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2023-N-0002.
- 1.3.46 "Standard for Diagramming Scenes", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2023-N-0003.
- 1.3.47 "Standard Practice for the Documentation and Processing of Shooting Scenes", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2021-N-0019.
- 1.3.48 "Standard for On-Scene Collection and Preservation of Physical Evidence", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2021-N-0018.
- 1.3.49 "Standard Terminology for Shooting Reconstruction", Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, OSAC 2025-N-0003.
- 1.3.50 "Best Practice Recommendation for Photographic Documentation of Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 050, First Edition 2021.
- 1.3.51 "Standard for Collection of Known DNA Samples from Domestic Mammals", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Standard 138, First Edition 2022.
- 1.3.52 "Mass Fatality Scene Processing: Best Practice Recommendations for the Medicolegal Authority", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 008, First Edition, 2021.
- 1.3.53 "Best Practice Recommendations for Lifting of Footwear and Tire Impressions" American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 049, First Edition, 2020.
- 1.3.54 "Standard for Scene Investigation and Reconstruction- Foundational Principles", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Standard 159, First Edition, 2024.
- 1.3.55 "Standard for Developing Standard Operating Procedures in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Standard 158, First Edition, 2023.
- 1.3.56 "Postmortem Impression Recovery: Guidance and Best Practices for Disaster Victim Identification", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 094, First Edition, 2021.

- 1.3.57 "Scene Detection and Processing in Forensic Anthropology", American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board, ANSI/ASB Standard 135, First Edition, 2023.
- 1.3.58 "Standard Guide for Collection of Soils and Other Geological Evidence for Criminal Forensic Applications", American Society for Testing and Materials, E3272-21.
- 1.3.59 "Standard Practice for Latent Print Evidence Imaging Resolution", American Society for Testing and Materials, E3235-21.
- 1.3.60 Crime-lite AUTO User Manual, February 2022.
- 1.3.61 "Infrared Imaging of the Crime Scene: Possibilities and Pitfalls", Gerda Edelman, Richelle Hoveling, Martin Roos, Ton van Leeuwen, and Maurice Aalders; Journal of Forensic Science, September 2013, Vol. 58, No.5.
- 1.3.62 "Forensic Light Sources for Detection of Biological Evidences in Crime Scene Investigation: A Review", Wee-Chuen Lee and Bee-Ee Khoo. Malaysian Journal of Forensic Sciences, 2010, Vol 1.

## 2.0 Definitions

\*Crime scene comprises multiple disciplines; some of these definitions are particular to the discipline and may have other definitions outside of that discipline.

**ABRASION** – An injury to the skin in which the superficial epithelial layer of the skin (the epidermis) is removed due to friction against a rough surface with resultant scraping away of the superficial portions of the epidermis; wearing away of the skin in small shreds by friction.

**ABRASION COLLAR** – the circular perforation and blackening effect on the edges of the skin as the bullet passes through the skin.

**ABSORPTION** – the penetration of one substance into the inner structure of another.

**ACCELERANT** – a fuel or oxidizer, often an ignitable liquid, intentionally used to initiate a fire or increase the rate of growth or spread of fire.

**ACCIDENTAL** – unexpected or unforeseen death due to injury without intent to harm or cause death; one of the manners of death.

**ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE** – the inadvertent discharge of a firearm as a result of a mechanical failure on the part of the firearm.

**ACCOMPANYING DROP** – a small blood drop produced as a by-product of drop formation.

**ACTION** – the working mechanism of a firearm; the combination of the receiver or frame, the breech bolt, and the other parts of the mechanism by which a firearm is loaded, fired, and unloaded.

**ADHESIVE LIFTER** – any variety of adhesive-coated material or tapes, commonly used to lift fingerprints or footwear impressions; may also be employed to lift trace materials from a surface.

**ADIPOCERE** – waxy, soap-like substance formed during the decomposition of animal bodies buried in moist places; consists principally of insoluble salts of fatty acids; also called “grave wax”.

**AGGREGATE(S) (CLUMPS)** – a group of soil particles that cohere to each other more strongly than to other surrounding particles.

**AIRBORNE PATHOGENS** – infectious disease-causing microorganisms, which may be present in biological fluids, and are spread through the air via coughing, sneezing, talking, spitting, etc.

**AIR GUN** – a gun that uses compressed air or gas (carbon dioxide) to propel a projectile.

ALTERED STAIN – a blood stain with characteristics that indicate a physical change has occurred.

ALTERNATE LIGHT SOURCE (ALS)/FORENSIC LIGHT SOURCE – light source that produces a high-intensity light, ranging from ultraviolet to infrared, which may be used to facilitate the recovery of evidence such as latent prints, hairs, fibers, and bodily fluids.

AMBIENT LIGHT (AVAILABLE LIGHT) — the light that already exists (as opposed to being added by the photographer) where a photograph is to be made.

AMBIENT TEMPERATURE – the temperature of the air circulating around a given location.

AMMO/ AMMUNITION – one or more loaded cartridges consisting of a primed cartridge case, propellant, and with or without one or more projectiles; often abbreviated as AMMO.

ANGLE OF IMPACT – the angle (alpha), relative to the plane of a target, at which a projectile strikes a target.

ANTEMORTEM – before death.

ANTERIOR – (Ventral) the front; indicates the front or belly side of the body.

APERTURE – the lens opening formed by the iris diaphragm inside the lens. The size is variable and adjusted by the aperture control.

APERTURE PRIORITY MODE – an automatic exposure system in which the photographer sets the aperture (f-stop) and the camera selects a shutter speed for normal exposure; often designated by the letter “A” on the camera mode dial.

AREA OF CONVERGENCE – the space in two dimensions to which the directionalities of spatter stains can be retraced to determine the location of the spatter producing event.

AREA OF ORIGIN – the three-dimensional area to which stains within a bloodstain pattern can be reconstructed in space, using the common area of convergence and the angles of impact, to determine the location of the spatter producing event.

ARTERIAL PATTERN – a pattern resulting from blood exiting the body under pressure from a breached artery.

AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE – a mode of camera operation in which the camera automatically adjusts either the aperture, the shutter speed, or both for normal exposure.

AUTOMATIC FLASH – an electronic flash unit that uses its light-sensitive cell (or the camera’s) to determine the duration of the flash for normal exposure by measuring the light reflected back from the subject.



**AUTOPSY** – the internal and external examination of the body after death.

**BACK SPATTER** – blood droplets directed back toward the force or energy that caused the spatter, often associated with gunshot wounds of entrance.

**BACKSTRAP** – the exposed metal strip at the rear of a pistol or revolver grip.

**BALL** – typically refers to a cylinder-shaped bullet with either a rounded or pointed nose and is typically used with muzzle-loaded firearms.

**BALLISTICS** – the study of projectile motion and effects; may be divided into three parts: see interior ballistics, exterior ballistics, and terminal ballistics.

**BARREL** – that part of a firearm through which a projectile or shot charge travels under the impetus of powder gasses, compressed air, or other like means; a barrel may be rifled or smooth.

**BARREL ARRANGEMENT** – the relationship to each other, in which multiple barrel systems are positioned in firearms (e.g. over and under, side-by-side, etc.).

**BB** – the designation of spherical shot having a diameter of .180" used in shotshell loads; also used to designate steel or lead air gun shot of .175" diameter.

**BIOHAZARD BAG** – a red plastic bag with the biohazard logo or insignia imprinted on it; appropriate disposal method for items exposed to blood or biological fluids that may contain contamination.

**BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS** – fluids produced in the body, including blood, semen, saliva, vaginal fluid, urine, mucous, perspiration, etc.

**BIRD SHOT** – refers to shotgun projectiles that have a diameter less than 0.24".

**BLACK POWDER (firearms)** – the earliest form of firearm propellant; modern form is smokeless powder.

**BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS** – pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

**BLOOD CLOT (CLOT)** – a gelatinous mass formed by a complex mechanism involving red blood cells, fibrinogen, platelets, and other clotting factors.

**BLOODSTAIN** – a stain on a surface caused by blood.



**BLOODSTAIN PATTERN** – a grouping or distribution of bloodstains that indicates through regular or repetitive form, order, or arrangement the manner in which the pattern was deposited.

**BOLT ACTION** – a firearm in which the breech closure is in line with the bore at all times, manually reciprocates to load, unload, and cock, and is locked in place by breech bolt lugs and engaging abutments, usually in the receiver.

**BORE** – the interior of a barrel forward of the chamber.

**BOUNCE LIGHT** – indirect light produced by pointing the light source at a ceiling or other surface to reflect the light back toward the subject; softer and less harsh than direct light.

**BRACKETING** – taking several photographs of the same scene at different exposure settings, some greater than and some less than the setting indicated by the meter, to ensure at least one well-exposed image.

**BUBBLE RING** – circular outlines in bloodstains that form when blood containing air bubbles dries and retains the circular configuration of the original bubble.

**BUCCAL SWAB** – a cotton swab or similar collection substrate; used in a relatively non-invasive sample collection technique for scraping the inside of a mouth to collect cells from the inner cheek lining; common method for collecting and preserving samples for DNA testing from known individuals.

**BUCK SHOT** – refers to shotgun projectiles that have a diameter of 0.24" or greater.

**BULLET** – a non-spherical projectile for use in a rifled barrel.

**BULLET CORE** – the inner portion of a jacketed bullet often made of lead.

**BULLET JACKET** – the envelope enclosing the core of a projectile that is typically of metallic construction.

**BULLET PATH** – the arched path of a projectile from the muzzle to the target.

**BULLET WIPE** – the discolored area on the immediate periphery of a bullet hole, caused by the transfer of residues from the bearing surface of the bullet. The transfer can be composed of projectile lubricant, copper, lead, combustion products, bore debris, and/or projectile material.

**BUTT** – in handguns, it is the bottom part of the grip; in long guns, it is the rear or shoulder end of the stock.

**CABLE RELEASE** – an encased wire that attaches at one end to the shutter release on the camera and has a shutter release button on the other end that the photographer depresses to

activate the shutter; used to avoid camera movement or to activate the shutter from a distance.

CALIBER – a term used to designate the specific cartridge for which a firearm is chambered; the approximate diameter of the circle formed by the tops of the lands of a rifled barrel, typically expressed in hundredths of an inch (.38 caliber) or millimeters (9mm caliber); in ammunition, caliber is a numerical term, without the decimal point, included in a cartridge name to indicate the nominal bullet diameter.

CAMERA BODY – the light-tight box that contains the camera mechanisms and protects the sensor from light until an exposure is made.

CANNELURE – a circumferential groove generally of a knurled or plain appearance on a bullet or cartridge case.

CARTRIDGE – a single unit of ammunition consisting of the cartridge case, primer, propellant, and with or without one or more projectile(s).

CARTRIDGE CASE – the container for all the other components which comprise a cartridge.

CAST-OFF PATTERN – a pattern, usually linear in configuration, created when blood is released or flung from a blood-bearing object in motion.

CAST/ CASTING – the filling of a three-dimensional footwear, tire track, tool mark, or other impression with material that takes on and retains the characteristics that were left in the impression by the original footwear, tire, etc.

CASTING MATERIAL – dental stone or other suitable materials specifically used to accurately recover three-dimensional impressions. Some casting materials are also successful for lifting two dimensional impressions.

CAUSE OF DEATH – any injury or disease that produces a physiological disruption in the body resulting in death.

CEREBROSPINAL FLUID – the fluids around the brain and spinal cord.

CESSATION CAST-OFF PATTERN – a pattern resulting from the rapid deceleration of an object wet with blood.

CENTER WEIGHTED METER – a through-the-lens exposure meter that measures light values from the entire scene but gives greater emphasis to those in the center of the image area.

CF CARD – compact flash card; a memory card format utilized with digital cameras, including the camera used in the LizQ imaging system.

**CHART BOARD** – a solid laminated board with a covering of white paper on at least one side; used to provide a firm and smooth backing when obtaining known tire impressions; not the same as foam core board.

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY** – refers to the chronological documentation of the seizure, custody, control, transfer (temporary or permanent), and disposition of evidence.

**CHAMBER** – the rear part of the barrel bore that has been formed to accept a specific cartridge or shotshell; in a revolver, the holes in the cylinder represent multiple chambers.

**CLIP** – a container that holds a group of cartridges, which may either be transferred or inserted into a firearm.

**COGNITIVE BIAS** – a set of factors (e.g. an individual's preexisting beliefs, expectations, motives, and situational context) that may influence one's collection, perception, or interpretation of information, or affect the reliability and validity of one's judgments, observations, confidence, and conclusions.

**COMBUSTIBLE** – any substance that will burn, regardless of its auto-ignition temperature, or whether it is a solid, liquid, or gas.

**COMBUSTION** – a usually rapid chemical process (as oxidation) that produces heat and usually light.

**COMPARISON SAMPLE (fire)** – 1: a sample of material collected from a fire scene which is, to the best of the investigator's knowledge, similar with respect to relevant characteristics to a sample suspected of containing ignitable substance; 2: a sample of suspected ignitable substance submitted for the purpose of comparing with any ignitable substance separated from debris.

**COMPRESSION** – a means of reducing the size of a digital image file in order to reduce storage requirements for transmission time across a network. "Lossy" techniques permanently eliminate some information to obtain highly compressed, very small files. Lossless techniques compress images without losing any information in the file.

**CONCENTRIC FRACTURES** – fractures or cracks in glass or other similar brittle or ceramic material that take a generally circular form around the bullet hole or impact site in such materials.

**CONING EFFECT** – the characteristic cone shape on the exit side of a projectile hole through a relative brittle medium (e.g. glass, bone, etc.) caused by the spalling around the exit; also known as **CONE FRACTURE**.

**CONTACT WOUND** – an injury that occurs when a firearm is pressed against a surface of the body. Gases from the explosion expand between the skin and the bone, producing a bursting effect and a ragged wound. Gas, soot, metallic particles, vaporized metal from the bullet and cartridge case, primer residue, and powder particles can all be driven into the wound track.

**CONTAMINATION** – the undesirable introduction of a substance to an item at any point in the forensic process.

**CONTRAST** – the difference between the light and dark parts of a scene or photograph.

**CONTROL SAMPLE** – material of established original that is used to evaluate the performance of materials.

**CORONER** – an elected official, or their agent, responsible for overseeing medicolegal death investigation; also referred to as Medicolegal Authority or Medicolegal Investigator.

**CRIME SCENE** – an area or person that contains potential evidence of a criminal incident.

**CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION** – a methodical, scientific approach to examining a scene to document, search for, identify, collect, interpret, and preserve items of evidentiary value to help in understanding the elements of an incident.

**CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR (CSI)** – a forensic science practitioner, however named, whose responsibility is to use the appropriate combination of knowledge, skills, training, and experience or undertake one or more of the following tasks in relation to crime scene investigation: document, search for, identify, collect, interpret, and preserve evidence.

**CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION (CSR)** – an applied science employing the scientific method to identify the best explanation and to provide for an objective sequence of actions for an event or events in question. When performed using generally accepted methodology and subjected to peer review, CSR provides a holistic approach to the formal and objective analysis of complex issues while considering sources of potential bias.

**CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTIONIST (CSR)** – a forensic science practitioner, however named, who analyzes and evaluates information from all reasonable available sources such as scene documentation, investigative reports, physical evidence, laboratory analysis reports, autopsy documentation, photographs, video, and statements to identify the hypothesis within the context and limited universe of a scene.

**CROP** – to trim the edges of an image, often to improve the composition. Cropping can be done by moving the camera position while viewing a scene, during image editing, or by trimming the finished print.

CYLINDER – the rotating component of a firearm that contains the chambers.

CYLINDER GAP – in a revolver, the maximum space between the cylinder and the barrel.

DEBRIS – 1. In fire scenes, the ruins or rubble which results from the burning of roof materials;  
2. Scattered pieces of waste or remains.

DAGGER – a short weapon for stabbing that is usually considered to be double edged.

DECEDENT – deceased person or any suspected human remains.

DECOMPOSITION – postmortem degeneration of the body.

DEFECT – a generic term for any damage to a surface or item.

DEFENSE WOUNDS – cuts, abrasions, and contusions of the hands, wrists, forearms, and arms, which occur during a violent struggle as the victim attempts to ward off the attacker.

DEFLECTION – *as differentiated from ricochet*: a deviation in the projectile's normal path through the atmosphere as a consequence of an impact with some object; *as a consequence of ricochet*: is used to describe any lateral component of the ricocheted projectiles departure path relative to the plane of the impacted surface as viewed from the shooter's position and with the plane of the surface normalized to a horizontal attitude; *as a consequence of perforating or striking an object*: is used to describe deviations in any direction from the projectile's normal flight path as a consequence of perforating or string an object rather than rebounding off of surfaces.

DEPTH OF FIELD (DOF)– the distance between the nearest and farthest points that appear in acceptably sharp focus in a photograph. Depth of field varies with lens aperture, focal length, and camera-to-subject distance.

DERRINGER – the generic term applied to many variations of small one-, two-, or even four-shot pistols, using both percussion caps and cartridges.

DIAGRAM – two-dimensional representations of features found at the scene that are derived from measurements or visual data collected by hand, electronically, or a combination of both.

DIAPHRAGM (IRIS DIAPHRAGM) – the mechanism controlling the size of the lens opening, therefore the amount of light that reaches the sensor. It consists of overlapping metal leaves inside the lens that form a circular opening of variable sizes. The size of the opening is referred to as the f-stop or aperture.

DIFFUSED LIGHT – light that has been scattered by reflection or by passing through a translucent material; an even, often shadowless, light.

DIGITAL CAMERA – a camera that records an image directly in digital form, instead of on conventional silver film.

DIRECTIONAL ANGLE – the angle (gamma) between the long axis of a spatter stain and a defined reference line on the target.

DIRECT LIGHT – light shining directly on the subject and producing strong highlights and deep shadows.

DIRECTIONAL/DIFFUSED LIGHT – light that is partly direct and partly scattered; softer and less harsh than direct light.

DIRECTIONALITY – 1. in bloodstain pattern analysis, the characteristic of a stain that indicates the direction blood was moving at the time of deposition; 2. in shooting reconstruction, the shape and characteristics of a bullet hole that indicates which side is from the bullet entry and which side is from the bullet exit.

DITHIOOXAMIDE TEST – a chemical test for the detection of copper.

DOUBLE BARREL – two barrels in a firearm mounted to one frame; may be vertically (over-under) or horizontally (side-by-side) aligned.

DOWNRANGE – any location forward of the plane of the muzzle of a firearm.

DRAWBACK EFFECT – the presence of blood in the barrel of a firearm that has been drawn back into the muzzle.

DRIP PATTERN – a bloodstain pattern created by free-falling drops of blood striking already-existing blood (or other liquid) on a surface commonly associated with satellite spatter. The parent stain on the surface is larger than what would be associated with a single free-falling drop and is usually associated with satellite spatter.

DRIP STAIN – a bloodstain resulting from a falling drop that formed due to gravity.

DRIP TRAIL – a bloodstain pattern resulting from the movement of a source of drip stains between two points.

DROP-OFF DISTANCE – the distance at which a firearm-ammunition combination will no longer leave detectable gunshot residues on a target.

DSLR – digital single lens reflex; a type of camera with one lens that is used both for viewing and for taking the picture. A mirror inside the camera reflects the image up into the viewfinder. When the picture is taken, this mirror moves out of the way, allowing the light entering the lens to travel directly to the sensor.

EDGE CHARACTERISTIC – a physical feature of the periphery of a bloodstain.

EJECTION PORT – an opening in the receiver or slide to allow for ejection of a cartridge, cartridge case, or shotshell.

EJECTOR – a mechanical device of a firearm which expels a cartridge, cartridge case, or shotshell.

ELECTRONIC FLASH (STROBE) – a camera accessory that provides a brief but powerful flash of light; a battery-powered unit requires occasional recharging or battery replacement but can be used repeatedly.

ELECTROSTATIC LIFTING DEVICE – a device consisting of a high-voltage supply used with a special conductive lifting film to transfer a dry origin footwear impression electrostatically from a surface to a film.

ELIMINATION PRINTS – exemplars of friction ridge skin detail taken from a person who had access to an item of evidence.

ENTOMOLOGY – branch of science dealing with the study of insects.

EPIDERMIS – the outermost layer of the skin.

EVIDENCE – a physical item that may be used to prove or disprove a fact.

EXEMPLARS – for finger/palm/sole prints: the prints of an individual, associated with a known or claimed identity, and deliberately recorded, by ink, or by another medium (also known as known prints); for shoe/tire prints: an item of footwear or tire from a specific source that is deliberately recorded by ink or another medium (also known as known prints).

EXPIRATED BLOOD/PATTERN – blood that has been blown from the nose, the mouth, or a wound in the respiratory system as the result of air flow or pressure.

EXPOSURE (photography) – the act of allowing light to strike a light sensitive surface; the amount of light reaching that surface, controlled by the combination of aperture and shutter speed.

EXPOSURE METER (LIGHT METER) – an instrument that measures the amount of light and provides aperture and shutter-speed combinations for correct exposure. Exposure meters may be built into the camera or they may be separate instruments.

EXTERIOR BALLISTICS – the branch of ballistics that studies a projectile's flight in air.

EXTRACTOR – a device that pulls (hooks) cartridge cases out of a chamber.



**FILE** – a quantity of data storage on a computer. Each digital image is saved as a single file.

**FILE FORMAT** – one of several standard ways a digital image can be encoded digitally. See JPEG, TIFF, and RAW.

**FINGERPRINT** – an impression of the friction ridges of all or any part of the finger.

**FIRE** – a rapid oxidation process, which is a chemical reaction resulting in the production of light and heat in varying intensities.

**FIREARM** – an assembly of a barrel and action from which a projectile(s) is propelled by products of combustion.

**FIRE DEBRIS** – material of interest at a fire scene that can be collected by an investigator as evidence to analyze.

**FIRING PIN** – that part of a firearm mechanism which strikes the primer or rim of a cartridge to initiate ignition in order to fire a cartridge or shotshell.

**FIRING PIN IMPRESSION** – the indentation of the primer of a centerfire cartridge case or in the rim of a rimfire cartridge case caused when it is struck by the firing pin.

**FIXED BLADE** – any knife in which the blade does not fold or retract into the handle.

**FLAMMABLE** – capable of burning with a flame; easily ignitable.

**FLASH** – 1. a short burst of light emitted by an electronic flash unit or strobe to illuminate the scene being photographed. 2. the equipment used to produce this light.

**FLOW PATTERN** – a volume of blood on a surface that moves in one or more directions as a result of the influence of gravity or movement of the target.

**FOCAL LENGTH** – the distance from an internal part of the lens to the image plane when the lens is focused on infinity. The focal length is usually expressed in millimeters (mm) and determines the angle of view (how much of the scene can be included in the picture) and the size of objects in the image. A 100mm lens, for example, has a narrower angle of view and magnifies objects more than a lens of shorter focal length.

**FOCUS** – 1. The point at which the rays of light coming through the lens converge to form a sharp image. The picture is “in focus” or sharpest when this point coincides with the focal plane. 2. To change the lens-to-sensor distance until the image is sharp.

**FORWARD SPATTER PATTERN** – blood droplets directed away from the force or energy that caused the spatter, often associated with gunshot wounds of exit.



FRAME – In photography, a single exposure or image; the edges of an image. In revolvers, pistols, and break-open guns, the basic unit of a firearm which houses the firing and breech mechanism and to which the barrel and grips are attached.

FRICTION RIDGE SKIN – a specialized type of skin present on the palmar portion of the hands and the plantar portion of the feet.

F-STOP – a numerical designation (f/2, f/2.8, etc.) indicating the size of the aperture (lens opening).

FULL METAL JACKET (FMJ) – a projectile in which the bullet jacket encloses the entire bullet, with the usual exception of the base.

GAUGE – a term used in the identification of a shotgun bore. The gauge is equal to the number of round lead balls of bore diameter that equal one pound.

GELATIN LIFTER – a commercial product with gelatin applied to a pliable backing used to lift impressions.

GRAY CARD – a card that reflects a known percentage of light falling on it. Often has a gray side reflecting 18% and a white side reflecting 90% of the light. Used to take accurate exposure meter readings (meters base their exposures on a gray tone of 18% reflectance).

GRIP – in handguns, the handle; in long guns, the portion of the stock located behind the action which is normally grasped by the shooter's trigger hand; in knives, the part of the hilt that is normally held in the hand.

GRIP SAFETY – an auxiliary locking device on the grip of some handguns which prevents firing until it is depressed, typically accomplished by grasping the grip correctly.

GUIDE NUMBER – a number rating for a flash unit that can be used to calculate the correct aperture for a particular ISO speed and flash-to-subject distance.

GUNPOWDER – any of various powders used as the propellant in a cartridge or shotshell.

GUNSHOT RESIDUE (GSR) – the total residues resulting from the discharge of a firearm.

GUNSHOT RESIDUE PATTERN – the form, density, and spatial distribution of combustion products deposited on a surface from the discharge of a firearm.

HAMMER – a component of the firing mechanism which strikes the firing pin or primer.

HANDGUN – a firearm designed to be held and fired with one hand.

HAND HOLD – to support the camera by hand rather than with a tripod or other fixed support.

HANDIPRINT – an adhesive product used with black fingerprint powder to collect finger, palm, and foot exemplars.

HEADSPACE – the space above a material that includes the vapors produced by a liquid or solid material.

HEADSTAMP – numerals, letters, and symbols (or a combination thereof) stamped into the head of a cartridge case or shotshell to identify the manufacturer, caliber, gauge, or other additional information.

HILT – the handle of a sword or dagger.

HINGED FRAME ACTION – a design wherein the barrel(s) is pivoted on the frame. When the action is open, the barrel(s) may pivot up, down, or sideways for loading or unloading. When the action is closed, the breech of the barrel(s) swings against the standing breech.

HISTOGRAM – a graph that shows the distribution of tones or colors in a digital image.

HOLLOW POINT BULLET – a projectile with a cavity in the nose to facilitate expansion.

HOMICIDE – death as a result of an act committed by one person against another person; one of the manners of death.

HOT SHOE – a clip on the top of the camera that attaches a flash unit and provides an electrical link to synchronize the flash with the camera shutter, eliminating the need for a sync cord.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) – a management system designed to enable effective and efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

IDENTIFICATION PHOTOGRAPH – a photograph taken to distinguish an item of importance within the scene, often something to be collected as evidence.

IGNITABLE LIQUID – any liquid that is capable of fueling a fire.

IMPACT PATTERN – a bloodstain pattern resulting from an object striking liquid blood.

INCENDIARY – chemical compound, metal, or mixture capable of producing intense heat.

INCENDIARY DEVICE – a device or mechanism used to initiate an incendiary fire.

INCISION – a wound inflicted by an instrument with a sharp cutting edge; characteristically longer than it is deep.

INCLINOMETER – a device for measuring or displaying the angle of a surface relative to the horizontal or vertical plane.

INFINITY – the farthest distance marked on the focusing ring of the lens, generally about 50 feet. When the camera is focused on infinity, all objects at that distance or farther away will be sharp.

INFRARED – wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation, like light but slightly longer than those in the visible spectrum. Photographs can be made from reflected infrared radiation with special equipment.

INSECT STAIN – a bloodstain resulting from insect activity.

INTERCHANGEABLE LENS – a lens that can be removed from the camera and replaced by another lens.

INTERIOR BALLISTICS – the study of a projectile's initial acceleration and performance in the weapon and the related processes; also known as internal ballistics.

INTERMEDIATE TARGET – refers to something located between the firearm and the target at the time of shooting.

ISO (photography) – a numerical rating that indicates the sensitivity (speed) of a sensor.

JPEG – a “lossy” format for saving digital images that compresses data to preserve space in the computer's memory.

KEYHOLE – a projectile impact that retains the general profile of a bullet that was destabilized and impacted the target surface at a canted angle.

LACERATION – a split or tear of the skin produced by blunt force.

LAMINATED GLASS – layers of glass bonded to a plastic material; may also be referred to as safety glass.

LARVA (PLURAL- LARVAE) – an immature stage of an insect, between an egg and pupa, that undergoes complete metamorphosis.

LATENT PRINT– impression of friction ridge detail not readily visible without enhancement or development; generic term used for questioned friction ridge detail.

LCD – liquid crystal display; the kind of thin, flat visual display screen often used for on-camera monitors and data displays.

LEAD-IN MARK – a visible, thin, elongated deposition of bullet wipe transferred to a surface as a bullet first makes contact with that surface at a shallow incident angle; is useful in establishing the direction of fire and travel of the projectile.

LENS – one or more pieces of optical glass used to gather and focus light rays to form an image.

LENS HOOD – a shield that fits around the lens to prevent unwanted light from entering the lens and causing flare.

LENS TISSUE – a soft, lint-free tissue made specifically for cleaning camera lenses.

LEVER ACTION – a design wherein the breech mechanism is cycled by an external lever generally below the receiver.

LIFT – an adhesive or other medium used to transfer an impression (e.g. fingerprint, footwear impression) from a substrate; the act of collecting an impression.

LIGATURE – anything which binds or ties.

LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) CAMERA DISPLAY – a display in the viewfinder of some cameras that gives you information about aperture and shutter-speed settings or other exposure data.

LIVIDITY (LIVOR MORTIS) – postmortem discoloration of the body due to the settling of blood in the dependent areas of the body.

LOADED – a firearm with ammunition in the firearm magazine or chamber.

LONG-FOCAL-LENGTH LENS (TELEPHOTO LENS) – a lens that provides a narrow angle of view of a scene, including less of a scene than a lens of normal focal length and therefore magnifying objects in the image.

LONG GUN – any firearm fitted with a stock and designed to be used while held with both hands and supported by a shoulder.

LOSSLESS COMPRESSION – a data reduction process that is completely reversible, such that all of the original data can be retrieved in its original form.

LOSSY COMPRESSION – a data reduction process that is not completely reversible, and some original data is irretrievably lost.

MACRO LENS – a lens specifically designed for close-up photography and capable of good optical performance when used very close to a subject.

MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY – production of images on the sensor that are life size or larger.

MAGAZINE – a container for cartridges which has a spring and follower to feed those cartridges into the chamber of the firearm.

MAGAZINE RELEASE – the device that retains or releases the magazine in a firearm.

MAGAZINE WELL – that opening in a firearm that receives the detachable magazine.

MAJOR CASE PRINTS/ COMPLETE FRICTION RIDGE EXEMPLARS – a systematic recording of all of the friction ridge detail appearing on the palmar sides of the hands. This includes the extreme sides of the palms, joints, tips, and sides of the fingers. Under special circumstances, complete friction ridge exemplars may also need to be taken from the plantar portion of the feet.

MANNER OF DEATH – classification system based on the circumstances under which death occurred; medicolegal manners of death are homicide, suicide, accidental, natural, and undetermined.

MANUAL EXPOSURE – a nonautomatic mode of camera operation in which the photographer sets the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO; often designated by the letter “M” on the camera mode dial.

MANUAL FLASH – a nonautomatic mode of flash operation in which the photographer controls the exposure by adjusting the size of the camera’s lens aperture.

MEDICOLEGAL AUTHORITY -- an elected official, or their agent, responsible for overseeing medicolegal death investigation; in Idaho, commonly an elected Coroner or a Deputy Coroner.

MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATION – the medicolegal investigation includes the collection of data, photographs, evidence, witness interviews, external examination of the body at the scene, and other forensic information and analysis that will contribute to the identification of decedent, determination of cause and manner of death, reconstruction of the accident or crime scene, and support the provision of survivability factors.

MEMORY CARD – an in-camera, removable, and reusable storage device that records and saves images captured by the camera until transferred to a computer or other storage device and reformatted.

MIRROR – a polished, metallic reflector set inside a DSLR camera body at a 45-degree angle to the lens to reflect the image up onto the focusing screen. When a picture is taken, the mirror moves out of the way so that light can reach the sensor.

MISFEED – any malfunction during the feeding cycle of a repeating firearm resulting in the failure of a cartridge or shotshell to enter the chamber completely.

MISFIRE – a failure of the priming mixture to be initiated after the primer has been struck by an adequate blow by a firing pin or the failure of the initiated primer to ignite the powder.

MISTING – blood that has been atomized to a fine spray by the application of force, usually associated with a gunshot or explosion event.

MOLOTOV COCKTAIL – a breakable container filled with an ignitable liquid. It can be ignited by a flaming wick or by chemical means.

MULTIPLE FLASH – a technique used in low-light situations in which the photographer sets the shutter release to open and adds light to the scene by repeatedly cycling a flash unit or by setting up multiple flash units within a scene.

MUSHROOMED BULLET – a projectile that has expanded upon impact to a mushroom-like shape.

MUZZLE – the end of a firearm barrel from which the projectile emerges.

MUZZLE IMPRINT – a general term describing the marks produced by the muzzle, front sight, magazine tube, spring housing, etc., and caused by the contact discharge of a firearm.

NATURAL – death due solely to natural disease; one of the manners of death.

NEGATIVE CONTROL – a test performed to demonstrate that no false positives result from the performance of a procedure.

NOISE – pixels of random colors and brightness, most often appearing in the dark areas of a digital image.

NON-PENETRATING IMPACT – projectile damage where the projectile strikes but does not penetrate a target.

NON-POROUS – non-absorbent.

NORMAL FOCAL LENGTH (STANDARD LENS) – a lens that provides about the same angle of view of a scene as the human eye; also called NORMAL LENS.

NYMPH – an immature stage of an insect, between egg and adult, with incomplete metamorphosis.

OBLIQUE LIGHTING – light positioned at a low angle of incidence relative to the surface being examined or photographed; also referred to as side lighting.

OPEN UP – to increase the size of the lens aperture; the opposite of stop down.

ORIENTATION PHOTOGRAPH – a photograph taken to document the general condition and layout of the scene; historically referred to as an overall photograph.

OVEREXPOSE – to make an exposure with too much light, creating a picture that is too bright/light.

OVER AND UNDER – a firearm with two barrels, arranged with one barrel placed over the other.

PAINT BY LIGHT – a technique used in low-light situations in which the photographer sets the shutter release to open and adds light to the darker areas of an object or scene, often using a flashlight or other type of constant light.

PALM PRINT – an impression of the friction ridge of all or any part of the palmar surface of the hand.

PARENT STAIN OR DROP – a bloodstain from which satellite spatter or wave cast-off stains originate.

PASSIVE BLOODSTAINS – stains and patterns whose physical features indicate that they were created without any significant outside force other than gravity and friction.

PATENT PRINT – a friction ridge impression of unknown origin, visible without development.

PATTERN – the distribution of shot fired from a shotgun; the arrangement of blood stains, based on the action that caused them.

PELLET PATTERN – the distribution of shot pellets fired from a firearm that may be used to estimate the muzzle-to-target distance.

PELLETS – the common name for the spherical projectiles loaded into shotshells; a nonspherical projectile used in some air rifles and air pistols.

PENETRATING INJURY/IMPACT – caused by an object entering but not exiting the body/surface.

PERFORATING INJURY/IMPACT – caused by an object passing through the body/surface.

PERIMETER STAIN – an altered stain consisting of its edge characteristics, the central area having been partially or entirely removed.

PERIMORTEM – near or around the time of death.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) – equipment worn to minimize exposure to various hazards such as body fluids, irritants, or contaminants (e.g. gloves, foot and eye protection, respirators, and full body suits).

PETECHIAE – round purplish-red spots of blood, pinpoint to pinhead in size, that appear on the tissue (e.g. skin) as a result of bleeding into layers of the tissue.

PHOTOGRAMMETRY – the art, science, and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and the environment through recording, measuring, and interpreting images.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE – any material, object, or substance that can be collected or documented to inform the understanding of a scene.

PINCH POINT – in painted metal surfaces, a small area of surviving paint that was pinched between the initial contact point of a low incident angle bullet and the painted metal surface. The pinch point establishes the entry side of an impact or ricochet mark and thereby the bullet's direction of travel.

PISTOL – a handgun in which the chamber is integral with the barrel.

PIXEL – short for picture element; the smallest unit, usually square, of a digital image that can be displayed or changed.

PLASTIC PRINT – a friction ridge impression of unknown origin that is impressed in a soft substrate to create a three-dimensional impression, visible without development.

POINT OF IMPACT – the point at which a bullet hits a target.

POLARIZING FILTER – a filter placed in front of the camera lens to reduce reflections from nonmetallic surfaces like glass or water, or to darken the sky.

POOL – a bloodstain resulting from an accumulation of liquid blood on a surface.

POROUS – absorbent.

POSITIVE CONTROL – a test performed prior to or in parallel with evidentiary samples that is designed to demonstrate that a procedure works correctly.

POTENTIAL DNA MATERIAL -- a potential, but not necessarily visible, deposition of DNA, based on how something/someone may have been handled (e.g. touch DNA).

POSSIBLE DNA MATERIAL -- a likely, but not necessarily visible, deposition of DNA, based on the details of the case.

POSTERIOR (DORSAL) – indicates the back side of the body.

POSTMORTEM – after death.



POWDER STIPPLING – small hemorrhagic marks on the skin produced by the impact of gunpowder particles; on inanimate objects, it is the creation of small pits or defects caused by the impact of unburned and partially burned gunpowder particles.

POWDER TATTOOING – the embedding of unburned and partially burned gunpowder particles in the skin or other tissue with accompanying hemorrhagic marks associated with living tissue.

PPI – pixels per inch, a measure of the resolution of an image that has a physical size.

PRESERVED SAMPLES – insect samples that are killed and placed in a fixative.

PRIMER – the ignition component of a cartridge.

PRIMER GUNSHOT RESIDUE (PGSR) – a subcategory of GSR considering only chemicals generated from the priming mixture; typically composed of very small particles containing lead, barium, and antimony.

PROGRAMMED AUTOMATIC – a mode of automatic exposure in which the camera sets both the shutter speed and the aperture for a normal exposure; often designated by the letter “P” on the camera mode dial.

PROJECTED BLOODSTAIN PATTERN – a bloodstain pattern resulting from the ejection of blood under hydraulic pressure, typically from a breach in the circulatory system.

PROJECTILE – an object propelled with an initial velocity then acted upon by gravity, air drag, and other outside forces.

PROJECTILE FRAGMENT – any portion of a projectile that retains characteristics permitting it to be identified as having been part of a projectile.

PROJECTILE IMPACT – damage determined to have been caused by a projectile.

PSEUDOSTIPPLING – small hemorrhagic lesions on the skin produced by the impact of ejecta (e.g. fine fragments of glass or other brittle materials).

PUGILISTIC ATTITUDE – position that a body often assumes in fire deaths in which the muscle fibers contract due to the heat of the fire, causing the limbs to be drawn in.

PUMP ACTION – see slide action.

PUPA (PLURAL- PUPAE) – the insect life stage during which complete metamorphosis from larvae to adult occurs.

PURGE FLUID – decomposition fluid that drains from an orifice of the body; may be mistaken for blood.

PUTREFACTION – postmortem decomposition of soft tissues by bacteria, fermentation, and enzymes.

RADIAL FRACTURES – the fractures or cracks that radiate out from an impact side in non-crystalline material such as glass, ceramics, bone, and certain plastics.

RANGE – the distance from a firearm to the initial projectile impact.

RAW/CAMERA RAW – a digital camera file that contains picture information exactly as it is acquired. Most RAW file formats used in cameras are proprietary, or specific to the camera manufacturer, and must be interpreted before editing.

RECEIVER – the basic unit of a firearm which houses the firing and breech mechanism and to which the barrel and stock are assembled; in revolver, pistols, and break-open firearms, it is called the frame.

REFERENCE MEASUREMENT STANDARD – a measurement standard designated for the calibration or validation of other measurement standards for quantities of a given kind at a given location.

REFLECTOR – any surface- a ceiling, a card, an umbrella- used to bounce light onto a subject.

RELATIONSHIP PHOTOGRAPH – a photograph taken in order to frame an item of evidence in conjunction with some obvious landmark present within the scene.

RELOAD – a cartridge which has been reassembled with a new primer, powder, projectile(s), and/or other components.

RESOLUTION – the total number of pixels in a camera sensor; the number of pixels per unit length, generally a measure of maximum image quality; usually measured in pixels per inch (PPI).

REVOLVER – a firearm, usually a handgun, with a cylinder having several chambers so arranged as to rotate around an axis.

RICOCHET – the continued flight of a rebounded projectile and/or major projectile fragments after a low angle impact with a surface or object.

RIFLE – a firearm with a rifled bore designed to be fired from the shoulder.

RIGOR MORTIS – rigidity or stiffening of the muscle tissue of the body after death.

ROLLING CIRCUMFERENCE – the linear distance traveled by a tire in one revolution under load.

SABOT – a lightweight carrier in which a smaller caliber projectile is placed to permit firing it from a larger bore firearm.

SAFETY MECHANISM – a device on a firearm intended to help provide protection against accidental discharge under normal usage when properly engaged; such a mechanism is considered “on” when the position of the safety device is set in a manner to provide against accidental discharge under normal usage; such a mechanism is considered “off” when it is set to allow the firearm to be discharged by a normal pull of the trigger.

SATELLITE STAIN – a smaller bloodstain that originated during the formation of the parent stain, as a result of blood impacting a surface.

SATURATION STAIN – a bloodstain resulting from the accumulation of liquid blood in an absorbent material.

SCALLOPING – a serrated edge characteristic of bloodstains.

SCENE – a place or object that is subject to and/or requires forensic examination. Note: A crime scene is a common description of a scene where a presumed crime has been committed. The scene can be a person or an animal. SD CARD – Secure Digital card; a memory card format utilized with digital cameras.

SEMI-POROUS – a substrate that demonstrates both absorbent and non-absorbent properties.

SERUM STAIN – a yellowish stain resulting from the separation of serum from the retraction of a blood clot.

SHARP – describes an image or part of an image that shows crisp, precise texture and detail; the opposite of blurred or soft.

SHOE – a clip on a camera for attaching a flash unit.

SHOOTING RECONSTRUCTION – a scene reconstruction focused on the discharge of a firearm(s).

SHORT-FOCAL-LENGTH LENS (WIDE ANGLE LENS) – a lens that provides a wide angle-of-view of a scene, including more of the subject area than a lens of normal focal length.

SHOT – generally, spherical pellets used in loading shotshells or cartridges.

SHOTGUN – a long gun designed to shoot from the shoulder, typically having a smooth bore and designed to fire shotshells.

SHOT PATTERN – the distribution of multiple projectile impacts from a fired shotshell.

SHOTSHELL – a complete round of ammunition having a plastic body, a base wad that may or may not be a single unit, and a metallic head.

SHOTSHELL CASE/HULL – an empty plastic shell that previously held components (case); an empty plastic shell that is used to load components (hull).

SHUTTER – a device in the camera that opens and closes to expose the sensor to light for a measured length of time (i.e. shutter speed).

SHUTTER PRIORITY MODE – an automatic exposure system in which the photographer sets the shutter speed and the camera selects the aperture (f-stop) for normal exposure; often designated by the letter “S” on the camera mode dial.

SHUTTER RELEASE – the mechanism, usually a button on the top of the camera, which activates the shutter to expose the sensor.

SHUTTER SPEED CONTROL – the camera control that selects the length of time the sensor is exposed to light.

SIDE-BY-SIDE – a firearm with two barrels arranged with one barrel next to the other.

SILENCER – a colloquial term used to describe a device attached to the barrel of a firearm designed to reduce the noise of discharge; such a device is more accurately identified as a sound suppressor.

SIMULTANEOUS IMPRESSION – two or more friction ridge impressions from the same hand or foot deposited concurrently.

SKELETONIZED BLOODSTAIN – a bloodstain that consists of a darkened outer peripheral rim with the central portion of the stain having been removed by wiping through the partially dry stain. A skeletonized bloodstain is also produced by the flaking of the central portion of a completely dried stain.

SLIDE ACTION – an action which features a movable forearm that is manually actuated in a motion parallel to the barrel by the shooter; also known as pump action.

SLUG – a single projectile for shotshells; a slang term for a fired bullet.

SOIL – sediments or other unconsolidated accumulations of solid particles (e.g. minerals and organic matter) that are produced by the physical, chemical, and biological disintegration of parent material, or which has the ability to support rooted plants in a natural environment, or both; and which can include manufactured materials.

SODIUM RHODIZONATE TEST – a chemical test for the detection of lead.

SPALL – chipped or fragmented material as a result of projectile impact in brittle or frangible materials.

SPATTER – bloodstains that exhibit directionality and variation in size and are associated with a source of blood being subjected to external force(s).

SPATTER PATTERN – a distribution of individual spatters on a surface that can be traced to a common area of origin.

SPINES – an edge characteristic of bloodstains consisting of narrow, elongated projections from the central area of the stain.

SPLASH – a bloodstain created by a free-falling volume of blood in excess of 1.0 ml onto a surface from a distance of at least four inches, OR an altered bloodstain pattern characterized by a preexisting volume on a surface that has been subjected to additional force creating elongated narrow spines, such as stepping into blood.

STAB WOUND – injury caused by sharp instrument; wounds are deeper than they are wide.

STAGED SCENE – a crime scene in which the perpetrator purposely alters the crime scene to mislead or redirect the investigation.

STAIN – a soiled or discolored spot.

STELLATE – star-shaped wound; characteristic of contact wounds in regions of the body where only a thin layer of skin and tissue overlies the bone (e.g. head).

STOCK – the wood or plastic component(s) to which the metal parts of a firearm are attached to enable the shooter to hold the firearm.

STOP – an aperture setting that indicates the size of the lens opening; a change in exposure by a factor of 2. Changing the aperture from one full setting to the next full setting doubles or halves the amount of light reaching the sensor.

STOP DOWN – to decrease the size of the lens aperture; the opposite of open up.

STOVE-PIPE – a failure to eject in which the cartridge case is caught in the ejection port by the forward motion of the bolt or slide.

STIPPLING – pinpoint hemorrhages due to the discharge of burning gunpowder against the skin; also referred to as tattooing.

SUICIDE – death resulting from a self-inflicted act; one of the manners of death.

**SUPPRESSION** – the sum of all the work done to extinguish a fire, beginning at the time of its discovery.

**SWIPE** – a bloodstain resulting from the transfer of blood from a blood-bearing surface onto another surface, with characteristics that indicate relative motion between the two surfaces.

**SYNCHRONIZATION (SYNC) CORD** – a wire that links a flash unit to a camera's shutter-release mechanism.

**SYNCHRONIZE** – to cause a flash unit to fire while the camera shutter is open.

**TANG** – the metal portion which projects into the handle of fixed blade knives.

**TARGET** – a surface on which blood has been deposited; any object struck by a projectile, regardless of whether it was struck intentionally.

**TELEPHOTO LENS** – see LONG-FOCAL-LENGTH LENS

**TERMINAL BALLISTICS** – the branch of ballistics that studies the effect of a projectile's impact with the target.

**TERMINAL VELOCITY** – the maximum velocity that a free-falling drop of blood can accelerate in air, determined to be approximately 25.1 feet per second.

**THROUGH-THE-LENS (TTL) METER** – an exposure meter built into the camera that takes light readings through the lens.

**TIFF** – a lossless, open-source (non-proprietary) format for saving digital images that is readable by most graphic software.

**TOTAL METAL JACKET (TMJ)** – a projectile made by copper plating a lead core to create a jacket that encloses the entire bullet.

**TRACE EVIDENCE** – evidence such as hairs, fibers, glass fragments, wood splinters, and microscopic evidence, often as a broken part of a larger item.

**TRAJECTORY** – the curved, aerial path traveled by a projectile; typically modeled as a straight line for short-range paths.

**TRANSFER STAIN** – a bloodstain resulting from contact between a blood-bearing surface and another surface.

**TRANSIENT EVIDENCE** – evidence that is changing over time, which may be affected by the scene conditions; evidentiary value will be lost if not preserved, protected, or documented (e.g. smells, a wet surface that is drying).

TRIGGER – that part of a firearm mechanism that is moved manually to cause the firearm to discharge.

TRIGGER GUARD – a rigid loop which partially surrounds the trigger to prevent damage or an accidental discharge.

TRIPOD – a three-legged support for the camera.

UNDEREXPOSE – to make an exposure with too little light, making a picture that is too dark.

UNDETERMINED – manner of death used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than another when the circumstances surrounding the death are unknown; one of the manners of death.

UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE – the inadvertent discharge of a firearm in the absence of a mechanical malfunction of the firearm.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS – approach to infection control to treat all human body fluids as if they are known to be infectious.

UPRANGE – any location behind the plane of the muzzle of a firearm.

VERTICAL ANGLE -- the angle in a vertical plane typically between the path of a bullet and level, also known as elevation angle.

VOID – the absence of blood in an otherwise continuous bloodstain pattern that suggests the presence of an intermediate target that may have been removed.

WAD – a felt, paper, cardboard, or plastic component used in a shotshell for various purposes.

WAVE CAST-OFF – a small stain that has originated from a parent stain as the results of the wavelike action of the original drop striking a surface at an angle of less than 90 degrees.

WHEEL BASE – the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle. An approximation of this dimension can be obtained by measuring the distance from the leading edge of the rear tire track to the leading edge of the front tire track on the same side of the vehicle.

WHITE BALANCE – the color balance of a white light source; a setting or adjustment on a camera that adjusts the overall image colors for the light source in which it was captured.

WHITE LIGHT SOURCE – equipment used to produce white light (e.g. flashlight) to visualize potential items of evidence.

WICK – material that, by capillary action, draws up a supply of ignitable liquid or oil to be burned, as in a candle or Molotov cocktail.

WIDE ANGLE LENS – see SHORT-FOCAL-LENGTH LENS

WIDE-ANGLE DISTORTION – an unusual perspective caused by using a wide-angle lens very close to a subject; objects appear stretched out or farther apart than they really are.

WIPE – an alteration of a preexisting wet or partially dry bloodstain caused by movement through the existing stain.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy



## 3.0 Organization and Management

- 3.1 An organizational chart for the Idaho State Police appears in the ISP Policy Manual.
- 3.2 An organizational chart for ISP Forensic Services (ISPFS) appears in the ISP Forensic Services Quality/Procedure Manual.
- 3.3 The organizational chart that includes the Crime Scene Discipline Lead position appears in the Latent Prints Quality Manual.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 4.0 Personnel

### 4.1 CRIME SCENE DISCIPLINE LEAD

- 4.1.1 The Crime Scene Discipline Lead is responsible for coordinating ISPFS responses to crime scenes state-wide.
- 4.1.2 The Crime Scene Discipline Lead participates in routine quality control measures, equipment maintenance, and troubleshooting; supplies crime scene gear, personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g. booties, disposable gloves, disposable clothing, etc.), supplies, and equipment state-wide; develops and maintains crime scene methods and manuals; provides assistance at complex crime scenes.
- 4.1.3 The Crime Scene Discipline Lead shall ensure that CSIs' training records are on file with the Quality Manager.

### 4.2 CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS (CSI)

- 4.2.1 Crime Scene Investigators are responsible for adhering to established methods, safety practices, and policies/procedures.
- 4.2.2 Crime Scene Investigators come from different disciplines within the lab system. If a CSI has specialized training as a part of their primary discipline (e.g. bullet strike testing, acid phosphatase testing, development of bloody impressions with blood-reactive chemicals), then they can perform those tests/analyses at crime scenes.
- 4.2.3 CSI duties may include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.2.3.1 Documentation of crime scenes through photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams;
  - 4.2.3.2 Conducting presumptive blood tests;
  - 4.2.3.3 Search for, collection, and preservation of evidence;
  - 4.2.3.4 Recognition and documentation of evidence in bloodshed and/or shooting scenes;
  - 4.2.3.5 Latent print processing;
  - 4.2.3.6 Processing vehicles;
  - 4.2.3.7 Buried body excavations;
  - 4.2.3.8 Documentation and evidence collection from persons;
  - 4.2.3.9 Issuing reports of crime scene activities;
  - 4.2.3.10 Performing technical and administrative casework reviews;
  - 4.2.3.11 Satisfactorily completing annual proficiency tests;
  - 4.2.3.12 Presenting expert testimony in court.
- 4.2.4 As the team of Crime Scene Investigators grows, CSIs may be tasked with learning aspects of disciplines outside of their primary discipline in order to elicit a more efficient and timely response for our customers.

- 4.2.5 If a CSI is going to learn to do tests/analyses that are not part of a discipline for which they have completed training, then they shall go through a training process, be competency tested on the tests/analyses, and be regularly proficiency tested. Training for crime scene investigators is outlined in the Crime Scene Training Manual.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 5.0 Scene Security and Precautions

5.1 Crime scenes should be secured by the agency investigating the crime scene.

5.1.1 The investigating agency should supply enough personnel to adequately manage the security of the crime scene, including access points, the perimeter, and possible routes of entry/exit.

5.1.1.1 If the scene has been held for a prolonged period of time, during which there was minimal law enforcement staffing for security, the scene should be re-cleared by law enforcement prior to CSIs entering the scene.

5.1.1.1.1 The investigating agency may consider placing seals across the access point(s) of the crime scene (e.g. front door, windows) so that personnel can easily see if a seal has been broken, indicating that someone has entered the crime scene.

5.1.1.2 For any circumstance in which a CSI determines that additional personnel are needed to ensure their safety on scene, ISP Detectives and/or Troopers may be dispatched to provide additional safety.

5.1.2 The scene should be cordoned off with crime scene perimeter tape.

5.1.2.1 The CSI shall review the boundaries established by the investigating agency in order to determine whether the existing physical barriers are adequate or if alterations are required. The boundaries shall enclose the furthest, immediate physical evidence connected with the scene. Movement throughout the scene should be limited to essential scene investigation personnel only.

5.1.2.2 It may be beneficial to have two areas of crime scene perimeter tape, creating an outer and an inner perimeter. The outer perimeter may be accessed by all responding personnel, while the inner perimeter should only be accessed by essential scene investigation personnel.

5.1.2.3 Case circumstances may be such that crime scene perimeter tape is not necessary or appropriate.

5.1.3 The agency controlling the scene shall establish documentation of all personnel entering or exiting the scene including the time of their arrival and departure and their reason for entry. Upon arrival, if such documentation has not been started, the CSI shall request the process to begin. The entry log shall not be the responsibility of the CSI.

- 5.1.3.1 An officer with an entry/exit log may be positioned near the entry of the crime scene area. The CSIs shall check in with the officer and provide information for the crime scene log.
- 5.2 The investigating agency should be aware of any hazards present in the scene upon CSIs arrival; CSIs should inquire about hazards before entering a scene.
- 5.2.1 Hazards may be present as a result of actions taken in the crime scene (e.g. carbon monoxide, structural damage due to fire, etc.), may be natural hazards (e.g. uneven terrain, cliffs, bodies of water, etc.), may be due to the type and/or quantity of evidence present in the scene (e.g. loaded weapons that are not secure), and/or due to the way the scene was maintained by the users/owners (e.g. hoarding, rodents/droppings).
- 5.2.2 CSIs should not enter a crime scene until any hazards have been mitigated to allow for safe exposure to the scene.
- 5.2.2.1 The investigating agency should request assistance from appropriate agencies if hazards such as chemical, radiological, biological, animal, physical, or utility (e.g. electrical or gas) are suspected or discovered.
- 5.2.3 CSIs should have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to mitigate hazards presented by the scene and by any processing tools, equipment, or reagents used. PPE may include gloves, protective clothing, masks, eye protection, and respiratory equipment. The scene should be constantly reevaluated to determine if alteration to the level of PPE are needed for adequate personal protection.
- 5.2.4 CSIs shall be trained in the proper use of PPE. PPE can be a source of cross-contamination. PPE shall be changed as appropriate to prevent cross-contamination.
- 5.2.5 PPE considerations should include, but not be limited to, protection of eyes and face, head, foot and leg, hand and arm, body (torso), respiratory system, and hearing; and protection against falls and drowning.
- 5.2.6 When working a scene on a roadway in which traffic is still moving through the area, safety equipment (e.g. cones, flares, reflective vests, etc.) should be utilized.
- 5.3 CSIs should not enter a scene until it is static and all involved living parties (e.g. victim, suspect, witnesses, family members, etc.) have been removed from the scene.
- 5.3.1 If a living subject/suspect/victim is still on scene and they are to be documented prior to removal, they should be moved away from areas containing evidence to avoid contamination.

- 5.4 When searching a crime scene for evidence, CSIs should be cautious as to hidden hazards (e.g. needles, razor blades, loaded firearms, etc.) that may be inside other items.
- 5.5 Environmental conditions may not be conducive to the work to be accomplished. Temperature, light, and weather conditions may create circumstances in which evidence could be missed (e.g. low light) or when CSIs can't adequately perform quality work (e.g. very cold/hot temperatures). CSIs should have an ongoing conversation with the investigating agency/detective about the potential negative impact to evidence and personnel if work continues. There may come a time to halt scene processing until the conditions improve.
  - 5.5.1 When processing a vehicle, moving the vehicle to a controlled environment (e.g. garage bay) should be considered and discussed; this may allow processing to continue.
- 5.6 CSIs should take periodic breaks for rest and sustenance, especially if wearing Tyvek clothing, when outdoors, during inclement weather, or during long periods of time on scene.
- 5.7 Responding to crime scenes may involve traveling considerable distances. Overnight stays should be considered for every crime scene response.
  - 5.7.1 The following factors should be considered in determining whether or not an overnight stay is warranted: number of hours worked in the last 24-hour period; number of hours required to return to the laboratory; time of arrival at the laboratory.
  - 5.7.2 It is better to err on the side of caution and stay overnight rather than risk driving while tired.
- 5.8 CSIs shall follow safety guidelines as outlined in the ISPFS Health and Safety manual as applicable.

## 6.0 Coordination with the Investigating Agency

- 6.1 The Crime Scene Discipline Lead and/or the first responding CSI shall determine what steps have been taken by the responding law enforcement officer(s) to preserve the scene in order to maintain the integrity of the scene until designated CSIs respond. The Crime Scene Discipline Lead /CSI shall seek information regarding any actions taken and any known changes to the scene prior to the arrival of the CSIs. Prior to arrival, if the investigating agency notifies the responding CSI that conditions exist in the scene that could compromise the integrity or value of evidence, the responding CSI shall advise the investigating agency what mitigation, if any, should be performed.
- 6.2 CSIs shall participate in a briefing with the investigating agency upon their arrival to the scene. The information provided during the briefing will be recorded in the case notes or on the Briefing Notes page. Additional information provided during the course of scene processing should be added.
- 6.3 The CSIs should obtain or have access to, at a minimum, the following information: the initial responding and primary law enforcement officer's names, agencies, badge numbers, and times of arrival; the agency(ies) involved in the investigation; the date and time of the original incident if known; the condition of the scene at the time of the investigating agency's arrival; the size and extent of the scene including the existence of any secondary scene(s); information from the investigating agency pertinent to executing the scene examination.
- 6.4 The CSI shall ensure that a path for authorized personnel to enter and exit the scene has been established and is appropriate for the preservation of evidence integrity.
- 6.5 The CSI shall conduct themselves with the expectation that their work may be used in every step of the legal process, and therefore shall ensure that they comply with applicable legal standards including those of search and seizure.
- 6.6 Crime scene investigations are governed by the authorization obtained by the investigating agency.
  - 6.6.1 If the agency has obtained a search warrant, the parameters of the search warrant shall be reviewed prior to any scene processing. Only the types of evidence outlined in the search warrant shall be collected by CSIs.
  - 6.6.2 If the agency has obtained consent, and ISP command staff has authorized the processing of the scene based on consent, the parameters of the consent shall be noted. If a consent form was used, the consent shall be reviewed prior to any scene processing.

## 7.0 Crime Scene Investigation Methodology

- 7.1 There is no one right way to process a crime scene. The methods and the order in which those methods are employed are determined by the particulars of the scene and the experience of the CSIs. The purpose of processing the crime scene is to collect as much information and evidence as possible, in as pristine a condition as possible. Evidence collection is more than the physical collection of items from the scene; cataloging the interrelationships of where items are in the scene, noting the physical layout of the scene, and documenting observations of things that cannot be physically collected are all integral parts of collecting evidence. Content and context of the scene are both important aspects. Crime scene investigations take place in environments that have variable conditions. Due to this, equipment and reagents may not perform as expected. Should a piece of equipment or a reagent fail, the CSI should attempt to determine the cause of the failure and whether the failure will affect scene processing. Notes shall be made about the equipment or reagent failure(s). CSIs should notify the Crime Scene Discipline Lead as necessary.
- 7.1.1 Each scene is unique and requires CSIs to continuously evaluate how to proceed with processing in a manner that is safe and best preserves the evidence and its context. All decisions made by a CSI before, during, and after a scene is processed should consider the following factors: legal considerations, personnel safety, scientific reliability and validity, preserving context, maintaining evidence integrity, transparency, and managing bias. Scene circumstances could require a CSI to give greater weight to one factor over another.
- 7.1.2 Influences from internal and external sources may affect objectivity (e.g. time constraints, personal beliefs, contextual information about the scene and/or suspect/victim). Information provided to the CSI during an investigation should be objectively documented and continuously evaluated within the context of the evidence. The CSI should remain open to all hypotheses and potential evidence.
- 7.2 There may be extenuating circumstances in which an item from a crime scene should be processed in the laboratory instead of in the field, even though it is not being processed for a particular discipline in which a laboratory examination would normally take place. This may be due to the delicate nature of the item, the unusual circumstances present at the crime scene, or some other factor that warrants treating the item differently.
- 7.2.1 Field services examinations may be conducted in the laboratory with advance notice and preparation. If a circumstance arises that warrants



consideration of laboratory processing for field services, the Crime Scene Discipline Lead should be contacted.

7.3 At any crime scene, the CSI should proceed through six actions.

7.3.1 Assessing

- 7.3.1.1 Before any action is taken on the scene, the CSI should assess the circumstances in order to decide on a proper course of action. This assessment includes resource determination, risks, and task/procedure determination. This assessment, also known as a walk-through, should encompass time, conditions, life, property, personnel, and any pertinent information related to the incident. Assessment is an ongoing process as well. The CSI should continuously assess the situation and adjust the processing plan as necessary; this includes the consideration of the existence of multiple scenes. Remaining flexible is a critical aspect of responding to and dealing with the crime scene.
- 7.3.1.2 Measures shall be instituted to preserve and protect evidence that may be lost or compromised due to environmental conditions or the nature of the evidence item. Such measures may include prioritized collection or use of protective measures that also prevent contamination, tampering, alteration, or loss of evidence.
- 7.3.1.3 There may be the need for immediate documentation and collection of evidence prior to the full completion of the scene assessment to prevent contamination, alteration, or loss of evidence.
- 7.3.1.4 CSIs shall take steps to mitigate the effects of cognitive biases on their work. The CSI must consider various possible hypotheses about what happened and should endeavor to locate, document, collect, and preserve evidence relevant to all plausible hypotheses. When searching for relevant evidence, the CSI should consider both evidence that may support various hypotheses as well as evidence that might contradict those hypotheses. Both the presence and the absence of such items should be documented. Decisions made by CSIs depend on and require some contextual information and hypotheses formulation, which guide them in their search for evidence. It is critical that hypotheses are well-determined, as they can lead to identification and collection of important

evidence, or alternatively, lead to the exclusion and lack of collection of important evidence.

### 7.3.2 Observing

7.3.2.1 Looking at and mentally registering the condition of the scene and artifacts found in the scene is the most basic aspect of crime scene processing. During observations, the CSI moves around in the scene, which may alter the scene. In most cases, observation is not intrusive. However, when combined with search efforts, it may become an intrusive act. After proper documentation has been completed, more intrusive observations may be undertaken.

### 7.3.3 Documenting

7.3.3.1 Documentation includes written recordings of observations, photography of the scene, and the creation of sketches and/or diagrams. Documentation should be undertaken from the least intrusive to the most intrusive. In this way, documentation of observations should precede photography; photography should precede sketching and measuring; detailed photography and reconstruction documentation should be the last types of documentation completed. Documentation is the critical component; it is through documentation that CSIs can properly preserve the original condition and context of the scene, before any significant alteration. Documentation shall be ongoing as searching, collecting, and processing of the scene take place. Documentation shall include the steps taken during the processing of the scene. The documentation of a scene shall preserve the context of the evidence to ensure others can later understand not just what was collected, but also where, how, and in what condition it was found.

7.3.3.2 Items should be documented as to their condition as found (e.g. shirt inside out, shoes laced, etc.). The condition may be relevant and should not be altered until documentation is complete, and ideally, not altered at all.

### 7.3.4 Searching

7.3.4.1 The nature of any search and associated activity is intrusive, so it should not be undertaken until documentation is complete. During searches, items may be moved to be more thoroughly examined, which alters the

scene. Multiple searches, at varying levels of depth, may be conducted throughout the scene, as appropriate.

7.3.4.2 Crime scene searches should be methodical (i.e. ordered and systematic). The type of search to be conducted should be determined based on the nature of the terrain/area being searched, lighting conditions, environmental conditions, and the size of the item(s) being searched for (if applicable).

7.3.4.3 Circle/Spiral searches are common when searching interior scenes. Generally, the CSI starts at the perimeter of the room and works inward in a spiral pattern.

7.3.4.4 Strip/Line searches are often used when searching exterior scenes (e.g. parking lot, yard). The area is divided into parallel strips based on an area that can be examined by a single searcher. When a searcher has finished searching a strip of land, they would move one strip over, and repeat the process, until each strip had been searched. If multiple searchers are utilized, they may go through their strips side-by-side, until all strips are searched.

7.3.4.5 Grid searches are a variation of the strip/line search. Instead of only searching in one direction like in a strip/line search, the area is divided into two sets of strips that are perpendicular to one another. Once the searcher has moved through the strips in one direction, they begin a second search, using the strips that run perpendicular to the first strips.

7.3.4.5.1 When conducting grid searches, it may be helpful to assign letters and numbers to the rows and columns created, so that the location and/or orientation of evidence can be more quickly ascertained.

7.3.4.6 Zone searches are conducted by breaking an area into smaller sections. A zone search may be utilized in small areas (e.g. inside a vehicle) where the other types of searches could not be conducted. A vehicle may be broken down into driver's area, front passenger area, rear driver side area, rear passenger side area, cargo area, trunk, and engine compartment, or other similar areas, based on the vehicle design. A zone search may also be utilized to break a very large area into smaller sections that can be searched

by another method, such as when searching a residential street. The street may be broken down by lanes, and the residences on the street may be broken down by front yard, driveway, side yard, etc.

### 7.3.5 Collecting

- 7.3.5.1 Physical collection of items in the scene is always an intrusive process. Once an item has been moved, the context of the scene is changed forever. If an item is moved prior to the completion of documentation, significant notes should be made as to the item's original location/orientation and the reason for moving it. An item should not be returned to its original location/orientation to attempt to photograph it.
- 7.3.5.2 Ideally, an item should not be altered prior to collection (e.g. inside-out jeans should not be righted). Some items (e.g. firearms) may be altered prior to collection for specific reasons (e.g. safety). If an item's condition is inadvertently altered during collection, it should be noted.

### 7.3.6 Processing

- 7.3.6.1 The act of chemically or physically processing the scene is significantly intrusive, so it should almost always be one of the last actions undertaken.

- 7.4 The process of documentation and searching is cyclical. As additional items of evidence are discovered during searches, additional documentation is necessary. This process continues throughout the scene until the scene has been searched in its entirety.
- 7.5 If an action taken by a CSI deviates from the methodology outlined in this manual, the circumstances and justification shall be documented. Upon discovery of unintentional deviations, errors, omission, or nonconformance with this manual, the circumstances shall be documented. The documentation should be sufficient that another trained CSI can determine and understand what happened.
- 7.6 A staging area should be established outside the crime scene, but within an established secure area. Tools, equipment, and other materials should be kept in the staging area when not being utilized in processing.
- 7.7 The CSI shall establish a secure area on scene for the temporary storage of evidence following initial collection to preserve evidence integrity and chain of custody.
- 7.8 CSIs shall ensure that their tools, equipment, and other materials used in processing the scene do not interfere with any elements of the scene. Tools and equipment should not be included in photographs of the scene, unless they're

being used to assist with documentation (e.g. adhesive rulers, evidence markers, etc.). CSIs should ensure tools are clean to prevent contamination or cross contamination of items in the scene.

- 7.9 The CSI shall establish an area designated for trash, including biohazards, and used supplies. If it is not practical to place this within the staging area, an area shall be carefully chosen within a confined portion of the scene. If the area is established within a scene, the CSI shall ensure the designated area has been documented, searched, and deemed safe to assume that role.
- 7.10 Before releasing a scene, the response team should review their actions taken in the crime scene. Notes, sketches, photography, and evidence should be checked against one another to ensure that all information has been documented and all evidence has been collected.
- 7.11 Prior to leaving the scene, CSIs should check to ensure that all of their tools, equipment, and trash have been collected from the scene.

## 8.0 Observations and Notes

- 8.1 Documentation of observations in the scene requires significant effort. Overall observations are best documented via handwritten and/or electronic notes. The scene should be documented in such a way that it preserves the context of the evidence to ensure others can later understand not just what was collected, but also where, how, and in what condition it was found. Documentation is a continuous process.
- 8.2 Investigative notes are a staple of any crime scene investigation. Notes should begin with notification of the crime, identify involved personnel, note conditions and actions upon arrival, and provide a clear and detailed record of all observations and actions taken while in the scene. Descriptions of techniques employed, areas where the techniques were employed, who employed them, and the results of such techniques should all be included in the notes.
  - 8.2.1 It is important to note areas that are undisturbed or in which nothing significant was observed. The absence of activity or disturbance may be relevant.
  - 8.2.2 Some information present in a scene is transient. Observations of transient evidence (e.g. smells, rain washing away apparent blood, wet footprints that are drying, etc.) should be documented when observed to be certain that they are recorded before they are lost.
  - 8.2.3 When describing items, be careful to remain objective. For example, describe a chair as resting on its right side, not as being overturned, which would imply a particular action.
  - 8.2.4 CSIs should take steps to mitigate negative impacts of cognitive biases on their work. Some contextual information is necessary to help guide CSIs in their search for evidence; however, CSIs should remain as independent as possible from potentially biasing case information.
- 8.3 Description of vehicles, buildings, and other scenes
  - 8.3.1 Vehicle descriptions should include the year, color, make, model, license plate number, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). The vehicle's location and the condition of any seals shall be noted, including the time the seals were broken. The general condition of the vehicle and its contents shall be noted. Note if the license plate and/or VIN plate/sticker is missing.
  - 8.3.2 Building descriptions shall include the type of building, the number of stories, the direction it faces, the type of location, and the number and types of rooms contained therein. The general condition of the building and rooms of importance shall be noted. Specifically note any damage or

absence of damage that may be pertinent to point of entry or exit or to the crime itself.

- 8.3.3 Other types of scenes shall be described using cardinal directions referenced from a landmark or location or described generally, including GPS coordinates.

#### 8.4 Description of rooms of importance

- 8.4.1 Starting with the doorway to the room, moving around the room (either clockwise or counterclockwise), describe the furniture and items in the room, including structures. Note condition of lights (on, off), window shades (up, down, open, closed), appliances, etc.

- 8.4.2 The description of the furniture and structure of the room may be more easily accomplished by making a sketch. If a sketch is used, it should be supplemented by handwritten notes for observations not easily referenced in a sketch.

#### 8.5 Description of deceased person(s)

- 8.5.1 Until the Medicolegal Authority arrives, the body cannot be moved or altered in any way, as the Medicolegal Authority has jurisdiction over the body.

- 8.5.2 Describe the body's position in the scene, including the general direction of the head and feet. The way the head is turned, the position of an arm or leg, whether straight or bent, etc. should be noted.

- 8.5.3 Describe all clothing, visible jewelry, and accessories. Note their position and condition, if unusual and/or relevant.

- 8.5.4 Note the location of any visible injuries and note the presence of apparent blood or other fluids, if present.

- 8.5.5 Once the Medicolegal Authority is on scene, the CSI may ask for their assistance in additional examinations and/or documentation that would require moving the clothing and/or body.

- 8.5.5.1 If photographing using an ABFO scale, take care to keep it from touching the body.

- 8.5.5.2 If there is evidence on the clothing that could be destroyed during transport (e.g. bloodstain pattern, GSR, etc.), ask to remove the clothing. If removing any clothing, care should be taken to avoid cutting through any patterns and/or defects related to the cause of death.

- 8.5.5.3 If there is evidence on the body that could be lost during transport (e.g. hairs, fibers, broken fingernail), ask to collect that prior to moving the body.

- 8.5.5.4 Any evidence or items being removed from the body at the scene shall be carefully documented via notes and photography so that the doctor performing autopsy has



images to review, since they won't be able to examine the body in situ.

8.5.5.4.1 Any bindings or ligatures are not to be disturbed on the body. If they attach the body to the scene, they should be cut in an area away from the body so that the ends on the body are not altered. The number of cuts should be minimized and the cuts made during the investigation should be labeled.

8.5.5.5 If any decisions are made regarding evidence collection from the body, or removal of items from the body, note who specifically gave authorization for those actions.

8.5.5.6 Best practice is to place clean paper bags over the hands of all deceased persons to preserve evidence on the hands. Paper bags can be secured at the wrists by wrapping tape around the bag; it should be tight enough that the bag won't slide off the hands, but not so tight as to impart artifacts into the skin. If continued blood loss could saturate the paper bags, plastic bags may be loosely placed over the paper bags to keep them from becoming saturated.

8.5.6 The name and County of the Medicolegal Authority who took custody of the body should be noted. Indicate the time of removal, and by which mortuary/funeral home (if applicable). If the body bag is sealed, note the seal number; the seal may be photographed for additional documentation.

## 8.6 Description of items of evidence in the scene

8.6.1 When describing an item of interest, the following aspects of the item should be noted: quantity, size, color, material, item, identifying features, condition, and location (e.g. two small black plastic fragments, stained with apparent blood, on the floor east of the dresser; one black metal bar, bent in half, with apparent blood, tissue, and hair adhering to one end, on the floor southwest of the victim's head).

8.6.2 Describe the item of evidence sufficiently enough that it can be distinguished from other similar items of evidence. Use serial numbers or identifying numbers, brands, or labels, as applicable. Include evidence markers with descriptions. If the investigating agency assigns their own item number to an item of evidence, that number may be included so that the items can be easily correlated with that agency's reports.

8.6.2.1 In large scenes (e.g. schools, hospitals, commercial buildings), it may be helpful to assign groups of letters and/or numbers based on location. For example, numbers 1-99 may be used inside the waiting room, 100-199 may be used in the nurses' station, and 200-299 may be used in the



cafeteria. By utilizing this type of grouping, one can easily determine the area of recovery based on the item number. If all of the numbers of a particular grouping are not utilized, it should be noted.

8.6.2.2 If an agency has placed evidence markers in the scene prior to ISPFS's arrival, it may be beneficial to leave a gap between the sequence of numbers and/or letters used by that agency and those used by ISPFS. For example, if markers 1-12 were used by the agency, CSIs may want to start at marker 30 for any evidence they mark. By leaving this gap, it's easier to discern which markers were placed by whom.

8.6.2.3 Evidence placards/labels can be used in different ways in a scene. Generally, for evidence on horizontal surfaces (e.g. floors, tables, car seats, etc.), placards should be utilized. For evidence on vertical surfaces (e.g. bloodstains, bullet holes, etc.), adhesive evidence labels should be utilized.

8.6.2.4 Evidence placards/labels are available with numbers or letters. Generally, evidence numbers should be utilized for evidence that are to be collected and evidence letters should be utilized for evidence that is to be documented (e.g. footwear, tire tracks, bloodstain patterns, bullet holes) but cannot be picked up and collected.

8.6.3 Size may be important when documenting an item. While some items are only manufactured in one size, other items are made in a variety of sizes. Approximate sizes should be noted for items in which size may be significant (e.g. knives, tools, items used in blunt force injuries); approximate sizes are for descriptive purposes.

8.6.4 For some items (e.g. latent prints, bloodstains, bullet holes), accurate measurements should be taken using a measuring device that has been checked against a scale certified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Once a measuring device has been checked against a NIST-certified scale, a label should be affixed to that scale, or binder of adhesive scales, to indicate its status. When using a NIST-certified scale, it should be noted.

8.6.4.1 The Crime Scene Discipline lead, or designee, shall be responsible for checking measuring devices against NIST-certified scales, placing labels on those measuring devices, and replacing worn/damaged labels.

## 8.7 Results from testing and/or processing

- 8.7.1 Results from all tests conducted shall be noted, whether positive, negative, or inconclusive. The “Presumptive Blood Testing Notes” page may be utilized, if desired, when performing presumptive blood tests.
- 8.7.2 Results from all types of processing conducted shall be noted.
- 8.7.3 Evidence may be collected after testing and/or processing an area or item. The method of collection (e.g. swabs, comparison photograph, gel lift, etc.) shall be noted.
- 8.8 Additional notes may be made by annotating on a copy of a photograph from the scene and saving it as a PDF to include with the notes pages.
- 8.9 Collection of evidence from the scene
  - 8.9.1 All items that are collected by ISPFS personnel shall be noted. The “Evidence Collection Notes” page may be utilized, if desired.
  - 8.9.2 CSIs shall take appropriate steps to maintain evidence integrity by preventing contamination, tampering, alteration, or loss of evidence. Procedures and documents shall be utilized to account for the integrity and possession of evidence by tracking its handling and storage from the point it is collected until it is turned over to the investigating agency.
  - 8.9.3 Note whether or not the evidence was sealed by ISPFS personnel; evidence packaging may or may not be sealed prior to turning the evidence over to the investigating agency, based on that agency’s policy or how the evidence must be handled (e.g. drying bloody clothing).
  - 8.9.4 When items of evidence are turned over to the investigating agency, the date, time, and person receiving the evidence shall be noted.
  - 8.9.5 Document any damage that was done by ISPFS personnel in the collection and/or processing of evidence (e.g. cut out section of drywall to remove bullet fragment, staining of surfaces processed with amido black, etc.) and the agency personnel who authorized the activity.

## 9.0 Photography

- 9.1 Crime scene photography shall be in accordance with the ISPFS Quality Manual.
- 9.2 The intent of crime scene photography is to document the condition, orientation, and spatial relationships in the scene and to show details of specific items found in the scene to provide CSIs, investigators, and ultimately, the jury, with a visual representation of the elements and nature of the scene.
  - 9.2.1 Crime scene photographs should lead the viewer of the photographs through the scene, from an overall perspective up to the details of specific items of evidence.
- 9.3 Photographs taken for general crime scene documentation are considered part of the note taking process.
  - 9.3.1 All photographs taken at a crime scene shall be uploaded to Adams Web or equivalent digital imaging system in a folder named the same as the lab number associated with the response (e.g. M2018-9876).
    - 9.3.1.1 Due to the size of LizQ image captures, the images and resulting sphericals shall not be uploaded to Adams Web or equivalent digital imaging system. Captures and sphericals shall be saved to tandem external hard drives; one hard drive as the file save location, the second hard drive as the file backup location. Images shall be saved in a folder named the same as the lab number associated with the response (e.g. M2022-9876).
      - 9.3.1.1.1 The Discipline Lead or designee shall be responsible for archiving LizQ files.
    - 9.3.1.2 All images uploaded to Adams Web have a chain of custody maintained within the system. In the circumstance that an image is utilized for some other purpose (e.g. latent print comparison), the original image is kept in the system, unaltered, and a working copy is generated by the system. Any changes made to the working copy are documented in the system.
    - 9.3.1.3 If the storage capacity of Adams Web or the equivalent digital imaging system becomes such that storage of LizQ images and sphericals is supported, then that system should be utilized for storage and the process of saving to tandem external hard drives shall cease.
      - 9.3.1.3.1 When a folder is made on scene, prior to the assignment of a lab number, the folder should be labeled with the date, location of the scene, or

other distinguishing information and should be renamed once a lab number is assigned.

9.3.2 All photographs taken at a crime scene shall be provided to the investigating agency. Images may be saved to digital media (e.g. compact disc, removable drive, SD card), downloaded from the camera's memory card to the agency's digital imaging system, or other equivalent transfer.

9.3.2.1 If the images are transferred directly to the agency, the date, time, and name of person conducting/facilitating the transfer shall be noted.

9.3.2.2 If the images are saved to digital media to be provided to the agency at a later date, the date of transfer to digital media, as well as the intended method of delivery, should be made in the case notes.

9.3.2.3 After finalization of the case notes pages, any notes related to delivery and/or pick up of digital media should be made in the case correspondence area in ILIMS.

9.4 Photographs taken for comparison purposes, such as those taken of latent prints, footwear impressions, and tire impressions shall be treated as evidence as per the ISPFS Quality Manual.

9.4.1 Photos taken for comparisons shall be uploaded to Adams Web or equivalent digital imaging system as per 9.3.1.

9.4.2 If ISPFS has a discipline which may be conducting the comparisons (e.g. latent prints), then an item shall be created in the ILIMS case utilizing "digital media" as the item type.

9.4.3 The custody of the digital media item shall be transferred from the CSI to the Custody of "Evidence Storage – Meridian" and the Location shall be "FINAL DISPOSITION – FORAY".

9.4.4 A statement shall be added to the report indicating that photographs for potential comparisons were captured and that the agency should contact ISPFS if comparisons are needed.

9.5 ISPFS primarily utilizes digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras to capture digital images (i.e. photographs) at a crime scene or other related field services response.

9.5.1 The LizQ imaging system utilizes a DSLR camera mounted on a tripod to capture a series of images in order to create a near 360-degree spherical representation of the scene.

9.5.2 A designated tablet (if available) may be used to capture a digital image of an item/area for which the CSI wishes to make annotations on the digital image. Such annotations may be made in order to be more succinct and exact as to the actions taken regarding that item/area.

9.6 Digital images are numbered sequentially as they are captured. In the camera's Shooting/display menu, "File number sequence" shall be set to "ON"; this allows

the image file numbers to continue sequentially from 0001 to 9999 before recycling image numbers.

- 9.6.1 The file numbers of images captured for each scene shall be documented in the case notes and in ILIMS.
- 9.6.2 The LizQ system assigns both image numbers and spherical numbers; the numbers cannot be changed. Spherical numbers shall be documented in crime scene notes, which may include the LizQ Capture notes.
- 9.7 Digital images shall not be deleted. If an image is not as the photographer intended (e.g. flash didn't fire, image not focused, etc.), they shall retain the unintended image and shall take additional images as necessary to capture the subject.
  - 9.7.1 If there is any possibility of confusion between intended photographs and unintended photographs (e.g. unintended photograph of our vehicle's trunk while photographing a vehicle being processed), a notation should be made in the case notes or in Adams Web.
  - 9.7.2 If a LizQ capture is cancelled by the CSI or the CSI is concerned that there was an error in the capture process, the affected capture/series may be deleted. Any deleted captures shall be repeated.
- 9.8 Digital images can be stored in different file formats, which affect the quality of the images. File formats include JPEG, TIFF, and RAW. Image quality changes can be selected from the shooting menu of the camera.
  - 9.8.1 JPEG images are of sufficient quality for general crime scene documentation. An image quality of "JPEG fine" is preferred.
  - 9.8.2 RAW images are of ideal quality for comparison quality photographs.
  - 9.8.3 In order to concurrently capture both a documentation photograph and a comparison quality photograph of a subject, the "NEF (RAW) + JPEG fine" (Nikon camera) or similar option can be selected from the image quality menu.
- 9.9 Memory cards shall be utilized to store all images taken when using the camera, rather than saving images to the camera's internal storage.
  - 9.9.1 Memory cards shall be formatted prior to use. Simply deleting images from memory cards is not sufficient to completely erase all digital artifacts.
- 9.10 Prior to starting photography of a scene, the CSI shall check the camera's settings and adjust them as necessary, based on the scene lighting and the types of photograph(s) to be taken.
  - 9.10.1 A quick reference guide for camera settings is included in each camera case.
  - 9.10.2 The date automatically updates and should be current. The time does not adjust for daylight savings time. These settings may be checked prior to beginning photography to confirm correctness.
- 9.11 The camera should be turned off prior to adding or removing any auxiliary equipment.

- 9.12 Camera lenses can be adjusted to either manual focus or auto focus. The CSI should be cognizant of which area in the composed photograph is in focus; this can be monitored by the indicator(s) that illuminate(s) when looking through the viewfinder.
- 9.13 White balance should be set to “auto” unless the CSI has received specialized training in the proper use of alternate settings.
- 9.14 Depth of field is adjusted by changing the f-stop setting. The CSI should adjust the f-stop setting based on what elements of the scene should be in focus.
- 9.15 Taking photographs with the camera in Manual mode is the preferred setting so that all elements of the photograph capture can be adjusted.
- 9.15.1 CSIs may choose to select aperture-priority mode, shutter priority mode, and/or programmed auto mode as appropriate for the scene.
- 9.15.2 CSIs may choose to select Auto mode as appropriate for the scene or for their experience level.
- 9.16 The exposure necessary to accurately photograph the crime scene is dependent upon the lighting conditions present at the scene. The exposure can be controlled using the ISO, f-stop, and shutter speed settings within the camera and external lighting, utilizing either an electronic flash and/or other lighting methods.
- 9.16.1 The exposure should be adjusted so that the resulting photograph is neither over nor under exposed.
- 9.16.2 Intentionally over or under exposing an image may be necessary to capture details of the scene, but shall not be the regular photographic practice.
- 9.16.3 Electronic flash and/or other lighting methods should be placed in a way that eliminates bright, over exposed areas in the photograph.
- 9.17 ISO is a numerical rating that indicates the sensitivity of a sensor. Increasing the ISO setting increases the amount of light captured by the sensor.
- 9.17.1 At a very high ISO setting, there is the possibility of digital noise in the image.
- 9.18 F-stop is a numerical designation that indicates the size of the aperture (i.e. lens opening). Because the f-stop is a fraction, f/2 is a larger lens opening than f/22.
- 9.18.1 While the f-stop affects the amount of light hitting the sensor based on the size of the aperture, it also affects depth of field.
- 9.18.2 A setting of f/2 would allow for the greatest amount of light through a wide-open aperture, but would have the shortest depth of field. A setting of f/22 would allow for a small amount of light through a small opening in the aperture, but would have a much greater depth of field.
- 9.19 Shutter speed is the amount of time that the lens is open, exposing the sensor to light. Shutter speed is measured in fractions of seconds (e.g. 1/250) or in whole seconds (e.g. 2”).



- 9.19.1 If the shutter is open longer than a certain amount of time (e.g. 30 seconds), the shutter speed setting should read “bulb”, which indicates that the shutter should be open for as long as the shutter release button is pressed.
- 9.19.2 At a very long shutter speed setting, there is the possibility of digital noise in the image.
- 9.19.3 When taking a very long exposure, the best practice is to use a shutter-release cable to eliminate potential movement of the camera that would occur by pressing the shutter release button on the camera body.
- 9.20 Electronic flashes may be utilized to provide a brief flash of light.
- 9.20.1 Electronic flash settings can be set to manual, automatic, or by through-the-lens (TTL) metering; flashes shall be set to TTL metering unless the CSI has received specialized training in other settings.
- 9.20.2 Electronic flashes can be operated manually or by synchronizing them with the camera.
- 9.20.2.1 A flash may be operated by manually pressing the test fire button on the flash body. This should be utilized when the shutter is open for an extended period of time (multiple flash technique).
- 9.20.2.2 A flash may be synchronized with the camera unit by connecting the flash unit into the hot shoe clip on the camera for a fixed location flash. It may also be synchronized by utilizing an off-shoe cord, which attaches to the hot shoe clip on the camera and the corresponding clip on the flash unit, allowing the flash to be hand-held and moved around.
- 9.20.3 Electronic flashes can be positioned so that the light emitted hits against a wall or ceiling, creating a bounce light effect.
- 9.20.4 Electronic flashes have a diffuser that can be pulled over the flash unit so that the light is scattered, reducing the potential for hot spots. When not in use, the diffuser can be retracted into the flash body.
- 9.21 Additional sources of light, such as flashlights, may be utilized to illuminate an area in order to get a properly exposed photograph.
- 9.21.1 With the shutter release open, the CSI can use a flashlight to direct light over an area or object that has less light than the other areas of the scene (i.e. paint by light technique).
- 9.22 When hand-holding the camera, the shutter speed should not be set to slower than 1/60 of a second.
- 9.22.1 If the shutter speed is set to slower than 1/60 of a second, the camera should be mounted on a tripod.

- 9.22.2 A shutter-release cable should be utilized to eliminate potential movement of the camera that would occur by pressing the shutter release button on the camera body.
- 9.23 A header card should be filled out with case information (e.g. date, location, agency, case number, etc.) and should be photographed as the first photograph in the series from a crime scene.
- 9.23.1 If multiple scenes and/or vehicles are to be photographed subsequent to one another, the photographer may use a new header card between each separate scene/vehicle, if desired.
- 9.24 Photographs shall be taken in a systematic method. The photographs shall include three types of photographs: Orientation, Relationship, and Identification.
- 9.24.1 The photographer should take photographs systematically, such as moving clockwise or counter-clockwise around a room, so that there is a logical flow in the photographic sequence.
- 9.24.2 The purpose of overall photographs is to depict the general condition and layout of the scene. These photographs capture how the scene is oriented, where major landmarks (e.g. doors, furniture, etc.) are located, and the condition of the scene prior to any significant alteration.
- 9.24.2.1 Overall photographs are generally taken with a wide-angle lens to capture a wider field of view in a single photo.
- 9.24.2.2 The camera should be positioned to take photographs in a landscape orientation for the majority of overall photographs; the camera may be turned to a portrait orientation as is necessary, based on the scene.
- 9.24.2.3 Overall photographs are taken so that they overlap one another, creating a panoramic view of the area.
- 9.24.2.4 The most common way to take overall photographs is the corner method. The photographer goes to one corner of the room and takes several photographs as they rotate. They then proceed to each corner and repeat the process until the room has been completely photographed.
- 9.24.2.5 The side method is when the photographer positions themselves at the approximate middle of the wall and shoots a similar series of photographs as described in the corner method.
- 9.24.2.6 The smaller the room, the more significant the difference will be in choosing between methods; the corner method actually shows more square feet per photograph than the side method.
- 9.24.2.7 Overall photographs should be taken at least twice. The first occurs prior to the introduction of any scales, evidence



markers, etc. The next occurs after evidence markers and/or scales have been placed and may be repeated as additional evidence markers are placed. By doing two different sets of photographs, the photographer shows the scene as it was found, unaltered, and also shows that the addition of evidence markers isn't obscuring anything.

9.24.2.8 If, during processing of the scene, areas are significantly altered (e.g. application of blood reactive chemicals) or damaged (e.g. cutting out a section of drywall), photographs of the altered/damaged areas should be taken prior to leaving the scene.

9.24.3 The purpose of relationship photographs is to frame the evidence item in conjunction with some obvious landmark evident in the overall photographs.

9.24.3.1 When dealing with a number of similar items (e.g. cartridge cases), the addition of evidence markers allows the viewer to discern one item of evidence from another. By photographing each of those items in relation to a landmark within the scene, the viewer can then determine the location of each of those items of evidence within the scene.

9.24.4 The purpose of identification photographs is to distinguish an item of importance within the scene, often something to be collected as evidence.

9.24.4.1 The CSI should fill the frame with the item of interest.

9.24.4.2 If the evidence marker doesn't have an incorporated scale, or evidence markers aren't used, there are numerous times in which the addition of a scale in the photograph would be prudent. If a scale is to be used, the item should first be photographed without the scale, then with the scale.

9.24.4.3 At least one of the photographs should show the marker, if utilized, or other identifying information in order to distinguish the item from other similar items.

9.24.4.4 If an item of evidence is going to be photographed once it has been moved from its original location, it should be set on a clean surface (e.g. butcher paper, plain evidence sack, plain envelope, etc.) to avoid contamination or cross-contamination.

9.24.5 The photographer should be cognizant of potential contamination of scene photographs. Other personnel, CSI tools and/or materials, response vehicles, and other items that are not material to the scene should not be contained in the photographs. If a person or item is inadvertently

photographed, the image should be captured again with the person or item out of the frame.

- 9.24.5.1 Mirrors and other reflective surfaces (e.g. framed art, windows) can present problems when photographing a scene. If the photographer cannot position themselves in such a way as to prevent their reflection from being captured, a tripod should be utilized to capture the image.

9.25 Comparison quality photographs are most often taken as a way to capture evidence that may not be collected, or whose collection may not fully document the details of the evidence; they are often taken of impression evidence, such as latent prints, footwear impressions, tire impressions, and tool mark impressions.

9.25.1 Comparison quality photographs should be taken in a lossless format; TIFF is the minimum quality, RAW is preferred.

9.25.2 The camera used for comparison quality photographs should have interchangeable lenses, the following features and utilize the following tools:

- 9.25.2.1 a minimum of a 12-megapixel sensor;
- 9.25.2.2 Manual focus capability;
- 9.25.2.3 Off camera flash capability;
- 9.25.2.4 A fixed normal focal length lens (50mm equivalent) or a zoom lens appropriately set to the normal focal length;
- 9.25.2.5 built-in timer, shutter release cable cord, or other remote control;
- 9.25.2.6 flash or other evenly distributed white light source. Flashlight illumination is not recommended;
- 9.25.2.7 tripod/quadrupod capable of various angles and positions;
- 9.25.2.8 angle finder;
- 9.25.2.9 object to indicate direction of light/flash (golf ball marker or similar);
- 9.25.2.10 compass;
- 9.25.2.11 objects/material (e.g., dark cloth or umbrella) to block sun or bright ambient light;
- 9.25.2.12 level;
- 9.25.2.13 evidence markers bearing numbers or letters;
- 9.25.2.14 labels to indicate evidence marker number, case number, and an arrow pointing north, etc.

9.25.3 When capturing a comparison quality photograph, the camera should be mounted on a tripod or quadrupod, with the lens at a 90 degree angle to the plane of the evidence, using a remote shutter release, utilizing a scale at the same depth as the impression, and at the greatest depth of field possible.

- 9.25.3.1 A scale that has been checked against a NIST certified ruler should be used for comparison quality photographs.
- 9.25.4 When photographing footwear and tire impressions, the following procedures should be followed, as appropriate, based on the impression:
- 9.25.4.1 capture overall photographs from at least four different angles around the perimeter of the scene;
  - 9.25.4.2 the tripod should be positioned higher than necessary and the lens adjusted in order to fill the frame with the impression. If the tripod is low, the lens adjustment is wider than necessary, which creates distortion in the image;
  - 9.25.4.3 place an evidence marker next to the impression(s);
  - 9.25.4.4 fill the camera frame with the impression, scale, and evidence marker; set the camera f-stop to an appropriate setting to ensure sufficient depth of field to capture the entire impression in focus;
  - 9.25.4.5 focus on the mid-plane of the impression;
  - 9.25.4.6 capture at least one image with ambient light;
  - 9.25.4.7 use an object/material to block bright sun or ambient light from striking the impression;
  - 9.25.4.8 photograph the impression with the light source held at an angle. The use of angled light is intended to produce shadowing to create contrast in the impression. A deeper impression will require a higher angle of light than a shallower impression;
  - 9.25.4.9 the light source should be held approximately 3-5 feet away and directed at the impression;
  - 9.25.4.10 capture images with the light source being held at the appropriate angle from at least three different positions around the impression (i.e. toe to heel, side to side, and diagonally across the impression);
  - 9.25.4.11 rigid tape measure (of sufficient length to cover the length of the tire impression) with mm and/or 1/8-inch gradations; the tape measure should be utilized to indicate the section being photographed. Once placed down this tape measure should not be moved until the entire series of images are captured;
  - 9.25.4.12 thin rigid "L-shaped" scale for footwear and straight flat scale for tire impressions.

9.25.5 When photographing dental evidence, the following parameters should be considered:

- 9.25.5.1 The light should be bright enough to allow for a small aperture to be used for the greatest depth of field.
  - 9.25.5.2 A flash is preferred because it provides a more powerful illumination than a continuous light source; a diffuser should be used to avoid hot spots or dark areas.
  - 9.25.5.3 A flash should be used for a living subject, while either a flash or a continuous light source may be used for a deceased subject.
  - 9.25.5.4 Oblique light is preferred to flat lighting to show the depth of the dental evidence.
  - 9.25.5.5 White balance should be set to automatic. For those CSIs who are comfortable adjusting white balance, the setting should be set to the color temperature as the light source being used.
  - 9.25.5.6 A gray card or scale with 18% gray should be used to allow for accurate color balance in post-processing.
  - 9.25.5.7 An ABFO scale is preferred over other styles of scales. The scale should be in the same plane as the dental evidence. If the scale cannot be placed on the same plane, it shouldn't be used. If the dental evidence is on a curved surface, a minimum of three images should be taken to capture the area of interest in focus.
  - 9.25.5.8 The camera should either be in manual mode or aperture priority mode. The camera's lowest native ISO setting (typically ISO 100) should be used. The aperture should be set to no less than f/8.
  - 9.25.5.9 A normal focal length macro lens should be used.
  - 9.25.5.10 The composition should be such that the dental evidence and scale should be "square" to the camera's viewfinder; one side of the ABFO scale should be parallel to the top or bottom of the viewfinder and the other should be parallel to the side of the viewfinder. "Squaring" the composition will prevent distortion; post-processing straightening will negatively alter the image.
- 9.26 Indoor scenes may contain numerous rooms or areas. A CSI should photograph the entire scene for overall location and condition, but may not need to take relationship and identification photographs if there are no relevant items in a room/area.
- 9.27 The location of a scene shall be documented by a street address, a business sign, or other equally identifiable marking.

- 9.27.1 House numbers are often located on the front face of the house, on the mailbox, or on the curb.
- 9.27.2 Business numbers are often located on the front face of the building, on the mailbox, or on the curb. Businesses often have a sign identifying the location as a business. Business signs are often located on the front door, front window, or on a stand-alone sign in an area adjacent to the business.
- 9.27.3 If the scene is a location in a multi-unit dwelling (e.g. apartment complex), and there is a map of the complex posted on the premises, a photograph of the map should be taken.
- 9.28 The location of outdoor scenes may be difficult to document photographically, as they don't necessarily have identifying markings readily visible.
- 9.28.1 When available, use landmarks such as street signs, power line towers, or other items as a point of reference to document the location, as well as to be an anchor point for photography.
- 9.28.2 If identifying markings are a distance from the area of interest, the photographer should consider taking a series of photographs that show the path from the identifying marker to the area of interest (e.g. series from mile marker on the roadway to the body under a tree, which isn't visible from the roadway).
- 9.29 When photographing a living person, identification and condition photographs should be taken.
- 9.29.1 When documenting a living person, the background should be considered. The background should be neutral and should not be prejudicial to the subject being photographed.
- 9.29.2 To document the identification of a person, a minimum of five photographs should be taken: front of person (head-to-toe), left side of person (head-to-toe), back of person (head-to-toe), right side of person (head-to-toe), and a close up of the person's face. If the person is wearing any clothing or accessories (e.g. hat, sunglasses), they should be first photographed with those items in place, and then photographed again without those items obscuring their features.
- 9.29.3 When the condition of a person's clothing or body is important to document, relationship and identification photographs should be taken.
- 9.29.3.1 If there is a defect in the clothing or an injury to the person, the area should be photographed both without and with a scale for reference.
- 9.29.4 When relevant, identifying characteristics (e.g. tattoos, piercings, unique skin markings) should be photographed both for relationship and identification.
- 9.29.4.1 If the size of an area of interest is relevant and a scale is to be used, photograph first without a scale and then with a

scale. An ABFO no.2 or other L-shaped scale should be used. If the area is a contoured surface, reposition the scale as necessary to ensure the entire area is in focus; maximizing depth of field should be a consideration. The scale should be placed at the edge of the photograph, along the long edge whenever possible.

9.29.4.2 Use an off-camera flash at an oblique angle to avoid lighting with harsh shadows.

9.29.4.3 If a tattoo is obscured by darker skin tones, mummification, decomposition, or other factors, consider using a polarized filter or a forensic light source, which may affect how the tattoo appears.

9.29.4.3.1 A polarized filter may eliminate glare and increase the saturation and contrast in an image. While looking through the lens or using live view, rotate the filter on the lens to observe the change in polarization until the desired result is achieved.

9.29.4.3.2 An alternate light source (ALS) may be used to visualize a tattoo; the ALS should be used as per Section 29.2 of this manual.

9.29.5 If the circumstances indicate that there was contact between individuals, the areas of contact may be photographed. If hands were involved, both the fronts and backs of the hands should be photographed. If any sensitive areas (e.g. genitals) are to be photographed, the subject's dignity should be a primary consideration.

9.29.6 Depending on the nature of any injury, it may be necessary to photograph it as found and then photograph again after it has been cleaned; each set of photographs should be taken both without and with a scale for reference.

9.30 When photographing a deceased person, relationship, identification, and condition photographs should be taken.

9.30.1 Photographs of the decedent should include, as available, an overall photo of the body, from head to toe. Photographs should be taken of clothing, jewelry, and injuries as the body is found. If additional areas of interest are discovered as the Medicolegal Investigator does a cursory examination of the body, those areas should be photographed as well.

9.30.1.1 When relevant, identifying characteristics (e.g. tattoos, piercings, unique skin markings) should be photographed both for relationship and identification.



- 9.30.2 When the body is moved to facilitate removal from the scene, any areas of the body that were previously obscured by the decedent's position should be photographed. The area under the body should be photographed as well.
- 9.31 When photographing a vehicle, identification and condition photographs should be taken.
- 9.31.1 To document the exterior of a vehicle, a minimum of four photographs should be taken of the body of the vehicle: front, left side, back, and right side; ideally, four additional photographs, taken from each corner of the vehicle, each showing one end and one side, should also be taken.
- 9.31.2 The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), located on metal plate on the driver's side dashboard and on a sticker on the driver's door edge, should be photographed from at least one location, if present.
- 9.31.2.1 The VIN may also be present on vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, or other vehicle-related documentation; care should be taken that the documentation is relevant to the involved vehicle, since documentation can be easily moved from one location to another.
- 9.31.3 The front and rear license plates should be photographed if present.
- 9.31.4 The overall condition of the interior of the vehicle shall be photographed as general documentation.
- 9.31.5 The condition of the exterior of the vehicle shall be captured in the overall documentation photography; if areas of damage exist that are relevant to the investigation, the investigating officer should direct the photographer as to the photography necessary.
- 9.31.6 Relationship and identification photographs should be taken of any evidence collected by CSIs, utilizing a scale where relevant.
- 9.32 Filters may be used to allow the photographer to capture information that would not be captured otherwise.
- 9.32.1 An ultraviolet (UV) filter should be kept on the primary camera lens (e.g. 18-200mm, 18-105mm) at all times unless its use conflicts with the use of another filter or a photographic process.
- 9.32.2 When photographing a pool of water, a reflection of light on the surface is captured; a polarizing filter may be utilized in order to visualize below the surface, into the pool of water.
- 9.32.3 When utilizing an alternate light source (ALS), a colored filter that corresponds to the color of viewing goggle(s) utilized with the ALS shall be installed on the lens in order to visualize the area reacting to the ALS.
- 9.33 In crime scene investigations, witness vantage points may be important.
- 9.33.1 Overall photographs should be taken of the area from which a witness is reported to have seen something.

- 9.33.2 The camera lens should be set to approximately 34mm in order to photograph the approximate equivalent to what a human eye sees.
- 9.33.3 Photographs should be taken from the witness location, documenting their point of view.
- 9.34 The LizQ imaging system captures a series of digital images that can be utilized to construct a near 360-degree spherical representation of the crime scene. The sphericals may be combined to create a virtual crime scene, which may include audio files, video files, and other files relevant to the scene.
- 9.34.1 The LizQ system utilizes a DSLR camera, a gyroscope, a tripod, and a remote control to capture a series of digital images.
- 9.34.2 Specialized software can be used to create sphericals, combine sphericals, and determine locations and/or dimensions of items.
- 9.34.3 Return to Scene software can create a full virtual crime scene that allows the viewer to navigate through the crime scene as if walking through it, zoom in to see items in greater detail, and follow links to access related video, audio, and document files.



## 10.0 Diagrams/Sketches

10.1 A diagram or sketch of the crime scene serves as a graphic document to show the layout, orientation, and interrelationships of the scene and the evidence. It depicts pertinent portions of the scene and supports the photographs and notes taken at the scene.

10.1.1 The term “sketch” often refers to a hand-drawn depiction that is created on scene. The term “diagram” often refers to a formally drawn or computer-created depiction of the scene that is created at a later date. The terms may be used interchangeably.

10.2 A diagram/sketch should include five basic elements: heading, diagram area, legend, title block, and scale and direction notations.

10.2.1 A heading indicates why the sketch was created. A heading may be as simple as the title of the room depicted (e.g. Primary Bedroom), or may note a particular type of evidence (e.g. Firearms Evidence, Blood Stains, etc.).

10.2.2 The diagram area is the drawing itself. The diagram/sketch should depict the scene and primary evidence. Items of furniture, structural elements (e.g. doors, windows, closets, etc.), and items of evidence should be included.

10.2.2.1 Measurements should be included in the diagram/sketch. Measurements may be included in the diagram area or they may be listed in another area of the diagram/sketch, such as in a table. The type of measurement notation shall be determined based on the number of items in the diagram/sketch and the creator’s preference. If noting measurements in the diagram area would make the diagram/sketch difficult to read, a table or other similar notation should be used.

10.2.2.1.1 Measurements should be made using a tape measure and/or laser handheld distance measuring devices.

10.2.2.1.1.1 The handling procedures for measuring devices can significantly affect the resulting value (e.g. sag in measuring tape, not perpendicular, laser device position).

10.2.2.1.1.2 Measuring tapes should be held taut when measuring distances.

- 10.2.2.1.1.3 Measuring tapes should be checked to ensure they're perpendicular or parallel to the surfaces being measured, and not at an odd angle.
    - 10.2.2.1.1.4 Laser measuring devices should be checked to see from which portion of the device (e.g. front, rear) the measurement is being taken.
  - 10.2.2.2 All measurements are approximate and are used for descriptive purposes and to note an item's approximate location within a scene.
    - 10.2.2.2.1 Measurements may be rounded down to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or nearest mm, depending on the type of measurement being taken.
  - 10.2.2.3 For excessively cluttered scenes, a representation of non-pertinent items may be made (e.g. pile of clothes) without drawing each individual item.
  - 10.2.2.4 Footwear and Tire impressions may be included in the sketch to show the paths and movements of persons leaving the impressions.
  - 10.2.2.5 Colored pens/pencils may be used in sketches/diagrams to more accurately represent the details of the scene.
- 10.2.3 A legend indicates what the various labels used in the diagram/sketch depict. Letters, numbers, symbols, colors, etc. may be used as labels.
  - 10.2.3.1 If using evidence markers with letters or numbers in the scene, those letters or numbers should be used in the diagram.
  - 10.2.3.2 A letter or number should not be used in the diagram/sketch that is for a different item than the same evidence markers was used for in the scene.
- 10.2.4 The title block provides information relevant to the location of scene and the creator of the diagram/sketch. The title block should include the lab number, agency case number, the physical address of the scene, the name of the person who created it, and the date it was drawn.
- 10.2.5 A direction notation should indicate, at a minimum, the direction of North in relation to the scene. If a scale of reference is used, usually in a final diagram, the scale reference should be indicated. Whether a scale reference is used or not, a notation of "not to scale" should be included.
- 10.2.6 When creating a final diagram, it is preferable to make one version that includes the "shell" of the scene, representing the structure and furniture, and a second version that includes all of the pertinent evidence.

- 10.2.6.1 The first version may be utilized in court testimony without concern for biasing the jury, while the second one is useful for the CSI and/or other involved parties to reference when discussing the details of the case.
- 10.3 The standard crime scene sketch is a bird's-eye view of the scene. In some instances, additional viewpoints may be necessary to fully document the scene.
- 10.3.1 A cross-projection or exploded diagram/sketch combines the bird's-eye view of the horizontal surfaces of a room, while at the same time "laying down" a wall or walls to depict evidence present on the vertical surfaces. This type of diagram/sketch is often effective when dealing with walls that have bullet holes or blood stains on them and shows the interrelationships of the evidence on the horizontal and vertical surfaces.
- 10.3.2 An elevation diagram/sketch depicts a side view of a portion of the scene, typically an interior wall or similar vertical structure. This type of diagram/sketch may be utilized when dealing with vertical surfaces that have bullet holes or blood stains on them. It may also be used when a particular vertical surface is the area of focus.
- 10.4 In order to create an accurate scene diagram/sketch, supporting documentation that defines the approximate size of the scene and the location of items within the scene should be taken. By taking these measurements, each element's location may be fixed within the scene.
- 10.4.1 The type of scene (e.g. outdoor, indoor, no landmarks) may determine which measuring methodology would be most effective.
- 10.4.2 Relevant furniture should be documented by measuring its length, width, and height, in addition to its location in the scene.
- 10.5 The rectangular coordinates (i.e. rectangulation) method is best suited for scenes with clear and specific boundaries (e.g. interior walls).
- 10.5.1 Generally, items are measured against two walls; north/south and east/west, depending on the area.
- 10.5.2 Measurements may be taken from center mass, unless the specific position of an item is relevant; in that case, measurements are taken from different locations on the same item (e.g. end of barrel and butt of handgun).
- 10.6 The triangulation method utilizes measurements from two distinct landmarks in the area to two distinct points on the item. Each pair of measurements create a triangle.
- 10.6.1 Typical landmarks used in triangulation are base corners of walls and doors. In complex scenes, a reference point (RP) may be established and its location documented; the RP may then be used to measure against within the scene. Multiple RP's may be established, depending on the scene circumstances. The location of RP's should be noted in the diagram.

10.6.2 Measurements may be taken from center mass, unless the specific position of an item is relevant; in that case, measurements should be taken from different locations on the same item (e.g. end of barrel and butt of handgun).

10.7 The baseline method is best suited for exterior scenes without evidence landmarks, although it can be used indoors.

10.7.1 Baseline begins by determining a reference point (RP) from which the baseline extends; it is then extended along a cardinal direction (i.e. north, south, east, west) as far as necessary. This is frequently accomplished by extending an actual tape measure. The location of RP's should be noted in the diagram.

10.7.2 Once the baseline is established, each item can be measured to its location along the baseline (i.e. distance from the RP), and then is measured at a right angle to the baseline. For example, if the baseline is extended north in a scene, an item would be measured by the distance north of the RP, and then the distance, either east or west, off the baseline.

10.7.3 Measurements may be taken from center mass, unless the specific position of an item is relevant; in that case, measurements are taken from different locations on the same item (e.g. end of barrel and butt of handgun).

## 11.0 Presumptive Blood Tests

### 11.1 Background/References

11.1.1 Most screening tests for blood depend on the catalytic action of the heme group. To minimize false positives, the test is frequently performed as a multi-step test. A good overview is found in the first reference.

#### 11.1.2 References

- 11.1.2.1 Gaensslen, R. Sourcebook in Forensics Serology, Immunology, and Biochemistry. (1983) U.S. Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C., p. 101-105.
- 11.1.2.2 Burdett, PE (October 1976) "Presumptive Tests for Blood – A Comparative Survey", CRE Report, No. 201.
- 11.1.2.3 Culliford, BJ and Nicholl, LC (1964) "The Benzidine Test: A Critical Review", Journal of Forensic Sciences, 9:175-191.
- 11.1.2.4 Higaki, R.S. and Philip, W.M.S. A Study of the Sensitivity, Stability and Specificity of Phenolphthalein as an Indicator Test for Blood, (1976) Canadian Journal of Forensic Science, Vol 9, No. 3, p. 97-102.

### 11.2 Scope

11.2.1 To provide a method for the localization and presumptive identification of bloodstains.

### 11.3 Equipment/Reagents

Cotton swabs or filter paper  
Balance (calibrated annually by an outside vendor)  
Phenolphthalein Working Solution/Pre-prepared Phenolphthalein Test Kit  
3% Hydrogen Peroxide  
Sterile/Nanopure, de-ionized, or distilled H<sub>2</sub>O  
0.3% Ortho-Tolidine Stock

### 11.4 PHENOLPHTHALEIN

#### 11.4.1 Preparation of reagents

(the following may be made in different amounts using appropriate ratios)

Phenolphthalein	2.0g
KOH	20.0g
Zinc (granular)	20.0g

Phenolphthalein, KOH, and 100mℓ of dH<sub>2</sub>O are refluxed, in a fume hood, with Zinc until solution is colorless (producing phenolphthalein in ~4 hours).

Store stock solution refrigerated in dark bottle to which ~5g mossy zinc has

been added to keep the solution in its reduced form. Remove for working solution as needed.

Working solution: Mix 2mℓ stock solution with 8mℓ Ethanol

#### 11.4.2 Phenolphthalein Safety

- 11.4.2.1 Zinc is flammable. When using lab-prepared Phenolphthalein, the unreacted portions and used filter paper are to be disposed of properly.
- 11.4.2.2 Chemicals/Reagents shall be labeled using NFPA labels in accordance with the Health and Safety Manual.

#### 11.4.3 Phenolphthalein Procedure

- 11.4.3.1 Positive (known bloodstain) and negative control samples are processed, prior to testing any forensic samples to ensure the working solution and/or kit reagents are functioning properly. The positive control test will be considered viable for 24 hours from the time of testing. If a swab is moistened with H<sub>2</sub>O to collect the positive control sample, then H<sub>2</sub>O shall be added to the swab for the negative control sample.
- 11.4.3.2 Cotton swabs or a folded piece of filter paper are used to collect the suspected blood onto the tip. A swab may be moistened with H<sub>2</sub>O if necessary.
- 11.4.3.3 If using a Pre-prepared Phenolphthalein Test Kit, follow the procedure provided by the manufacturer. If using lab-prepared Phenolphthalein, follow steps 10.4.3.4 and 10.4.3.5. The kit lot# shall be recorded in the notes, either on the Presumptive Blood notes page or in the narrative notes. If multiple notes pages are used, the lot# and control information does not have to be filled out for subsequent pages unless new controls are done.
- 11.4.3.4 Once a stain is sampled, add 1-2 drops of phenolphthalein working solution to the swab or filter paper. Wait 10-15 seconds to detect potential false positives.
- 11.4.3.5 Add 1-2 drops of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and note appearance or absence of bright pink color. Color reaction should occur rapidly (≤ 1 minute).
- 11.4.3.6 Document result in case notes. Record positive (+), as indicated by the development of the above color change, or negative (-) as indicated by the absence of the color change.

The CSI may use other descriptive word(s) as well (e.g. strong, weak, slow, etc.).

#### 11.4.4 Phenolphthalein comments

- 11.4.4.1 Only those CSIs who have been trained and competency/proficiency tested to use Phenolphthalein may use it.
- 11.4.4.2 Direct testing of a small cutting/sample may also be performed.
- 11.4.4.3 Color changes occurring prior to the addition of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are generally considered inconclusive.
- 11.4.4.4 Color changes occurring after 1 min. are generally considered negative.
- 11.4.4.5 The manufacturer of a testing kit may include an "Expiration Date" on the kit; the kit may continue to be used as long as both positive and negative controls show that the chemicals are functioning properly.
- 11.4.4.6 The Presumptive Blood Testing Notes page may be used to assist in note-taking related to tests performed.

#### 11.5 ORTHO-TOLIDINE (O-TOLIDINE)

##### 11.5.1 Preparation of O-Tolidine reagents

(the following may be made in different amounts using appropriate ratios)

O-Tolidine	0.6g
Glacial Acetic Acid	100mℓ
Ethanol	100mℓ

Dissolve O-Tolidine in Acetic Acid/Ethanol mixture consistent with ratios above. O-Tolidine is light sensitive and should be stored in a dark reagent bottle and kept refrigerated when not in use.

##### 11.5.2 O-Tolidine safety

- 11.5.2.1 O-tolidine is designated as a potential carcinogen and should be used with caution.
- 11.5.2.2 Chemicals/Reagents shall be labeled using NFPA labels in accordance with the Health and Safety Manual.

##### 11.5.3 O-Tolidine Procedure

- 11.5.3.1 Positive (known bloodstain) and negative control samples are processed, prior to testing any forensic samples to ensure the working stock reagents are functioning properly. The positive control test will be considered viable for 24 hours from the time of testing. If a swab is moistened



with H<sub>2</sub>O to collect the positive control sample, then H<sub>2</sub>O shall be added to the swab for the negative control sample.

- 11.5.3.2 The lot# shall be recorded in the notes, either on the Presumptive Blood notes page or in the narrative notes. If multiple notes pages are used, the lot# and control information does not have to be filled out for subsequent pages unless new controls are done.
- 11.5.3.3 Cotton swabs or a folded piece of filter paper are used to collect the suspected blood onto the tip. A swab may be moistened with H<sub>2</sub>O if necessary.
- 11.5.3.4 Once a stain is sampled, add 1-2 drops of o-tolidine working solution to the swab or filter paper. Wait 10-15 seconds to detect potential false positives.
- 11.5.3.5 Add 1-2 drops of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and note appearance or absence of blue-green color. Color reaction should occur rapidly ( $\leq$  1 minute).
- 11.5.3.6 Document result in case notes. Record positive (+) as indicated by the development of the above color change, or negative (-) as indicated by the absence of the color change. The CSI may use other descriptive word(s) as well (e.g. strong, weak, slow, etc.).

#### 11.5.4 O-Tolidine comments

- 11.5.4.1 Only those CSIs who have been trained and competency/proficiency tested to use O-Tolidine may use it.
- 11.5.4.2 Direct testing of a small cutting/sample may also be performed.
- 11.5.4.3 Color changes occurring prior to the addition of 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are generally considered inconclusive.
- 11.5.4.4 Color changes occurring after 1 min. are generally considered negative.
- 11.5.4.5 The Presumptive Blood Testing Notes page may be used to assist in note-taking related to tests performed.

#### 11.6 Results/Conclusion statements

- 11.6.1 There are numerous ways to report the results of presumptive blood testing. Reporting format may vary based on the number of items/surfaces tested or the number of results. The following are suggested wording examples and can be modified as necessary, depending on circumstances. (Blanks and items in parentheses indicate a choice or description should be entered).

#### General Statements:



Results from presumptive chemical tests for the presence of blood were negative.

Results from presumptive chemical tests for the presence of blood were positive, indicating the presence of blood.

Results from presumptive chemical tests for the presence of blood were inconclusive.

**Statements that group by location:**

I performed a presumptive test(s) for the presence of blood on (number) items from (locations). Positive results, indicating the presence of blood, were obtained on (number) stains from (locations). Negative results were obtained on the other items tested. Swabs were collected from (locations).

Results from presumptive chemicals tests for the presence of blood were (negative/inconclusive) for (locations).

**Statements that group by evidence marker numbers:**

I performed a presumptive test(s) for the presence of blood on items from marker numbers (numbers). Positive results, indicating the presence of blood, were obtained from items at marker numbers (numbers). Blood was not detected on the other items tested. Swabs were collected from marker numbers (numbers).

Results from presumptive chemicals tests for the presence of blood were (negative/inconclusive) for items at marker numbers (numbers).

## 12.0 Evidence

### 12.1 Methods of collection and preservation of evidence vary by type of evidence.

Proper packaging is critical to preserve the physical integrity as well as to preserve its evidentiary value. Collection and preservation methods are listed in each section of this manual that addresses specific types of evidence. Types of evidence that don't have their own section in this manual shall be addressed in this section.

### 12.2 At least one CSI shall be present with collected evidence at all times until it is turned over to the investigating agency. If one CSI cannot be present, the evidence shall be held in a secured location; a crime scene response vehicle may be used as a lockable, temporary evidence storage location.

12.2.1 The CSI shall establish a secure area on scene for the temporary storage of evidence following initial collection that maintains its integrity and preserves the chain of custody. If the CSI(s) must leave the scene for a short period of time, and the scene is still under the control of the investigating agency, the evidence may remain in its temporary storage location within the scene. If a scene is being held for multiple days, and the scene is still under the control of the investigating agency, the evidence may remain in the scene.

12.2.2 Evidence should be maintained and stored in a secure manner that can prevent and detect tampering, alteration, loss, or contamination until it is turned over to the investigating agency. Evidence should be uniquely identified with its documentation (e.g. marker number/letter, unique description).

### 12.3 Evidence shall be packaged in an appropriate evidence container. The container shall be sealed with evidence tape, and the CSI shall date and initial across the tape. The evidence package should be filled out with the agency's case number, a description of the item, the date collected, and the evidence marker number, if used (or other marking to uniquely identify the item). Any potential hazards and/or specialized storage considerations (e.g. refrigeration or frozen storage) should be marked on the outer packaging. The chain of custody shall be signed and dated by the CSI.

12.3.1 If an item is too large to be placed in available packaging, areas of evidentiary value shall be protected. Non-traditional packaging materials may be utilized for very large or unusually shaped items.

### 12.4 Evidence markers may be used to identify items of evidence within a crime scene. The same evidence marker may not be used for multiple items within a scene, unless they are already comingled together.

- 12.4.1 If there is a pile of clothing on the floor, that pile of clothing may be identified using one marker. If there are three items of clothing on the floor, not comingled together, three separate markers should be used.
- 12.4.2 If there are several cartridge cases that are very close to one another (e.g. within one to two inches), such that it would be impractical to use several markers, they may be identified using one marker. If several cartridge cases are in the same area, but are far enough that separate evidence markers can be used, then separate markers should be used.
- 12.5 Items that normally belong in a pair or set should not be packaged together unless they are found together, and even then, may be packaged separately, depending on scene details.
- 12.5.1 Two shoes of a pair that are found adjacent to one another may be packaged in the same evidence container. Two shoes of a pair that are found in different locations shall be packaged separately.
- 12.6 WET ITEMS/GASSES
- 12.6.1 Any item which may degrade due to prolonged exposure to moisture, such as whole or live plant evidence, clothing, or other organic material, should be dried and packaged in breathable packaging.
- 12.6.2 Wet items may be temporarily packaged to prevent leakage or seepage until the item can be dried and repackaged for storage.
- 12.6.3 Greasy or oily items should be packaged to prevent leakage or seepage.
- 12.6.4 Gasses and liquids should be packaged in non-porous containers such as glass jars or lined paint cans to prevent evaporation or contamination.
- 12.7 DIGITAL EVIDENCE
- 12.7.1 Digital evidence includes cellular (cell) phones, computers, hard drives, removable drives, computer networks, digital video recorders (DVR), and other similar items containing potential digital information.
- 12.7.2 A Digital Forensic Examiner (DFE) may respond to a scene to capture digital information directly from a device. Items may also be collected for later submission for digital forensic analysis.
- 12.7.3 Cellular phones should be placed in a signal blocking pouch (e.g. Faraday bag) as internal packaging. If a Faraday bag is not available, the phone may be wrapped in three layers of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Collection of cellular phones should include any associated external battery and/or charging cord; these items should also be in the Faraday bag or wrapped in foil.
- 12.7.4 Computers, including desktops, laptops, and tablets, should be assessed as to their power status prior to any collection attempt. The shift key may be pressed or the mouse may be moved to determine if the computer is powered on. If the power is on, a DFE should be present to make an

assessment. If the computer is powered down, the computer, including any associated power cord, can be collected.

12.7.5 DVR systems may be powered down and collected. If the investigating agency wants to view and/or acquire video footage while the system is still on-scene, a DFE should respond to the scene.

12.7.6 Hard drives, Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives, and other memory devices may be collected following general evidence collection procedures.

12.7.7 External packaging for digital evidence should be based on their size and weight. Paper envelopes, paper bags, and cardboard boxes are most commonly used.

## 12.8 SOIL EVIDENCE

12.8.1 Tools for collection of soil evidence should either be new, disposable items or non-porous tools, cleaned prior to each use to prevent contamination and/or cross-contamination. Tools may include garden trowels, soil corers, pointed trowels, spoons, spades, mining picks, trays, dustpan, cardboard containers, pallet knives (used in painting) and similar tools.

12.8.2 Tools to be used for soft material (e.g. sand) can be made of plastic. For collection of harder materials, tools made of steel are recommended. Tools may be cleaned by rinsing with clean water (deionized or distilled are recommended) or with a pre-moistened wipe and dried. Alcohol, bleach, or other suitable disinfectant solutions can also be used.

12.8.3 Soil evidence should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.

12.8.4 Soil from the crime scene should be collected from a variety of relevant locations, including, but not limited to, the surface, burial sites, areas of soil disturbance, footwear or tire impressions, and scene entry and/or exit.

12.8.4.1 The number of samples to be collected depends on the variability of soil at the scene. For areas with low variability in soil, fewer samples may be collected.

12.8.5 If soil is adhering to an object (e.g. clothing, vehicle) or a person, it should be documented and possibly carefully removed from the item to preserve intact aggregates, which may have layering.

12.8.5.1 Objects that have soil evidence adhering to them (e.g. shoes, clothing) should be documented and then collected intact and submitted to the laboratory. If the object cannot be submitted to the laboratory, then careful documentation of the soil on the object should be done prior to the soil removal; collection should be done using small tools, such as spoons, pallet knives, or tweezers.

12.8.5.2 Remove soils from porous surfaces, such as upholstery, by gentle scraping with a spatula or similar tool.

- 12.8.5.3 Soil dried on a large hard surface, such as a vehicle, should be documented in place and then pried or scraped off with a flat tool onto a clean piece of paper or other clean collection package (e.g. cardboard evidence box).
- 12.8.5.4 A deceased person may have soils on or within them (e.g. under fingernails, on skin, or within body cavities).
  - 12.8.5.4.1 The CSI should coordinate collection of soils with the medicolegal death investigator. If permitted, the soils should be collected prior to the removal of the body.
  - 12.8.5.4.2 If the soil evidence cannot be collected from the body prior to its removal, then any visible soil evidence should be documented photographically. The CSI should communicate appropriate collection and packaging methods for any soil discovered during autopsy.
  - 12.8.5.4.3 Soil from the body recovery location should be collected as elimination samples.
- 12.8.5.5 A living person can have soils on or within them (e.g. under fingernails, on skin, or within body cavities).
  - 12.8.5.5.1 If the soils are being collected by medical personnel, the CSI should communicate appropriate collection and packaging methods. Medical staff may use swabs, wipes, tweezers, or tongue depressors to collect soils; they may package soils in medical specimen cups.
- 12.8.6 If there is soil at the crime scene, which appears to be foreign to the scene, it should be documented in place prior to collection. If it is part of a footwear or tire impression, any casts shall be collected prior to collection of foreign soil material.
- 12.8.7 When possible, soil collection samples should be approximately 30mL (2-3 Tbsp) per sample; the number of known soil samples to collect is case and scene dependent. If the soil contains coarse-grained materials (e.g. gravel, pebbles, botanical content), a larger sample should be collected, approximately 64mL (one-quarter cup). If a tool is collected that has soil material on it, samples shall be taken from both the crime scene and alibi locations.
- 12.8.8 Soil collected from a surface area should extend from the surface down to approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " -  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- 12.8.9 In areas of disturbed soil, if the soil horizon in the depression has been compromised, mixed, or cannot be observed, an intact depth profile can be

observed by excavating a soil pit in close proximity to the original site, or by digging back the side wall to an undisturbed area. Known soil samples should be collected to represent the undisturbed soil throughout the depth of the profile and samples of the disturbed soil.

12.8.10 Soil collected from a sub-surface area should be made to encompass any variability present as the depth increases. Sub-surface soils should be collected from undisturbed soil layers. The samples from each layer of soil should be collected separately. Samples should be collected at regular intervals of approximately 6" - 12".

12.8.10.1 To collect a specific horizon, either place a clean pan, wide trowel, or cardboard container at the bottom of the horizon and carve the horizon onto the collection material using a rigid tool or take a core from the side wall of the soil pit.

12.8.11 For excavation sites on slopes, samples should be collected from, at a minimum, the upslope and downslope walls of the excavated hole. The locations sampled should be clearly described, noting the orientation of the sampled wall relative to the slope.

12.8.12 If tool marks are present in the soil, they should first be documented with photography; other methods regarding tool marks should be performed as per Section 7 of this manual. If possible, the tool marks should be attempted to be excised from the scene.

12.8.13 Areas of disturbed soil should be cleared from top to bottom. Samples collected from soil layers should be sampled from bottom to top to minimize contamination by soil falling from upper levels. A representative sample (e.g. containing characteristics of the mixed soil) should be collected from the base of any depression or excavation. When a body is present, a sample should also be collected from the undisturbed soil at the same depth as the body, but adjacent to it.

12.8.14 Soil should be air dried at ambient temperature prior to final packaging to preserve the soil characteristics. If the soil cannot be air dried, it should be refrigerated or frozen; the external packaging should be labeled as "freeze" or "refrigerate".

12.8.15 If an item has soil adhering to it, and it is small enough to be collected, the entire item should be collected.

12.8.16 Long handle tools may be difficult to package. The working end of the tool may be placed in a cardboard box (e.g. gun box, clean pizza box) and the handle may be wrapped in butcher paper.

12.8.16.1 If a digging tool is recovered from a suspect's residence for comparison to a distant burial site, soils from the suspect's yard should be collected as elimination samples.

12.8.17 Soil evidence should be packaged in rigid internal containers that can be sealed tightly and which are impervious to corrosion (e.g. screw-top plastic containers, lined paint cans). The internal rigid container should be large enough that the soil aggregate is not bent or crushed when placing it inside and that any soil that becomes dislodged is retained in the package

12.8.18 External packaging may include various sizes of paper envelopes, paper sacks, and cardboard boxes. Inner packaging should be secured inside the external packaging using crushed paper or other appropriate padding material.

12.8.19 Packages containing soil should be handled minimally to protect the soil from changes or loss.

12.8.20 Known soil samples shall be packaged separately from evidence soil samples.

## 12.9 DOCUMENT EVIDENCE

12.9.1 Document evidence can be examined for source attribution, the presence of hidden writing, latent indented writing (e.g. blank pages), impressions, fracture matching, or alteration detection.

12.9.2 The method employed for the collection and preservation of document evidence can vary based on scene context and anticipated analysis.

12.9.3 The original document shall be collected if available and if it can be legally seized.

12.9.3.1 The CSI should submit high-resolution copies in place of an original document only when prior authorization from a forensic document examiner or other individual with the appropriate expertise has been granted.

12.9.4 If original writing is on a fixed surface (e.g. wall, floor) and cannot be collected, the questioned writing shall be preserved by comparison quality photography methods as per Section 9.25 of this manual.

12.9.5 Items from different suspected sources, material types, and locations should be collected and packaged separately.

12.9.6 Document evidence shall be protected from alteration. When collecting document evidence, a CSI shall not mark the document itself, or mark the package while it contains the document. Document evidence shall not be unnecessarily folded, torn, marked, soiled, stamped, or written on. Document items shall be collected intact and in their entirety.

12.9.7 Packaging shall be of the appropriate size to avoid damage or alteration to the document.

12.9.7.1 Cardboard may be inserted into the evidence envelope to maintain the rigidity of the packaging and to prevent any writing on the envelope from transferring to the item of evidence.



- 12.9.7.2 A cardboard box may be used as outer packaging to prevent the damage and/or alteration of the evidence.
- 12.9.8 Document evidence can be associated with the materials or equipment used to generate the document. In those cases, it is important to collect possible materials/equipment such as writing instruments, office equipment, or paper for comparison purposes. Documents containing existing written text may represent an individual's natural handwriting. Existing documents may include checks, business records, correspondence, diaries, etc.
- 12.9.9 Ink/toner cartridge evidence for writing instruments, prints, and stamp pads shall be packaged separately from any document. Padding or leak-proof packaging shall be utilized to prevent breakage or leakage. The make, model, and color of the ink/toner cartridge shall be recorded.
- 12.9.10 Ink/toner cartridges should not be removed from the machine prior to packaging. Padding or leak-proof packaging shall be utilized to prevent breakage or leakage. Associated computers should be collected as well because of related drivers, software, and/or operating systems.
- 12.9.11 Typewriter ribbons should not be removed from the machine.
- 12.9.12 Upon collection, the make, model, serial number, and information about any toner supplies and components, and machine repair and service history shall be recorded.
- 12.9.13 Any item used to generate or alter the document should be collected, including: paper or other document substrates; stamps, embossing, and seal devices; document assembly items such as staplers, staples, paper clips, hole punches, envelopes, tape, and glue; documents possibly used as templates for counterfeits such as driver's licenses, social security cards, and passports.
- 12.9.14 Indented writing, typing, or other markings can occur when two or more documents are stacked, leaving indentations on the document(s) beneath. Documents that do not contain visible marks, even when using oblique lighting, can contain valuable indentation evidence and shall be collected for additional laboratory processing.
- 12.9.14.1 Blank pages potentially associated with existing documents can contain decipherable indentations that can have comparative value and should be collected.
- 12.9.15 Charred documents are particularly fragile and should be protected or immobilized as soon as possible to minimize damage. Charred items should be photographed prior to movement and/or collection. All pieces of charred documents shall be collected.



- 12.9.15.1 Charred items should be packaged in a rigid, flat box padded with cotton in order to immobilize and preserve the document.
- 12.9.15.2 If ignitable liquids are the priority type of evidence, over the document itself, the document should be packaged in a paint can as per Section 23.11 of this manual.
- 12.9.16 Wet documents are fragile and shall be handled delicately.
  - 12.9.16.1 Wet documents should be photographed prior to movement and/or collection.
  - 12.9.16.2 A wet document should be collected by sliding a flat, rigid, clean surface (e.g. cardboard sheet) underneath the item. The wet document should be dried fully prior to packaging, based on the recommendation of a forensic document examiner.
  - 12.9.16.3 If the document is submerged in a liquid, the CSI should contact the forensic document examiner as to how to proceed. To dry a wet document, place the document on an absorbent surface (e.g. clean paper towel) or a surface that provides for airflow (e.g. a clean, non-metallic window-type screen). When drying documents using airflow (e.g. drying cabinet), clean paper shall be placed underneath the item to catch possible trace evidence. Trace evidence shall be retained.
  - 12.9.16.4 Once dry, the document should be packaged in a clean, dry, rigid, and breathable material such as cardboard. If the original packaging is not suitable, the item shall be placed in new packaging, and the old packaging retained as evidence. The document should be packaged in a manner that secures or pads the document within the container.
- 12.9.17 Broken, cut, torn, or otherwise separated pieces (e.g. shredded paper, ripped checks, or torn typewriter ribbons) can undergo physical fit examination to determine if they were at one time a single source.
  - 12.9.17.1 Handwriting, printing, surface markings, or visible defects can continue across the separated items and can be useful for association between different fragments.
  - 12.9.17.2 All relevant fragments shall be collected.
    - 12.9.17.2.1 Shredded paper shall be collected with a minimum of disturbance to avoid further mixing. Shredded paper that is found in separate locations shall not be packaged together. When possible, collect the entire shredder.

12.9.17.2.2 Shredded paper should be collected within the item in which it is found on the scene. When collection of the item is not possible, ensure that commingled fragments stay together when packaging.

12.9.17.3 Precautions shall be taken to preserve the fragile edges and prevent the loss, damage, or contamination of exposed ends that can be capable of fitting together. To minimize damaging the fragile edges of the pieces, no attempt shall be made to reassemble questioned evidence items prior to formal examination.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 13.0 Biological Evidence Collection

- 13.1 The type of biological evidence most commonly encountered in crime scenes is in the form of liquid or dried blood, semen, and saliva. Other biological evidence that may be encountered includes hair, urine, feces, bone, teeth, and other tissues. Biological evidence may lead to the identification of a victim or a suspect, so proper collection and preservation is imperative. Biological evidence should be protected from possible contamination from scene CSIs and possible cross-contamination from other evidence in the crime scene.
- 13.2 All biological evidence should be treated as infectious. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be utilized.
- 13.2.1 Gloves should be changed frequently to avoid cross-contamination from items in the crime scene.
- 13.3 Biological evidence should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.
- 13.3.1 Collection of blood stains should be timed so that it doesn't interfere with blood stain pattern documentation.
- 13.3.2 Documentation of blood stain patterns for reconstruction should be conducted as outlined in Section 15 of this manual.
- 13.3.3 Small or light-colored stains may not be easily visualized in photos. Evidence markers (e.g. stickers, placards) may be utilized to help visualize stains in scene photography.
- 13.3.4 Relevant biological evidence shall be described in notes and may be included in sketches (if used); descriptions may include color, size, orientation, state (e.g. liquid, dried, flaky), and distribution. If evidence markers were used, the numbers/letters shall be included in the description. The results of any presumptive blood tests shall be included in notes and may be included in sketches (if used).
- 13.3.5 Crime scene diagrams may include references to large areas of biological evidence, such as a blood pattern distribution on a wall, or a pool of blood on a floor.
- 13.3.6 Crime scene sketches may be used to augment notes by detailing areas containing biological evidence within a scene.
- 13.3.6.1 A detailed sketch of one area may be made without sketching other adjacent areas that do not contain relevant biological evidence.
- 13.3.7 Colored pens/pencils may be used in sketches/diagrams to more accurately represent the details of biological evidence.
- 13.4 It may be difficult to locate very small stains, dilute stains, or stains in a scene that has been altered/cleaned.

- 13.4.1 A high intensity white light should be one of the first tools utilized to search for biological evidence.
- 13.4.2 An alternate light source (ALS) may be utilized when searching for biological fluids such as semen and saliva.
- 13.4.2.1 The most appropriate wavelength to search for bodily fluids is 415-515 nm, utilizing orange goggles/barriers.
- 13.4.2.2 An ALS may only be utilized by those CSIs who have training in the appropriate and safe use of an ALS.
- 13.4.3 A volume of blood may flow into floorboard cracks or be absorbed into carpet padding and may not be visible at the surface.
- 13.4.4 Blood enhancement chemicals may be used as outlined in section 14 of this manual.
- 13.5 Collection of biological evidence is often determined based on the size of the item containing the evidence.
- 13.5.1 If an item is small enough to be collected, the entire item should be collected.
- 13.5.2 If an item is large, a piece of the item may be taken (e.g. seat cushion of a chair) or an area may be removed from the item (e.g. cutting fabric from a mattress, cutting out a piece of drywall from a residence, etc.).  
Authorization from the primary detective or investigating agency shall be obtained prior to removal; note who specifically gave authorization for those actions.
- 13.5.2.1 If an item or area is damaged in the collection of evidence (e.g. cutting a piece of drywall from a residence), it should be documented in notes and with photos.
- 13.5.3 If collection of the item is not possible or appropriate, the item may be swabbed in order to collect the biological evidence.
- 13.6 COLLECTION OF SWABS
- 13.6.1 When swabbing an item/area, appropriate water sources and swabs shall be used.
- 13.6.1.1 If a swab is moistened to collect a sample, water from a sterile water ampule/bottle shall be utilized.
- 13.6.1.2 Cap-Shure swabs are sterile swabs whose ends are enclosed with a breathable plastic capsule. Cap-Shure swabs may be utilized to collect a variety of types of biological evidence.
- 13.6.1.3 After collection, Cap-Shure swabs may be placed in an evidence envelope without allowing the swab to dry due to the capsule design.
- 13.6.1.4 Standard wood/plastic shaft sterile swabs may be utilized to collect a variety of types of biological evidence.

- 13.6.1.5 After collection, standard swabs should be placed in a vented swab box or a small, coin-type envelope; time should be allowed for the swab to dry. It is effective to tent the envelope to keep it somewhat open in order to facilitate swab drying.

### 13.7 COLLECTION OF LIQUID OR SEMI-LIQUID STAINS

- 13.7.1 When collecting a stain that is liquid or semi-liquid, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.7.2 When possible, two swabs should be collected simultaneously.
- 13.7.3 The cotton end of an appropriate swab should be placed into the liquid in order to absorb the liquid into the swab.
- 13.7.4 The swab should be dried appropriately based on swab type.

### 13.8 COLLECTION OF DRIED STAINS

- 13.8.1 When collecting a stain that is dried, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.8.2 When possible, two swabs should be collected simultaneously.
- 13.8.3 The cotton end of an appropriate swab should be slightly moistened with sterile water.
- 13.8.3.1 Do not saturate the swab. If a swab is inadvertently over-saturated, it should be discarded.
- 13.8.3.2 Do not touch the tip of the water ampule to the swab.
- 13.8.4 The swab should be held at approximately 90 degrees to the stain in order to concentrate the material onto the end/tip of the swab.
- 13.8.5 The swab should be rubbed against the stain until a sufficient amount of material has been collected.
- 13.8.6 The swab should be dried appropriately based on swab type.

### 13.9 COLLECTION OF POSSIBLE DNA MATERIAL

- 13.9.1 "Possible DNA material" refers to a likely, but not necessarily visible, deposition of DNA, based on the details of the case.
- 13.9.2 When collecting possible DNA material from a person (e.g. finger swabs, penile swabs) or surface, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.9.3 When possible, two swabs should be collected simultaneously.
- 13.9.4 The cotton end of an appropriate swab should be slightly moistened with sterile water.
- 13.9.4.1 Do not saturate the swab. If a swab is inadvertently over-saturated, it should be discarded.
- 13.9.4.2 Do not touch the tip of the water ampule to the swab.
- 13.9.5 The swab should be held at approximately 90 degrees to the surface in order to concentrate the material onto the end/tip of the swab.
- 13.9.6 The swab should be rubbed against the surface until a sufficient amount of material has been collected.

- 13.9.6.1 When swabbing fingers, two swabs should be used for one entire hand (e.g. one set of swabs for the left hand, one set of swabs for the right hand). Do not separate the hand into sections for collection (e.g. swabs from right index finger, swabs from right middle finger, etc.) Extra attention should be paid when swabbing areas where potential DNA material may collect, such as under the edge of the fingernails and around the nail bed.
- 13.9.6.2 When collecting penile swabs, two swabs should be used for the entire genital area. Do not separate the genitals into sections for collection (e.g. base, shaft, scrotum, etc.).
- 13.9.7 The swab should be dried appropriately based on swab type.
- 13.10 COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL DNA MATERIAL
- 13.10.1 "Potential DNA material" refers to a potential, but not necessarily visible, deposition of DNA, based on how something/someone may have been handled (e.g. touch DNA).
- 13.10.2 When collecting potential DNA material from a surface (e.g. door handle, gear shift knob, etc.) or person, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.10.3 When possible, two swabs should be collected simultaneously.
- 13.10.4 The cotton end of an appropriate swab should be slightly moistened.
- 13.10.4.1 Do not saturate the swab. If a swab is inadvertently over-saturated, it should be discarded.
- 13.10.4.2 Do not touch the tip of the water ampule to the swab.
- 13.10.5 The swab should be held at approximately 90 degrees to the surface in order to concentrate the material onto the end/tip of the swab.
- 13.10.6 The swab should be rubbed against the surface until a sufficient amount of material has been collected or until a sufficient area of the surface has been swabbed.
- 13.10.7 The swab should be dried appropriately based on swab type.
- 13.11 COLLECTION OF MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS (SANITARY PADS, TAMPONS, MENSTRUAL CUPS, PERIOD PANTIES)
- 13.11.1 Sanitary pads and tampons may contain DNA from both the victim and the suspect. When collecting pads or tampons, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.11.2 If the adhesive surface of the sanitary pad is exposed, it should be affixed to a paper envelope to keep the adhesive portion from adhering to other areas of the pad.
- 13.11.3 The pad should be placed in a paper envelope (inner packaging). This paper envelope should then be placed in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging).

- 13.11.4 A tampon should be placed in a paper envelope (inner packaging). This paper envelope should then be placed in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging).
- 13.11.5 Menstrual cups would only be considered for examination on a case-by-case basis. If the menstrual cup contains liquid blood which may also contain semen, the contents should be absorbed into a sterile piece of gauze, sterile swabs, or as a last resort, poured onto a sterile sanitary pad.
- 13.11.6 A menstrual cup should be placed in a paper envelope (inner packaging). This paper envelope should then be placed in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging).
- 13.11.7 Period panties (a garment intended to absorb menstrual blood) should be placed in a paper envelope (inner packaging). This paper envelope should then be placed in an evidence envelope or evidence sack (outer packaging).
- 13.11.8 All menstrual products should be dried prior to packaging.
- 13.12 COLLECTION OF CONDOMS
- 13.12.1 Condoms may contain DNA from both the victim and the suspect. When collecting condoms, the following guidelines should be followed.
- 13.12.2 The condom should be handled as minimally as possible to prevent transfer of DNA between the interior and exterior surfaces; its interior and exterior surfaces, as found, should be maintained.
- 13.12.3 Condoms often have lubricant on their surfaces. While the biological materials may dry on the interior and exterior surfaces, the lubricant may not fully dry and can be absorbed into paper packaging.
- 13.12.4 The best practice is to store condoms frozen. If a condom cannot be frozen, it should be refrigerated. Condoms should be put into cold storage as soon as possible.
- 13.12.5 If cold storage is available in a reasonable time frame, the condom may be packaged in plastic.
- 13.12.5.1 If the condom is pliable, it can be placed into a screw top plastic vial. The plastic vial should then be placed in an evidence sack.
- 13.12.5.2 A notation should be made on the exterior evidence packaging indicating the need to freeze/refrigerate the evidence.
- 13.12.5.3 If the condom is not pliable, it should be packaged as outlined in 13.12.6.1.
- 13.12.6 If a condom cannot be stored in a cold environment, it should be packaged in order to facilitate drying.



- 13.12.6.1 The condom should be placed in a paper envelope (inner packaging). This paper envelope should then be placed in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging).
- 13.12.7 If there is concern that the liquid contents of the condom may leak out, one piece of sterile gauze should be placed inside the condom to absorb any liquid.
- 13.13 COLLECTION OF BUCCAL SWABS
- 13.13.1 Buccal cells may be collected from the inside of a subject's mouth to determine their DNA profile.
- 13.13.2 Buccal swabs shall be collected as per Section 24 of this manual.
- 13.13.3 Buccal swabs should be packaged in paper, both for internal and external packaging. The external packaging shall have the name of the subject from whom the buccal swabs were collected.
- 13.14 OTHER BODILY FLUIDS (e.g. VOMIT, URINE, AND FECES)
- 13.14.1 Some types of bodily fluids have very limited forensic value; vomit, urine, and feces may be collected if determined to be probative.
- 13.14.2 Vomit may be collected if poisoning, ingested drug use, or an oral sexual assault is suspected.
- 13.14.2.1 Dried vomit may be collected on the source (e.g. clothing, bedding, etc.) or a large sample may be swabbed or collected and placed into a plastic screw top container.
- 13.14.2.2 Wet vomit should be collected in a plastic screw top container.
- 13.14.2.3 ISPFS can test vomit for ingested drug use. ISPFS does not have protocols for testing wet vomit for poison, alcohol, or semen.
- 13.14.3 Wet or dry urine samples on clothing, bedding, etc. have limited forensic value.
- 13.14.3.1 ISPFS can test urine for drugs. Liquid urine samples may be submitted following the established toxicology protocols.
- 13.14.4 Fecal material generally has a limited forensic biology value.
- 13.14.4.1 If DNA analysis is needed on fecal matter (e.g. missing child case), then the exterior of the feces, near the "pinch" point, may be swabbed. The feces as a whole should not be collected. Swabs should be dried appropriately based on swab type.
- 13.14.4.2 If a fecal sample appears to contain potentially probative blood or semen, the suspected blood or semen should be collected by swabbing. Care should be taken to minimize fecal contamination of the swabs. Swabs should be dried appropriately based on swab type.



13.14.4.3 If potentially probative blood or semen is observed in a diaper and fecal matter is present, a sample may be collected. If there is an isolated stain that may be cut or swabbed from the diaper, it may be removed to avoid contamination and air dried. If the sample is mixed, the diaper should be collected and dried, then stored frozen until submission for analysis.

13.14.4.3.1 The diaper should not be rolled or folded tightly in a way that would trap moisture inside. The open diaper should be placed into a paper evidence sack; the interior sides of the front and back panels of the diaper may be in loose contact with one another without any likely moisture issues.

13.15 Biological evidence should be packaged in paper, both for internal and external packaging, unless specifically noted (e.g. condoms).

13.15.1 Internal packaging may include various sizes of paper envelopes.

13.15.2 Plastic jars may be used as internal packaging as outlined in 13.12.5.1.

13.15.3 External packaging may include various sizes of paper envelopes, paper sacks, and cardboard boxes.

13.16 For all evidence containing known biological materials (e.g. blood, semen), the external packaging should have a "biohazard" sticker affixed to it, or should have the word "biohazard" written in bold print.

13.17 For all evidence that requires special storage considerations, the external packaging should have the storage medium written (e.g. "freeze", "refrigerate") in bold print.

## 14.0 Blood Enhancement Chemicals

- 14.1 Blood enhancement chemicals may be used for the detection and visualization of blood or suspected blood. Chemical processing may provide contrast between the impression and the underlying substrate. Chemicals are commonly used in scenes that have been altered (e.g. cleaned), scenes that contain impression evidence in blood (e.g. fingerprints, footwear), and/or scenes that have blood stain patterns.
- 14.1.1 A presumptive blood test should be conducted on suspected blood prior to the application of blood enhancement chemicals.
- 14.1.2 Consideration for other types of evidence should be considered prior to the application of any blood enhancement chemicals.
- 14.1.3 If a swab of the blood is to be collected for potential DNA analysis, it should be collected prior to the application of any blood enhancement chemicals.
- 14.1.4 If there is a potential that latent prints have been made by substances other than blood, then appropriate latent print processing sequences should be followed.
- 14.2 The visibility of blood deposits may vary greatly depending on crime scene circumstances.
- 14.2.1 Finger/palm/sole impressions may vary in appearance based on the number of times they have touched surfaces after encountering a blood source.
- 14.2.2 Footwear impressions should continually lighten with each step taken away from a blood source.
- 14.2.3 The appearance of blood on surfaces in a scene (e.g. floors, walls, counters) may vary depending on the amount of cleaning that has taken place. Chemical processing may be used when an item of evidence cannot be removed from the scene. Consideration should be given to the removal of the impression evidence from the crime scene to be chemically processed in a controlled laboratory environment (e.g. drywall, flooring).
- 14.2.4 Surfaces in the crime scene that don't have visible blood stains should be visually examined prior to the application of blood enhancement chemicals in order to determine the most appropriate surfaces/areas to process.
- 14.2.4.1 A strong white light may be utilized at an oblique angle in order to visualize faint blood deposits. A flashlight or the white light setting on an alternate light source (ALS) are the most common sources for a strong white light.
- 14.2.4.2 When utilizing an ALS at approximately 415-450nm with an orange or a clear UV filter, blood deposits should appear

dark, which may help to visualize areas contaminated with blood.

- 14.2.4.3 Use of an ALS at other wavelengths may also create a reaction with the surface, thereby creating contrast, visualizing a blood deposit.
- 14.2.4.4 An ALS may only be utilized by CSIs who have received training in the appropriate use of an ALS.
- 14.2.4.5 When using an ALS to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.
- 14.2.4.6 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength.

WAVELENGTH	CORRESPONDING FILTER
<400nm	yellow or clear UV safe
400-450nm	yellow
450-540nm	orange
>540-700nm	red

- 14.2.4.7 Permanent eye damage can occur from reflected, refracted, or direct illumination by the ALS to the eye. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. A CSI should never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into their own eyes or another person's eyes.

14.3 Any blood deposits that are developed/visualized should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate).

- 14.3.1 Documentation of blood stain patterns for reconstruction should be conducted as outlined in Section 15 of this manual.
- 14.3.2 Documentation of impression evidence should be conducted as outlined in Section 17 of this manual.
- 14.3.3 Small or light colored stains may not be easily visualized in photos. Evidence markers (e.g. stickers, placards) may be utilized to help visualize stains in scene photography.
- 14.3.4 Relevant blood deposits shall be described in notes and may be included in sketches (if used). If evidence markers were used, the numbers/letters shall be included in the description.
- 14.3.5 Crime scene diagrams may include references to large areas of blood deposits, such as a blood pattern distribution on a wall, or a bloody footwear trail through the scene.
- 14.3.6 Crime scene sketches may be used to augment notes by detailing areas containing enhanced blood deposits within a scene.

- 14.3.6.1 A detailed sketch of one area may be made without sketching other adjacent areas that do not contain relevant blood deposits.
- 14.4 Prior to the use of a blood enhancement chemical, positive and negative control tests shall be conducted.
- 14.4.1 Any lot number and/or date of preparation information shall be recorded in the crime scene notes. Chemical processing may be used individually or in sequence in order to maximize the recovery of evidence.
- 14.5 No single methodology exists for the chemical processing of impression evidence on all surfaces under all conditions. The training and experience of the CSI is crucial to ensure that the variables associated with the evidence are considered and evaluated prior to chemical processing.
- 14.5.1 Variables to be considered prior to attempting chemical processing include substrate composition (e.g. texture, porosity), substrate color, orientation of surface (e.g. horizontal or vertical), environmental conditions and/or limitations, and the composition of the substance(s) that make the impression.
- 14.5.2 The CSI should also consider if any additional testing will take place on the evidence containing the impression evidence.
- 14.6 Blood stains should be dry prior to the application of any chemicals for enhancement. In general, older stains may be more receptive to chemical processing than fresh stains.
- 14.7 Stains that may have been cleaned using bleach may also yield improved results with chemical processing after a period of time.
- 14.8 LEUCOCRYSTAL VIOLET (LCV)
- 14.8.1 Background/References
- 14.8.1.1 LCV is a biological stain used to dye blood's hemoglobin components an intense purple color. Due to LCV's toxic nature, it should only be used in small quantities with appropriate safety precautions observed.
- 14.8.1.2 Bodziak, William J., "Use of Leucocrystal Violet to Enhance Shoe Prints in Blood", Forensic Science International, Vol. 82, No.1, September 1996.
- 14.8.1.3 Chemical Formulas and Processing Guide for Developing Latent Prints, US Department of Justice, 1994, pp 47-48.
- 14.8.1.4 Fisher, John F., "An Aqueous Leucocrystal Violet Enhancing Reagent for Blood Impressions", Symposium on the Forensic Aspects of Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence, FBI Academy, 1994.
- 14.8.2 Scope

14.8.2.1 LCV may be used to visualize deposits in blood on non-porous and some porous surfaces.

14.8.2.2 LCV should be used prior to Amido Black.

#### 14.8.3 Equipment/Reagents

Balance

Magnetic stirrer/stirring bar

Graduated cylinder

Glass beaker

Glass tray

Storage bottles

Leucocrystal Violet powder

Sodium acetate

5-sulfosalicylic acid

3% hydrogen peroxide

Deionized water

#### 14.8.4 Preparation of reagents

14.8.4.1 Dissolve 10g of 5-sulfosalicylic acid in 100ml distilled water.

14.8.4.2 Add 400ml 3%hydrogen peroxide to sulfosalicylic acid solution. Pour solution into a spray bottle.

14.8.4.3 Measure out 0.75g Leucocrystal Violet; package in a sealed plastic container.

14.8.4.4 Immediately prior to use, add 0.75g Leucocrystal Violet to the solution in the spray bottle; stir vigorously.

#### 14.8.5 Procedure

14.8.5.1 Consider evidence to be collected and/or processed prior to the application of LCV.

14.8.5.2 Conduct positive and negative control tests. The control test can be conducted by making a mark in blood on a slide or swab and following the processing procedure. The area surrounding the intentionally deposited mark shall serve as a negative control.

14.8.5.3 A non-evidential area of the substrate may be tested with the reagent to evaluate potential processing limitations such as poor de-staining, degradation of the substrate, or if the substrate also reacts with the reagent.

14.8.5.4 Spray the area using a fine mist sprayer. LCV is particularly useful for spray applications over large areas.

14.8.5.5 Development of a dark purple coloration should occur in approximately 30 seconds in the presence of blood deposits.

- 14.8.5.6 Developed impressions are evaluated to determine their suitability for collection. Impressions deemed to be of value for collection shall be marked, photographed, and/or lifted.
- 14.8.5.7 Areas that appear to have been cleaned shall be photographed.
- 14.8.6 Comments
- 14.8.6.1 Shelf life of the LCV solution is approximately three months.
- 14.8.7 Safety
- 14.8.7.1 LCV may be harmful by inhalation, ingestion, or skin absorption; may cause skin and eye irritation; may cause irritation to mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract.
- 14.8.7.2 LCV should not be used in large amounts.
- 14.8.7.3 A respirator should be used when working with the dry form. LCV should be prepared and used in a well-ventilated area.
- 14.8.7.4 The CSI should wear disposable clothing, heavy-duty (non-disposable) gloves, and safety glasses.
- 14.9 AMIDO BLACK
- 14.9.1 Background/References
- 14.9.1.1 Amido Black is also known as Amido Black 10B, Amido Black 12B, Naphthol Blue Black, or Napthalene Black. Amido Black is a dye that stains the protein portion of blood a blue-black color.
- 14.9.1.2 Fingerprint Source Book v2.0 (second edition), Home Office, 2017.
- 14.9.1.3 Journal of Forensic Identification, Vol. 45, No. 5 Sept/Oct 1995, "A New Use for an Old Friend", pages 498-503.
- 14.9.1.4 Fingermark Visualisation Manual. Home Office; 2022 6.1.3-6.1.10.
- 14.9.2 Scope
- 14.9.2.1 Surfaces may be processed with Amido Black to detect faint deposits. It is generally used on dried blood stains on non-porous surfaces, but has been successful in developing prints on some semi-porous and porous surfaces as well. When used on porous or semi-porous surfaces, consideration should be given for the potential of excessive background staining.
- 14.9.2.2 Blood should be fixed prior to the application of Amido Black to prevent the liquid solutions used in the process from washing away some or all of the blood deposits.

14.9.2.3 Two different formulations of Amido Black are available for use at crime scenes. One is an Amido Black methanol-based formulation that may be used in conjunction with cyanoacrylate ester fuming. The other is a water-based formulation that is not effective when used in conjunction with cyanoacrylate fuming.

14.9.2.4 The type of surface should be considered when choosing which formulation to use. Methanol-based Amido Black may be preferable for horizontal surfaces (e.g. floors) as the methanol will evaporate more quickly. For other surfaces (e.g. walls), the water-based Amido Black formulation may be preferable as it has fewer safety considerations..

#### 14.9.3 Equipment/Reagents

Balance

Magnetic stirrer/stirring bar

Pipettes

Beakers

Graduated cylinder

Appropriately sized storage bottles

Spray/squirt bottles

Amido Black

Glacial acetic acid

Methanol

5-Sulfosalicylic acid dihydrate

Deionized (DI) water

#### 14.9.4 Preparation of reagents

##### Methanol-based Amido Black Working Solution

14.9.4.1 Weigh out 3-5g of Amido Black and place it in a clean, dry beaker.

14.9.4.2 Measure out 100ml of acetic acid and add to the Amido Black.

14.9.4.3 Measure out 900ml of methanol and add to the beaker containing the Amido Black and the acetic acid.

14.9.4.4 Stir the solution with a magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes and transfer the solution to a clean storage bottle.

##### Methanol-based Amido Black Rinse Solution (de-stain)

14.9.4.5 Measure out 100ml of acetic acid and pour into a clean, dry glass beaker.

14.9.4.6 Measure out 900ml of methanol and add it to the beaker. Stir the solution for two to three minutes and transfer the solution to a clean, dry storage bottle.



Water-based Amido Black Fixing Solution

- 14.9.4.7 Add 1 L of DI water to a clean, dry beaker.
- 14.9.4.8 Measure out 23 g of 5-Suflosalicylic acid and add to the DI water.
- 14.9.4.9 Stir the solution until dissolved (magnetic stirrer recommended) and transfer the solution to a clean storage bottle.

Water-based Amido Black Working Solution

- 14.9.4.10 Add 1 L of water-based rinse solution to a clean, dry beaker.
- 14.9.4.11 Measure out 2 g Amido Black and add to the beaker.
- 14.9.4.12 Stir the solution with a magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes and transfer the solution to a clean storage bottle.

Water-based Amido Black Rinse Solution (de-stain)

- 14.9.4.13 Measure out 950 ml of DI water and pour into a clean, dry glass beaker.
- 14.9.4.14 Measure out 3 g of Amido Black and add it to the beaker.
- 14.9.4.15 Stir the solution for 30 minutes (magnetic stirrer recommended) and transfer the solution to a clean, dry storage bottle.

14.9.5 Procedure

- 14.9.5.1 Consider evidence to be collected and/or processed prior to the application of Amido Black.
- 14.9.5.2 Conduct positive and negative control tests. The control test can be conducted by making a mark in blood on a slide or swab and following the processing procedure. The area surrounding the intentionally deposited mark shall serve as a negative control.

- 14.9.5.3 A non-evidential area of the substrate may be tested with the reagent to evaluate potential processing limitations such as poor de-staining, degradation of the substrate, or if the substrate also reacts with the reagent.

Methanol-based Amido Black Procedure

- 14.9.5.4 Blood deposits may be fixed using heat, methanol, or cyanoacrylate. Blood can be fixed to an object by spraying or pipetting methanol over the item; the Amido Black rinse that contains methanol will suffice for fixing the stains. Cyanoacrylate is an effective method for non-porous surfaces, as it will fix all possible latent prints as well as blood deposits. When using a methanol-based solution, the methanol in the solution can act as a fixing agent.



- 14.9.5.5 Spray or irrigate Amido Black over the surface and allow it to sit for two to three minutes. Amido Black is generally limited to the localized development of impressions.
- 14.9.5.6 Irrigate the item with the de-stain rinse solution to remove the excess dye.
- 14.9.5.7 Blood deposits should be colored a dark blue-black. The application and rinse process may be repeated to improve contrast.
- 14.9.5.8 Allow the surface to dry thoroughly.  
Developed stains are evaluated to determine their suitability for collection and/or documentation.
- Water-based Amido Black Procedure
- 14.9.5.9 Fix blood deposits irrigating the Water-based Fixing Solution over the surface for approximately five minutes and allow the surface to dry.
- 14.9.5.10 Irrigate Water-based Amido Black working solution over the surface for approximately three minutes and allow it to sit for an additional two minutes. Amido Black is generally limited to the localized development of impressions.
- 14.9.5.11 Irrigate the surface with the de-stain rinse solution to remove the excess dye.
- 14.9.5.12 Blood deposits should be colored a dark blue-black. The application and rinse process may be repeated to improve contrast.
- 14.9.5.13 Allow the surface to dry thoroughly.
- 14.9.5.14 Developed stains are evaluated to determine their suitability for collection and/or documentation.

#### 14.9.6 Comments

- 14.9.6.1 Shelf life of the pre-mixed Amido Black, working solution, and de-stain is indefinite.
- 14.9.6.2 The methanol-based solution is preferable when processing horizontal surfaces as the methanol will evaporate quickly.

#### 14.9.7 Safety

- 14.9.7.1 When mixing or using Amido Black, gloves, disposable clothing, goggles, and a respirator should be worn to avoid breathing the vapors if there is inadequate ventilation (e.g. closed, indoor areas).
- 14.9.7.2 Glacial acetic acid is corrosive and extremely irritating to the eyes and respiratory system. In a closed environment, a respirator shall be worn to avoid breathing the vapors; in

an open-air environment, a respirator may not be necessary, but may be worn at the CSI's discretion. Glacial acetic acid will cause burns if it comes in contact with skin.

- 14.9.7.3 Methanol is flammable; it shall be handled carefully with gloves during the mixing and use of Amido Black. Methanol is toxic in quantities as small as 30ml and should not be allowed to come in contact with the skin, eyes, or mouth. It is possible for methanol to be absorbed through the skin. If methanol comes into contact with the eyes or mouth, the area should be flushed with generous amounts of water and a doctor may be consulted. Inhalation of methanol vapors should be kept at a minimum and the solution should be used in a well-ventilated area. Impressions in blood can be lifted after chemical enhancement. Lifts of impressions should be conducted as per section 17.7 of this manual.

## 15.0 Recognition and Documentation of Evidence for Reconstruction

15.1 Reconstruction is the use of scientific methods, physical evidence, deductive and inductive reasoning, and their interrelationships to gain explicit knowledge of the series of events that surround the commission of a crime.

15.1.1 Objective data exists in scene context and physical evidence. Crime scene reconstruction works from the evidence backwards; by considering the data, one can determine actions that occurred during an incident, as well as the order of those actions.

15.1.2 Each action has something that precedes it, something that occurs during, and something that follows it; nothing just happens.

15.2 Evidence related to bloodstains and shootings should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection of any evidence.

15.2.1 General documentation of biological evidence should be completed as per Section 13 of this manual.

15.2.2 General documentation of firearms and related evidence should be completed as per Section 19 of this manual.

15.2.3 For reconstruction purposes, additional detailed documentation of blood stains and shooting artifacts should be undertaken.

### 15.3 BLOODSTAINS

15.3.1 Recognizing bloodstains in the scene is the first step to fully document them for reconstruction.

15.3.2 A flashlight may be utilized at an oblique angle to visualize small stains. A flashlight with a yellow cast to it may be preferable to one with a white light when searching for bloodstains.

15.3.3 Presumptive tests for the presence of blood should be conducted as per Section 11 of this manual.

15.3.3.1 When selecting a stain for testing that is part of a pattern on a vertical surface (e.g. wall), any stains whose tail points downward would be ideal as they would not be considered during reconstruction, since they have been affected by gravity. Alternatively, the timing of the blood collection can be coordinated to avoid interfering with bloodstain pattern documentation.

15.3.4 Bloodstains may be present as individual stains, a group of stains, or a trail of stains, based on the events that created them.

- 15.3.5 Groups of bloodstains that were created by the same event should be documented together as a pattern. Patterns may overlap; if possible, each pattern should be documented separately.
- 15.4 Bloodstains and/or bloodstain patterns may be labeled differently depending on whether the stain is being recorded for reconstruction or whether the stain is being collected as evidence.
- 15.4.1 For bloodstains that are being documented for reconstruction, letter placards and/or stickers should be utilized.
- 15.4.1.1 For example, if there are three areas of bloodstains in patterns on the north wall, the pattern areas could be labeled as A, B, and C. The bloodstain pattern on the east wall could be labeled D. The bloodstain pattern on the floor in the northeast corner of the room could be labeled E.
- 15.4.2 For bloodstains that are being collected as evidence, number placards and/or stickers should be utilized.
- 15.4.2.1 For example, a bloodstain on the interior side of the front door handle could be labeled 18, a single drop on the sidewalk south of the front door could be labeled 19.
- 15.4.3 For bloodstains that are being documented for reconstruction, but which contain an area to be collected for evidence, both letter and number placards/stickers should be utilized.
- 15.4.3.1 For example, swabs of blood are to be collected from area B on the north wall and area D on the east wall. In the area from which the swabs are to be collected, marker 22 would be added to area B and marker 23 would be added to area D, near the stain that is being swabbed for collection.
- 15.4.4 By labeling areas for reconstruction differently than areas for collection, a CSI can quickly determine how that evidence was utilized in the scene and differentiate between documentation and collection efforts.
- 15.5 For reconstruction purposes, the dimensions, shape, distribution, and appearance of bloodstains should be documented. These details are important factors in determining the type of event that caused the stains, the location of the blood source, the trajectory of the bloodstains' flight in air, and other scene factors.
- 15.5.1 BLOODSTAIN NOTES
- 15.5.2 The description of size should include the dimension of the diameter in mm. For a pattern including varying sizes of stains, a range of sizes can be indicated (e.g. stains varying in dimension from 3mm to 6mm in diameter). Dimensions should be rounded down to the nearest mm.
- 15.5.3 The description of shape may include descriptors like circular, elliptical, irregular, linear, and/or curvilinear. The description of edge characteristics

may include spiny, scalloped, sharp edged, and/or feathered. The presence of any pattern within the bloodstains, including impressions (e.g. fingerprints, shoe impressions), should be noted.

15.5.4 The distribution of bloodstains may include descriptors like linear, circular, conical, pooled, and saturated. When describing the distribution of stains on vertical surfaces (e.g. walls), start from the left and proceed to the right.

15.5.5 The appearance of bloodstains may include descriptors like color (e.g. red, red/brown), dry, wet, flaky, and/or clotted. Additionally, bloodstains that are caused by alterations (e.g. transfer stains) or affected by alterations in the scene should be noted (e.g. diluted, gravity effects).

15.5.6 Any observable material that may be pertinent to the bloodshed event (e.g. tissue, hair, bullet holes) should be noted.

15.5.7 Environmental and/or physical conditions in the scene that could affect blood stain patterns should be noted.

15.5.8 Descriptions of bloodstains should be recorded in notes as indicated. For CSIs who have had Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA) training, and who feel comfortable using BPA language, the names of stains may be used (e.g. drip stain, swipe, spatter, etc.). The term “apparent” or “possible” may be used when describing stains (e.g. apparent wipe pattern, possible misting, etc.).

15.5.9 A disturbance in the distribution of bloodstains may be important. A void in the area of a pattern indicates that an item may have been in place during the bloodshed event, but was moved some time after the event.

15.5.10 The texture (e.g. smooth, irregular, textured, flexible, rigid), material (e.g. porous, non-porous), surface characteristics (e.g. curved, flat, angled) of the surface bearing bloodstains should be noted, as the surface may affect the appearance of bloodstains. It should also be noted whether the surface is fixed or moveable in the scene.

15.5.11 **BLOODSTAIN PATTERNS AND LOCATIONS**

15.5.12 The location of blood droplets and bloodstain patterns, as well as the size of bloodstain patterns, should be documented by taking the dimensions of their locations within the crime scene.

15.5.13 Ruler tape may be used to outline areas of bloodstain patterns so that they may effectively be documented. It may also be used to document the location up from the floor, down from the ceiling, or from any reference point (RP) utilized in the scene.

15.5.13.1 Because ruler tape adheres to surfaces, its placement can easily be maintained during the examination of the crime scene. The use of ruler tape may be beneficial because it can be done by one person, without assistance.

15.5.13.1.1 Ruler tape should be applied in no less than one foot sections. However, ruler tape may be cut so that the tape may be applied in a way that does not obscure the bloodstain patterns.

15.5.14 Other types of measuring devices, such as freestanding measuring tapes, paper/disposable measuring tape, and measuring sticks may also be utilized around areas of bloodstain patterns. The use of these measuring devices usually requires the assistance of a second person.

15.5.15 Location notations made from any RP or designated surface (e.g. floor, ceiling, southwest corner of living room) should start at zero, and should note the approximate location to the area of interest. When outlining an area of interest, one measuring tape should be perpendicular to the ceiling or floor, and the second should be parallel to the ceiling or floor.

15.5.16 When outlining areas of bloodstain patterns, the area should ideally be one to two feet in width. If the size of the bloodstain pattern is larger than two feet wide, additional lengths of measuring tape should be utilized; this will affect photography methodology.

15.5.17 BLOODSTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

15.5.18 Comparison quality photographs should be taken as outlined in Section 9.25.

15.5.19 In order to be able to see the bloodstain pattern detail clearly, and to potentially be able to utilize reconstruction software for analysis, the area of bloodstains photographed cannot exceed two feet in width.

15.5.20 The focal length of the camera should be adjusted so that an area measuring no wider than two feet is visible through the viewfinder.

15.5.21 If a bloodstain pattern, or an area of overlapping patterns, measures wider than two feet, it should be photographed in sections. Each section to be photographed should include the marker designation assigned to the pattern. The photos should overlap slightly so that a panoramic effect is created.

15.5.22 BLOODSTAIN SKETCHES

15.5.23 Sketches of bloodstain patterns may be completed on the general crime scene sketch, or may be completed as a stand-alone sketch.

15.5.24 A cross projection sketch may be valuable to show bloodstains and/or evidence in relationship to one another on both the horizontal (e.g. floor) and vertical (e.g. wall) surfaces.

15.5.25 An elevation sketch may be valuable to show the details of bloodstain patterns on the vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, doors) of a location.

15.5.26 BLOOD ENHANCEMENT CHEMICALS

- 15.5.27 Blood enhancement chemicals may be used to visualize faint marks thought to be made by a surface bearing blood.
- 15.5.28 Blood enhancement chemicals shall be used as outlined in Section 13 of this manual.
- 15.6 Collection of blood should be conducted as per Sections 13.6-13.8 of this manual.
- 15.7 SHOOTING INCIDENTS
- 15.7.1 Recognizing shooting artifacts in the scene is the first step to fully document them for reconstruction.
- 15.7.1.1 A flashlight may be utilized at an oblique angle to visualize small defects.
- 15.7.2 Bullet strikes, impacts, penetrations, and perforations may be present as a defect from a single projectile (e.g. bullet fired from handgun) or may be present as a grouping of defects from multiple projectiles (e.g. pellets fired from shotgun).
- 15.7.3 Groups of defects that were created by the same event should be documented together as a pattern. Patterns may overlap; if possible, each pattern should be documented separately.
- 15.8 Bullet impacts and/or impact patterns may be labeled differently depending on whether they're being recorded for reconstruction or whether they're being collected as evidence.
- 15.8.1 For bullet impacts that are being documented for reconstruction, letter placards and/or stickers should be utilized.
- 15.8.1.1 For example, if there are three areas of impact in the north wall, they could be labeled as F, G, and H. The impact in the east wall could be labeled J. The impact in the floor in the northeast corner of the room could be labeled K.
- 15.8.1.2 When a bullet perforates a surface, it is helpful to designate the difference between entrance and exit along the bullet's path. A bullet may enter and exit multiple surfaces along its path. The initial entrance could be labeled with the letter, such as F. Once it is determined that it exited, the exit hole could be labeled F2. If it enters another surface, that could be labeled F3; the next exit could be labeled F4, and so on. By labeling in this manner, one can easily see which holes are related to bullet entrances (odd numbers) and which holes are related to bullet exits (even numbers).
- 15.8.2 For cartridge components that are being collected as evidence, number placards and/or stickers should be utilized.



- 15.8.2.1 For example, a cartridge case on the living room floor could be labeled 7, a bullet fragment on the bathroom counter could be labeled 8.
- 15.8.3 For impacts that are being documented for reconstruction, but which contain an item to be collected for evidence, both letter and number placards/stickers should be utilized.
- 15.8.3.1 For example, bullet fragments are to be collected from area F on the north wall and area J on the east wall. In the area from which the evidence would be collected, marker 10 would be added to area F and marker 11 would be added to area J, after the area had been opened to recover the evidence.
- 15.8.3.2 When cutting into a surface to recover a bullet/fragment, collection should be conducted as per section 19.7.2 of this manual.
- 15.8.4 By labeling areas for reconstruction differently than areas for collection, a CSI can quickly determine how that evidence was utilized in the scene and differentiate between documentation and collection efforts.
- 15.9 For reconstruction purposes, bullet impacts, bullet holes, cartridge/shot components, firearms, ammunition, and other related evidence should be considered to determine the possible location of a firearm when it was discharged in a scene. Only those CSIs who have taken a shooting reconstruction course or have received specific training in shooting reconstruction methodology should be responsible for the documentation of the elements needed for potential reconstruction.
- 15.9.1 SHOOTING NOTES
- 15.9.2 The description of size of a bullet hole should include a measurement of the diameter in mm. Measurements should be rounded down to the nearest mm.
- 15.9.2.1 A scale that has been checked against a NIST certified ruler should be used to document bullet hole size.
- 15.9.3 The area around the bullet hole should be described including damage to the surface, which may indicate the direction a bullet was traveling at the time of impact.
- 15.9.3.1 Bullets that ultimately ricochet off of a surface can leave a lead-in mark that represents the entry side of a ricochet. Lead-in marks are generated when the projectile first encounters a surface and creates a small mark before burrowing deeper into that surface.

- 15.9.3.2 When painted metallic surfaces (e.g. automobiles) are impacted, visual cues may help identify the bullet's direction of travel. A pinch point represents the entry side of a ricochet on painted metallic surfaces. On some such surfaces, the ricochet may leave "waves" (i.e. cracks in the paint) that recede away from the direction of travel (i.e. like waves following a boat traveling across the water).
- 15.9.3.3 Automobile metal is strong, and tends to bend significantly before allowing a bullet to pass. This bending often results in a hole through an automobile body being much larger than the projectile that caused it.
- 15.9.3.4 Plugs are often mistaken as a piece of fired bullet. Using a magnet, one can discern a piece of car metal (usually steel, which will adhere to a magnet) from a bullet fragment (usually copper or lead, which will not adhere to a magnet).
- 15.9.4 The location of bullet strikes/holes should be documented by taking the measurements of their locations within the crime scene.
- 15.9.5 Ruler tape may be used to outline areas with multiple bullet holes or defects from a grouping of projectiles (e.g. pellets from a shotgun). It may also be used to document the location up from the floor, down from the ceiling, or from any reference point utilized in the scene.
  - 15.9.5.1 Because ruler tape adheres to surfaces, its placement can easily be maintained during the examination of the crime scene. The use of ruler tape may be beneficial because it can be done by one person, without assistance.
- 15.9.6 Other types of measuring devices, such as freestanding measuring tapes, paper/disposable measuring tape, and measuring sticks may also be utilized around areas of bullet holes. The use of these measuring devices usually requires the assistance of a second person.
- 15.9.7 Measurements made from any RP or designated surface (e.g. floor, northwest corner of room), should start at zero, and should measure to the area of interest. When outlining an area of interest, one measuring tape should be perpendicular to the ceiling or floor, and the second should be level to the ceiling or floor.
- 15.9.8 Sketches of areas containing bullet strikes/holes may be completed on the general crime scene sketch, or may be completed as a stand-alone sketch.
- 15.9.9 A cross projection sketch may be valuable to show bullet strikes/holes and/or evidence in relationship to one another on both the horizontal (e.g. floor) and vertical (e.g. wall) surfaces.

- 15.9.10 An elevation sketch may be valuable to show the details of bullet holes/strikes on the vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, doors) of a location.
- 15.9.11 IMPACT ARTIFACTS
- 15.9.12 Bullets may impact numerous different surfaces before they finally come to rest. Areas of possible ricochet, strike, and/or deflection should be documented to aid in determining a possible flight path of a bullet.
- 15.9.13 A description of the surface impacted (e.g. smooth, rough, metal, asphalt, etc.) will help to correlate which bullet(s) may have impacted that surface, based on the artifacts present on the bullet.
- 15.9.14 BULLET HOLES
- 15.9.15 Bullet holes may be circular or irregularly shaped, depending on what the bullet may have impacted, if anything, before penetrating/perforating a surface/object.
- 15.9.16 PRESUMPTIVE TESTS FOR BULLET STRIKES AND BULLET HOLES
- 15.9.17 Presumptive tests for the presence of lead or copper may be utilized to determine if a defect was likely caused by a bullet impact, penetration, or perforation.
- 15.9.18 TRAJECTORY
- 15.9.19 Trajectory is a term that describes a fired bullet's path. Over long distances, a bullet's path is curved. Over short distances, the curvature is small enough that the bullet's path is assessed as a straight line.
- 15.9.20 A laser light or a trajectory rod, connecting two impact locations, can provide a visual representation of the bullet path.
- 15.9.21 Once two (or more) suitable bullet impacts have been located, photographed, documented, and possibly chemically tested, one can begin to record the angles involved. Every trajectory has a horizontal and a vertical angle.
- 15.9.22 Angles can be documented using a "zero-edge" 180 degree protractor, an angle finder, and a plumb bob. Angles should be documented manually, even if measurements are being taken using a total station or similar system.
- 15.9.23 It is often helpful to draw a sketch of the top view (horizontal angle) and the side view (vertical angle) of the trajectory being measured.
- 15.9.24 ANGLE OF IMPACT
- 15.9.25 Horizontal angle is the North, South, East, or West component of the shot. When facing a bullet hole surface (e.g. wall), the position to the left of the bullet defect can be assigned as zero degrees and the position to the right of the defect can be assigned as 180 degrees; this is what a protractor placed against the wall would show. Results are recorded as from left to right, as read from the protractor.

- 15.9.25.1 To measure the horizontal aspect, connect two impact sites with a rod and place the center of a 180-degree protractor at the base of the rod. It is always measured with the protractor parallel to the ground and level. The tip of the rod should be read against the protractor scale. While aligning the center point of the level protractor against the base of the rod, the plumb is held along the edge of the rod and the angle indicated at the intersection of the hanging plumb against the protractor is recorded as the horizontal angle.
- 15.9.25.2 Horizontal angle can also be recorded using a plumb bob to translate the positions of the base and tip of the rod onto the level ground below. Place the plumb bob at the base of the rod and let the weight drop to the ground and mark that position. Next place the plumb out toward the tip of the rod and mark that second position on the ground. Connect the two points translated onto the ground. This angle can be translated onto paper that can be labeled and saved with scene notes.
- 15.9.26 The vertical angle is the up/down component of the trajectory. Vertical angles may simply be described as “x” degrees upward or “x” degrees downward.
- 15.9.26.1 For this measurement, the protractor shall be held straight up and down (aligning with the plumb bob will help) with the zero point of the protractor at the base of the rod. For vertical measure, the protractor should be “rolled” to meet alongside the rod and the angle read directly.
- 15.9.26.2 A second and easier technique for recording the vertical angle is by placing an angle finder along the vertical aspect of the rod and simply reading the information directly from the device.
- 15.9.27 SHOOTINGS INVOLVING VEHICLES
- 15.9.28 Shots into vehicles may be difficult because of the curved surfaces on vehicles. Logos, hood ornaments, inside rearview mirror, or inside brake light are engineered to be at the centerline of a vehicle. These natural landmarks can be used as a baseline when taking measurements.
- 15.9.29 To provide external reference lines around a vehicle, the CSI should find two relatively parallel positions along one of the sides of the vehicle. A fixed measure (e.g. 3” out from the center of the hub of the front and back wheels) can be marked on the ground. Connecting these points constitutes

a straight baseline that represents the side of the car. Extend it beyond both ends of the car to make it complete around the car. Hang a plumb from the center of the front or back of the vehicle & mark that position. Connect the plumb position to the side baselines by extending a line all the way across the front or back of the vehicle. Use a carpenter's square to ensure the lines intersect at 90 degrees. Marking these positions on one side and one end of the vehicle can be used to reference all evidence on all sides of the vehicle.

15.9.30 Vehicles are mobile and may be hit from any side during the same event, so assignment of angles of trajectory can get confusing. Assign the front center of the car as zero degrees and make all trajectories based on a clockwise assignment of a 360 degree circle.

15.9.30.1 When describing these trajectories, it may be described as something like "the bullet that caused trajectory 'A' originated from approximately 228 degrees and was traveling downward at approximately 10 degrees".

15.9.31 IMPACTS AND TRAJECTORY PHOTOGRAPHY

15.9.32 When photographing horizontal angles, the photographer should be positioned directly above (or below) the protractor; the camera lens should be perpendicular to the level protractor. Photographing the protractor while the plumb is in place will document the angles for future reconstruction.

15.9.33 When photographing vertical angles, the image should be recorded with the plumb bob in the picture and the photo taken while the camera is parallel to the rod. If the base of the rod is near the camera lens and the tip of the rod is far from the lens, distortion will result in the incorrect angle being recorded. If the angle finder is utilized, the angle readout from the device should be photographed. For the vertical angle, the photograph should be taken perpendicular to the rod itself.

15.9.34 A laser may be used when it's difficult/impossible to insert a rod through two points. It may be photographed by darkening the scene so that the laser light is more easily seen. A white card (e.g. latent lift card) can be held towards the camera so that the laser light hits against it, and with the shutter open, a person can walk quickly through the trajectory, highlighting the laser light.

15.9.34.1 In order to photograph the laser light, the camera should be mounted on the tripod.

15.9.34.2 The camera settings should be adjusted so that the exposure will be appropriate with the shutter open, using the bulb setting, or by locking down the shutter release button on the remote shutter release cord.

15.9.34.3 Depending on the distance being covered in the trajectory, the depth of field may need to be adjusted by the f-stop setting so that the entire trajectory, and the items around the scene, are all in focus.

15.9.34.4 It may be helpful to do one flash discharge toward the ceiling for overall illumination after the laser light has been visualized, and before the shutter has been closed.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 16.0 Latent Print Development and Preservation

- 16.1 Latent prints are one of the most common types of physical evidence found at crime scenes and are valuable in terms of identifying subjects and associating people with locations and/or objects related to a crime.
- 16.1.1 The term “latent” refers to prints that are not visible prior to utilizing a development method; however, all prints recovered from a crime scene or items of evidence are often referred to as latent prints.
- 16.1.2 Latent prints found at crime scenes are made when the friction ridge skin of the fingers, palms, or soles of the feet come in contact with a surface and leave an impression on that surface.
- 16.1.3 Latent prints may be made from a variety of residues, including sweat, oil, blood, and any other substance that may cover any portion of the fingers/palms/soles prior to coming in contact with a surface.
- 16.1.4 Patent prints are those impressions that are visible prior to any development (e.g. print in blood).
- 16.1.5 Plastic prints (i.e. three-dimensional impressions) may be present if friction ridge skin comes in contact with a soft substance in the scene.
- 16.2 Items that are thought to contain potential latent print evidence, which are small enough to be collected, should be collected for processing at the lab. Surfaces in the scene that are not easily removed (e.g. doors, windows, floors, walls, furniture, etc.) should be processed at the scene unless it is a critical piece of evidence that would benefit from lab processing techniques. The determination to collect large items or elements of a building/vehicle (e.g. windows) for submission shall be left to the CSI’s discretion and shall be made with the approval of the investigating agency.
- 16.3 Only those CSIs who have been trained and competency/proficiency tested to process evidence for latent prints may conduct latent print processing on crime scenes.
- 16.4 Latent print evidence should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.
- 16.4.1 Due to the small size of some latent prints, they may not be easily visualized in photos. Evidence markers (e.g. stickers, placards) may be utilized to help visualize latent prints in scene photography.
- 16.4.2 It is best practice to photograph all latent prints that are thought to have value prior to collection.
- 16.4.2.1 All latent prints that are to be collected should be photographed for documentation prior to attempting any lifts.



- 16.4.2.1.1 Dry erase markers may be utilized, depending on the surface, to mark the location of latent prints.
- 16.4.2.1.2 An arc may be used to note the top of a finger impression and a bracket may be used to note an area of palm, sole, unknown friction ridge skin, or unknown orientation.
- 16.4.2.1.3 The marking, when lifted, helps to authenticate the location of the print in the scene.
- 16.4.2.2 The CSI shall determine which latent prints should be photographed (comparison quality) prior to collection based on their training and experience. Comparison quality photographs shall be taken as outlined in section 9.25 of this manual.
- 16.4.2.3 If the nature of the surface bearing the latent print is such that a lift is not likely to be an effective means of collecting the latent print, comparison quality photographs shall be taken before a lift is attempted.
- 16.4.2.4 If the latent print is visualized using an ALS, the latent print should be photographed using the appropriate color of barrier filter.
- 16.4.3 Notes shall reflect the types of latent print processing that was conducted, the areas/items processed, and the results of each type of processing.
- 16.4.4 A simple sketch shall be made on the latent lift card noting the orientation of the print and the location on the item from which the lift was collected.
  - 16.4.4.1 If a large area/item is being processed, a larger diagram(s) may be utilized to show the locations of multiple latent prints.
- 16.5 The development of latent prints in a crime scene is dependent upon a number of factors, including the nature of the surface and the composition of the latent print residue.
  - 16.5.1 CSIs may use light based methods, chemical methods, or physical methods to locate and develop latent prints within a scene.
  - 16.5.2 Latent print processing generally starts with methods that would cause the least potential damage to items and proceeds as appropriate.
  - 16.5.3 Prior to processing an item that may have sentimental or inherent value, the CSI shall get authorization from the primary investigator; note who specifically gave authorization for those actions.
- 16.6 VISUALIZING LATENT PRINTS
  - 16.6.1 Latent prints may be visualized using various angles and wavelengths of light. Visualization of latent prints through the use of forensic lighting

methods is non-destructive and should be attempted prior to other processing methods.

16.6.2 A strong white light may be utilized at an oblique angle in order to visualize latent prints.

16.6.2.1 A flashlight or the white light setting on an ALS are the most common sources for a strong white light.

16.6.3 An ALS may be utilized in order to visualize natural substances or contaminants in the latent print residue. An ALS may also create a reaction with the surface, thereby creating contrast, visualizing a latent print.

16.6.3.1 An ALS may only be utilized by CSIs who have received training in the appropriate use of an ALS.

16.6.3.2 When using an ALS to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.

16.6.3.3 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength.

WAVELENGTH	CORRESPONDING FILTER
<400nm	yellow or clear UV safe
400-450nm	yellow
450-540nm	orange
>540-700nm	red

16.6.3.4 Permanent eye damage can occur from reflected, refracted, or direct illumination by the ALS to the eye. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. A CSI should never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into their own eyes or another person's eyes.

## 16.7 CYANOACRYLATE ESTER

16.7.1 Cyanoacrylate ester (CAE), commonly known as "superglue", is a chemical used to visualize latent prints on non-porous and some semi-porous objects. CAE processing also prepares the surface for the acceptance of powders that may enable further visualization of the latent prints.

16.7.2 On scene, a vehicle, a room, or even a body may be processed using CAE. While most small items shall be collected for processing in the lab, there may be instances in which CAE processing is warranted for evidence on scene.

16.7.2.1 Before a body can be CAE processed on scene, the Medicolegal Authority for that county shall be contacted and their express consent shall be granted. Consent shall be documented in notes.

16.7.3 In order to facilitate CAE processing, a proper environment should be able to be established.

16.7.3.1 If using liquid or gel CAE, the area to be fumed shall be able to be made relatively airtight, and shall be able to be ventilated after processing. The CSI shall be able to add humidity to the environment, and may need to add heat to the CAE in order to expedite the process.

16.7.3.2 If using a fuming wand, it shall be in a well-ventilated area.

16.7.4 CAE may be utilized in either liquid or gel form or by using a fuming wand. The amount of CAE used depends on the size of the area being fumed, the fuming rate, and the CSI's preference, based on training and experience.

16.7.4.1 When utilizing the liquid CAE, it can be added to a disposable aluminum dish and placed on a hot plate in order to facilitate the vaporization of the liquid.

16.7.4.2 When utilizing a foil CAE gel packet, the gel vaporizes at a controlled rate when exposed to air. Numerous gel packets may have to be used to obtain the desired results.

16.7.4.3 When utilizing a fuming wand, the cartridge size is selected based upon the size of the area/item to be processed. Fumes from the wand rise, so it is best to direct the fumes below the item/surface.

16.7.5 Containers of hot water can be added to the environment in order to increase the humidity.

16.7.6 Control tests shall be processed with the evidence and should be monitored frequently to prevent over or under fuming. Proper development is achieved when ridge characteristics on the control turn slightly white in color and begin to show good contrast.

16.7.7 CAE fuming should only be conducted in a well-ventilated area. Precautions should be taken to avoid inhaling or allowing the vapors to contact the eyes, as the vapors can be irritating to the eyes, nose, and throat. Persons wearing contact lenses should not open areas containing CAE fumes, including using a fuming wand, unless wearing non-vented goggles.

16.7.8 Gloves should be worn to prevent the CAE from contacting the skin, as adhesion may result.

## 16.8 LATENT PRINT POWDERS

16.8.1 Latent print powders may be utilized to develop prints at crime scenes. Powder particles physically adhere to latent print residue, allowing the latent print to be visualized. There are a variety of colors/types of powders, as well as different types of brushes/applicators that may be used, depending upon the surface and potential contaminants (e.g. blood).

- 16.8.2 Powder is selected based on the type and color of the surface to be processed. Traditional powders are most often effective on non-textured, non-ferrous surfaces, magnetic powders are most often effective on plastics and textured surfaces, and fluorescent powders may be useful on multicolored surfaces.
- 16.8.3 The type of applicator to be used depends upon the size of area to be processed and the type of powder to be used. Magnetic wands are used with magnetic powder and fiberglass brushes are used for traditional powders and may be used for fluorescent powders. Powder should be applied in a circular motion until detail becomes visualized, and should then be applied consistent with ridge flow.
- 16.8.4 When the crime scene is contaminated with blood or other biological contaminants, single use brushes and powder should be utilized; their use should be noted.
- 16.8.5 When using fluorescent powder, an ALS should be utilized during processing to avoid over-powdering the surface.
- 16.8.6 Latent prints that are developed and are deemed suitable for collection should be marked, photographed, and/or lifted. The collection type should be determined based on the CSI's training and experience.
- 16.8.7 If fabric, glove, or other similar impressions are developed while processing a crime scene, they should be documented in notes and possibly with photography, depending on the nature of the impressions and the circumstances at the scene.
- 16.9 SMALL PARTICLE REAGENT
- 16.9.1 Small particle reagent (SPR) works like a liquid fingerprint powder and can develop prints on a variety of surfaces, including items that are or have been wet. SPR is available in either black or white; the solution color should be chosen based on the color of the item/area being examined.
- 16.9.2 SPR can be sprayed onto an item. The bottle of SPR should be shaken often to keep the SPR in suspension. If an area is thought to contain latent prints, SPR should be sprayed above the print so the SPR can flow over the print. Excess SPR can be removed by rinsing the surface with water.
- 16.9.3 Latent prints that are developed and are deemed suitable for collection should be marked, photographed, and/or lifted. The collection type should be determined based on the CSI's training and experience.
- 16.10 LIFTING METHODS
- 16.10.1 Lifting methods are effective for the preservation of latent print impressions and are one of the most common and effective methods of preserving latent prints. There are a variety of sizes, types, and finishes of

lifting tape that can be utilized depending on the surface and/or characteristics of the latent print.

- 16.10.2 All latent lift cards that contain tape lifts shall be retained and turned over to the investigating agency as evidence; no latent lift cards containing tape lifts shall be discarded.
- 16.10.3 Latent lift cards should be filled out as completely as possible and shall include the date and initials of the person collecting the lift, a case number, and a description and diagram of the surface from which the print was lifted. The lift card should also contain significant information about the orientation and/or position of the latent print on the surface.
- 16.10.4 If latent prints appear to be simultaneous impressions or are in close proximity to one another, they should be lifted together whenever possible.
- 16.10.5 Lifts from non-adjacent areas should be placed on different cards.
- 16.10.6 If multiple lifts are taken of the same latent print, they may be placed on the same latent lift card. A notation indicating the order in which they were lifted should be made on the card.
- 16.11 Casting compounds (e.g. Mikrosil) may be utilized to lift a latent print on a textured or uneven surface.
  - 16.11.1 Casting compounds may be mixed by hand or by using an extruder gun.
  - 16.11.2 Casting compounds should be applied in a way to prevent air pockets and should be left in place until solidified.
  - 16.11.3 After lifting, casting material can be attached to a latent lift card and the information about the cast can be filled out as detailed in 15.10.3.
- 16.12 Blood contaminated latent prints may be present in scenes. In order to develop/visualize those latent prints, blood-reactive chemicals may be utilized.
  - 16.12.1 Prior to the application of any blood enhancement chemicals, consideration should be taken for the collection of any evidence for biological analysis.
  - 16.12.2 Blood enhancement chemicals should be used as detailed in section 14 of this manual.
- 16.13 KNOWN EXEMPLARS
  - 16.13.1 Known exemplars is a term used to describe the intentional recording of an individual's friction ridge impressions that are made for comparison purposes. Impressions may be made using a number of techniques, including, but not limited to, photography, traditional ink/cards and powder/adhesive lift methods.
  - 16.13.2 Only those CSIs who have been trained and competency/proficiency tested in the collection of known exemplars should collect exemplars.

- 16.13.3 If a subject's hands are overly sweaty/dirty, they should be dried/cleaned prior to attempting to record their prints. If a subject's hands are dry, a small amount of lotion may be rubbed into their hands prior to attempting to record their prints.
- 16.13.4 It is often helpful to take multiple recordings of each type of exemplar (e.g. fingertips, palm prints, etc.) in case of unintentional smears or defects; all recordings should be retained.
- 16.13.5 Pre-printed cards for fingers and palms may be utilized for recording inked exemplars. In the absence of pre-printed cards, plain white paper may be utilized. A cylindrical object, such as a piece of pipe or cardboard tube (approximately 3" or bigger in diameter), should be utilized to obtain complete palm print exemplars.
- 16.13.6 Adhesive lifts may be cut to size based on the area of skin being recorded. If an individual finger/area is being recorded, that finger/area shall be noted on the exemplar.
- 16.13.6.1 When adhesive lifts are cut to size, they should be placed on a cover sheet that is no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches. If the adhesive lift is smaller than the cover, the cover may be trimmed.
- 16.13.7 All exemplars should be marked with the date, CSI's name, CSI's signature/initials, case number (if known), subject's name (if known), and subject's signature. It should be noted if the subject refuses to sign the exemplar.
- 16.13.8 When utilizing adhesive lifts to record exemplars, black fingerprint powder should be applied to the friction ridge skin evenly and consistently across the area of skin, using a fiberglass brush.
- 16.13.9 The adhesive lift should be placed carefully against the area of skin in an orientation to capture the intended area of friction ridge skin and to avoid any folds.
- 16.13.10 Once in place, even pressure should be applied to the adhesive lift in order to ensure good contact against all of the areas of skin.
- 16.13.11 The adhesive lift should be removed in one swift motion, avoiding adhesion to itself.
- 16.13.12 When recording inked fingerprints, the fingerprint card should be placed on a flat surface or in a cardholder.
- 16.13.13 Beginning with the right thumb, roll the thumb from nail-bed to nail-bed on an inking plate or pad. Roll the thumb in the same manner on the fingerprint card in the space marked for the right thumb. Roll the thumb with even pressure to avoid smearing. The procedure is continued for each



finger, ensuring the prints are placed in the corresponding boxes on the fingerprint card.

16.13.14 Ink the right and left thumbs and place a plain impression in the corresponding box at the bottom of the fingerprint card. Repeat the procedure with the right and left four fingers simultaneously placing the plain impression in the corresponding boxes at the bottom of the fingerprint card. Ideally, when taking plain impressions, fingers should be rolled up to include tip information.

16.13.15 If an amputation, deformity, or injury makes it impossible to print a finger, a notation shall be made to that effect in the individual finger block. If a portion of the finger is not covered with a bandage, rolling the finger should be attempted.

#### 16.14 POST-MORTEM EXEMPLARS

16.14.1 Post-mortem exemplars may be recovered from the deceased at autopsy in the same manner as described in 16.13. However, due to injury, decomposition, or other circumstances, traditional methods may not yield satisfactory results; casting (as per Section 17.9) and/or photography (as per Section 9.25) may be more effective.

16.14.2 Before undertaking any method of exemplar collection, the friction ridge skin shall be inspected in order to determine the best methodology to utilize. Attempt to locate all portions of the friction ridge skin if pieces have been separated from the hands and/or feet.

16.14.3 Exemplar collection should include the following:

16.14.3.1 Hands: full length of each finger, the full width of each finger (nail bed to nail bed), the fingertips, and the full palm (including thumb edge and knife edge),

16.14.3.2 Feet: full length of each toe, the full width of each toe (nail bed to nail bed), and the full length of the foot.

16.14.4 If any method may destroy or negatively affect the ability to capture quality post mortem exemplars, the remains should be photographed (as per Section 9.25) before attempting said method.

16.14.5 Any methodology not included in this section shall be approved by and supervised by the Medicolegal Authority. These methods include, but are not limited to, severing flexor tendons, ammonium hydroxide rehydration, sodium hydroxide rehydration, and detergent rehydration.

16.14.6 Biometric Scanning devices frequently utilized by the Medicolegal Authority for their identification purposes are not of sufficient quality to utilize for potential comparison purposes. Biometric scanning devices usually only allow a small area of friction ridge skin to be recorded, which doesn't include all of the areas that may be utilized for comparison



purposes. For individuals who are recently deceased, the methods described in 16.13 may be utilized after the following steps have been taken, after coordination with the Medicolegal Authority and/or medical examiner.

- 16.14.6.1 If the body has been refrigerated, it is helpful to allow it to warm to near room temperature prior to printing to reduce condensation that may interfere with the printing process.
- 16.14.6.2 If rigor mortis has set in, attempt to "break the rigor" by forcefully bending the joints back and forth.
- 16.14.6.3 If the fingers have begun to wrinkle due to decomposition or exposure, an attempt should be made to pull the skin tight while taking the impression.
- 16.14.6.4 If complete impressions still cannot be obtained, this condition may be corrected through the use of a commercially available post mortem injection solution.
  - 16.14.6.4.1 Fill a syringe with the post mortem injection solution.
  - 16.14.6.4.2 Insert the needle just below the skin at the distal joint of the finger and into the fingerprint pattern area. Inject the solution until the pattern is rounded out. Care should be taken to prevent the needle from puncturing the skin after the initial insertion. If necessary, a string may be tied just above the site to prevent the solution from leaking out.
- 16.14.7 For individuals who have advanced decomposition or in which the body was submerged in water, there may be separation of tissue on the hands. The following steps may be taken, after coordination with the Medicolegal Authority and/or medical examiner
  - 16.14.7.1 Wash and dry the friction ridge skin.
  - 16.14.7.2 If the separated friction ridge skin is too fragile to work with, it may be cleansed, flattened under a piece of glass, and photographed.
  - 16.14.7.3 Occasionally, a large portion of the outer layer of skin (i.e. epidermis) separates in the form of an "epidermal glove." If this occurs, the skin may be placed on the CSIs gloved hand and the impressions recorded in a traditional fashion, utilizing ink and/or powder methods. The skin may be cleaned and placed under a piece of glass for photography.

It may be necessary to excise the skin from the underlying tissue if it is still partially attached.

16.14.7.4 If the epidermal layer is no longer available, it may still be possible to obtain usable prints by photographing the dermis and/or using the black powder lift method.

16.14.8 For individuals whose skin has dried and hardened, traditional fingerprinting may not be possible.

16.14.8.1 As the drying process occurs, friction ridge areas may become shrunken, hard, dry, and deeply creased, making fingerprinting via traditional means impossible.

16.14.8.2 Depending on the circumstances, an CSI may attempt traditional ink and/or powder lift methods, photography, casting, or re-hydration techniques. Photography and/or powder/casting methods may be the most successful.

16.14.8.3 If rehydration of the skin is to be attempted, the process shall be coordinated with the Medicolegal Authority's office.

## 17.0 Impression Evidence

- 17.1 Impression evidence is present in crime scenes in the form of shoe and tire marks, bite marks, tool marks, and possibly by marks made from other patterned items.
  - 17.1.1 Impression evidence may be located by utilizing ambient light, ALS lighting, and/or oblique lighting.
  - 17.1.2 When impression evidence is located outdoors, care should be taken to avoid loss or destruction due to weather conditions.
  - 17.1.3 If an impression is fragile or could be altered/destroyed by movement through the crime scene, care should be taken to protect the impression.
- 17.2 Impression evidence should be marked using a letter marker. By using a letter, rather than a number marker, impression evidence can be easily distinguished from other items of evidence marked in the scene.
  - 17.2.1 Letter placards should be utilized for impression evidence on horizontal surfaces. Letter stickers should be utilized for impression evidence on vertical surfaces.
  - 17.2.2 Letter designations shall be included in any comparison photography, on any lifts, and on any casts taken of the impression.
- 17.3 Impression evidence should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection and/or enhancement attempts.
  - 17.3.1 Moveable objects bearing impression evidence should be photographed prior to moving and/or collection. Processing for impression evidence may be best conducted in the laboratory.
  - 17.3.2 Impressions on non-movable surfaces should be documented and processed in place.
  - 17.3.3 The locations and numbers of lifts and casts shall be documented in notes.
- 17.4 Generally, the first step in the proper documentation and recovery of impression evidence is accomplished with photography.
  - 17.4.1 Comparison quality photographs should be taken as outlined in Section 9.25 of this manual.
  - 17.4.2 Comparison quality photographs should be taken prior to attempting preservation by other means (e.g. lifting, casting).
- 17.5 Some types of impression evidence (e.g. shoe impressions in blood) may be enhanced for photography and collection using chemical and/or powder methods. Less destructive methods should be utilized prior to the use of more destructive methods.
  - 17.5.1 Blood enhancement chemicals shall be utilized as outlined in Section 14 of this manual.

- 17.5.2 Powder processing techniques shall be utilized as outlined in Section 16.8 of this manual.
- 17.5.3 Any enhanced/processed impressions that are going to be collected shall be documented with photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.
- 17.5.3.1 Comparison quality photographs should be taken prior to attempting preservation by other means (e.g. lifting, casting).
- 17.6 Impression evidence may be physically recovered, depending on the circumstances. The recovery technique depends on the nature of the impression and the substrate.
- 17.6.1 If the item containing the impression can be safely collected, without loss of the impression, then the entire item should be collected.
- 17.6.2 If the impression is a two-dimensional impression on a surface, lifting methods should be considered for collection.
- 17.6.3 If the impression is a three-dimensional impression, casting should be considered for collection.
- 17.7 ADHESIVE AND GELATIN LIFTERS
- 17.7.1 Lifting involves transferring a two-dimensional impression from its original surface to a surface that can provide better contrast, allow easier transportation, and perhaps aid in preservation. Lifting should be utilized when there is a risk that the impression may be destroyed if the item is collected.
- 17.7.2 Adhesive lifters are usually vinyl adhesive lifts and fingerprint lift tape. Adhesive lifters work best on non-porous surfaces and work well with impressions that have been processed with fingerprint powder.
- 17.7.2.1 The adhesive lifter may be cut to be slightly larger than the target impression.
- 17.7.2.2 A vinyl lifter shall be labeled with identifying information which may include, but is not limited to, the following: the letter marker; the orientation, position, and location of the impression; date; case number; and initials of the person taking the lift.
- 17.7.2.3 To apply the adhesive lifter, place one edge of the lift on the substrate and slowly smooth down the rest of the lifter over the impression, taking care to press out any air bubbles; a roller may assist in this process. Repeat with overlapping tape lifts, if necessary.
- 17.7.2.4 While the adhesive lifter is in place, documentary photographs should be taken to show the lifter in place in the scene.

- 17.7.2.5 To remove the lift, carefully lift it by the corners.
- 17.7.2.6 Place the adhesive lift on a clean fingerprint card, piece of paper, transparency sheet, or other similar product, depending on which is likely to offer the best contrast for later imaging.
- 17.7.3 Gelatin lifters are thicker than adhesive lifters, may be used on porous or non-porous surfaces, work well with impressions that have been processed with fingerprint powder, and may work with impressions that have been chemically processed.
  - 17.7.3.1 Gelatin lifters should be selected based on contrast between the impression and the backing color. Black gelatin lifts work well for impressions in drywall dust, while impressions developed with dark fingerprint powder may best appear on a white background.
  - 17.7.3.2 Best practice is to remove the gelatin lift from its package to allow it to come to room temperature for approximately 5-10 minutes prior to lifting an impression.
  - 17.7.3.3 The gelatin lifter may be cut to be slightly larger than the target impression.
  - 17.7.3.4 The gelatin lifter shall be labeled with identifying information which may include, but is not limited to, the following: the letter marker; the orientation, position, and location of the impression; date; case number; and initials of the person taking the lift.
  - 17.7.3.5 To apply the gelatin lift, first remove the transparent cover. Care should be taken when removing the cover to limit the stretching. Place one edge of the lift on the substrate and slowly smooth down the rest of the lifter over the impression, taking care to press out any air bubbles; a roller may assist in this process.
  - 17.7.3.6 While the gelatin lifter is in place, documentary photographs should be taken to show the lifter in place in the scene.
  - 17.7.3.7 To remove the lift, carefully lift it by the corners.
  - 17.7.3.8 Place the lift on a horizontal surface with the gelatin layer up. Best practice is to take comparison quality photographs as soon as possible, as the impression fade over time.
  - 17.7.3.9 Once photography is completed, the transparent cover can be affixed to the lift, being careful to avoid air bubbles. When replacing the clear cover, place the clean side of the clear cover in contact with the gelatin lift or use a new

acetate cover. The side previously in contact with the gel lift should not be replaced on the impression to prevent re-deposition of the residue.

- 17.7.3.10 Gelatin lifts melt between 104-113 degrees Fahrenheit. Objects that have been exposed to the sun or those temperatures should be cooled before attempting to use a gelatin lifter.

17.7.4 Gelatin lifts should be stored in individual clean dust free containers. Adhesive lifts should be placed in a container that is large enough to hold the lifts and protect the lifts from damage. Adhesive and gelatin lifts may be stored at room temperature, though storage in refrigeration is preferable.

17.7.5 If multiple lifts are taken of the same impression, the lifts shall be labeled in order to distinguish which was first, second, etc.

## 17.8 CASTING- DENTAL STONE

17.8.1 Casting is used to collect a three-dimensional impression. Three-dimensional impressions are commonly found in soil, sand, and snow. Casting may be utilized in three-dimensional impressions as there is no way to collect the impression without disrupting the substrate.

### 17.8.2 Equipment

Dental stone or other similar forensic casting material  
Water  
Bucket or disposable plastic bag  
Stir stick/disposable spoon/tongue depressor  
Adjustable metal forms  
Flour sifter (or similar device)  
Snow Print Wax

### 17.8.3 General casting method

17.8.3.1 All supplies should be assembled prior to mixing the casting material.

17.8.3.2 Two pounds of dental stone is placed in a large zipper top plastic bag or other similar disposable container. Approximately ten ounces of water is added to the dental stone (amount depends on substrate conditions). The container is closed and the components are thoroughly mixed by squeezing/manipulating the container until the mixture has the consistency of thin pancake batter. More dental stone or water may be added to reach the desired consistency.

17.8.3.3 The amount of casting material depends on the size of the impression. The ratio listed in 17.8.3.2 is enough to cast an average shoe impression. Larger quantities of dental stone

can be mixed in a larger container (e.g. bucket) to cast large segments of tire or multiple impressions.

17.8.3.4 Metal forms may be placed around the impression to contain the casting mixture.

17.8.3.5 The mixture is gently poured into the impression. A stir stick or similar item may be held at the edge of the impression, with the mixture poured along the stick to direct the flow and reduce damage to the impression.

17.8.3.5.1 For fragile and shallow impressions, pour casting material from outside the perimeter so that it rapidly flows over the impression. A thinner mixture of casting material is necessary for this technique. Avoid pouring directly onto the impression until a sufficient layer of material has accumulated over the impression.

17.8.3.6 The mixture is allowed to harden. When the cast is still in place in the impression and is firm but still soft, identifying marks (e.g. agency case number, lab number, date, marker number, etc.) may be scratched into the top surface. When the cast has hardened, identifying marks may be written in permanent marker.

17.8.3.7 Before removing the cast, it should be photographed in place in the scene.

17.8.3.8 The cast should be allowed to dry for at least twenty minutes in warm weather and longer in cold, wet conditions.

17.8.3.9 The cast should be removed carefully. Any debris should be left in place in the cast.

17.8.3.10 The cast should be packaged in a large paper sack or a cardboard box and it should be allowed to dry for an additional 48 hours. The cast should not be packaged in plastic.

#### 17.8.4 Underwater casting method

17.8.4.1 Impressions that are under water may still be cast. Do not attempt to drain away any of the water as it may disturb the impression.

17.8.4.2 Place a metal form around the impression to contain the casting mixture.

17.8.4.3 Sift or lightly sprinkle dry casting material over the underwater impression until covered by about an inch of the casting material. Then mix the casting material to a



slightly thicker consistency than typical (as per Section 17.8.3.2 and carefully scoop the mixture onto the impression.

17.8.4.4 Allow to set for at least one hour.

17.8.4.5 If the impression is in very shallow water, the casting material may be mixed to a slightly thicker consistency than typical and applied as normal, as the mixture will displace the thin layer of water.

17.8.4.6 The mixture will begin to harden. When the cast is firm but still soft, identifying marks (e.g. agency case number, lab number, date, marker number, etc.) may be scratched into the top surface. When the cast has hardened, identifying marks may be written in permanent marker.

17.8.4.7 Before removing the cast, it should be photographed in place in the scene.

17.8.4.8 The cast should be removed carefully. Any debris should be left in place in the cast.

17.8.4.9 The cast should be packaged in a large paper sack or a cardboard box and it should be allowed to dry for an additional 48 hours. The cast should not be packaged in plastic.

#### 17.8.5 Casting impressions in snow

17.8.5.1 Method 1: Sift or lightly sprinkle dry casting material over the snow impression until a thin layer is applied. Wait 1-2 minutes for that layer to harden, then sift or sprinkle dry casting material over the impression again. Repeat until there is no more moisture for the casting material to absorb. Thin the remaining casting material with water as per Section 17.8.3.2 and apply slowly to the impression.

17.8.5.2 Method 2: Spray a light coat of Snow Print Wax onto the snow impression. After that coat is dry, apply another coat. Repeat until at least three to four layers of wax have been applied. Allow the wax to set for approximately 10 minutes. Mix casting material with water so that it is slightly thicker than normal mixture that has been cooled.

17.8.5.2.1 When applying Snow Print Wax, be careful not to hold the can so close that the aerosol damages detail in the impression.

17.8.5.2.2 The reaction of dental stone with water is exothermic. When casting in snow, use cold water or some snow when making the mixture.

- 17.8.5.3 Allow to set for at least one hour.
- 17.8.5.4 The mixture is allowed to harden. When the cast is firm but still soft, identifying marks may be scratched into the top surface. When the cast has hardened, identifying marks may be written in permanent marker.
- 17.8.5.5 Before removing the cast, it should be photographed in place in the scene.
- 17.8.5.6 The cast should be removed carefully. Any debris should be left in place in the cast.
- 17.8.5.7 The cast should be packaged in a large paper sack or a cardboard box and it should be allowed to dry for an additional 48 hours. The cast should not be packaged in plastic.
- 17.8.6 Casting material comments
  - 17.8.6.1 Once forensic casting material has hardened, it is not reversible. Use the mixture quickly after it is mixed or it may harden in the mixing container.
  - 17.8.6.2 Thicker mixtures and warmer temperatures will cause hardening more quickly compared to thinner mixtures and colder temperatures.
- 17.9 CASTING- MIKROSIL
  - 17.9.1 Casting is used to collect a three-dimensional impression. Mikrosil is a silicone casting material that is commonly used to collect tool mark impressions when photographic methods may not be appropriate.
  - 17.9.2 Equipment
    - Mikrosil base (brown, black, white, gray)
    - Mikrosil hardener
    - Mixing cards/latent lift cards
    - Wooden mixing sticks/stir stick/tongue depressor
    - Snow Print Wax
  - 17.9.3 General casting method
    - 17.9.3.1 All supplies should be assembled prior to mixing the casting material.
    - 17.9.3.2 Brown colored Mikrosil is preferred for casting tool mark impressions.
    - 17.9.3.3 Squeeze out a line of Mikrosil sufficient to cover the impression on the mixing card. Squeeze out a line of harder next to the line of Mikrosil so that both lines are approximately the same length. Thoroughly mix the two components using a mixing stick for approximately one minute.

- 17.9.3.4 Remove the mixed Mikrosil from the card and apply to the surface, taking care to work the casting material into or on the impression, without allowing the mixing stick to come in contact with the impression. Ideally, a small amount of Mikrosil will extend out onto the surface, adjacent to the impression, to create a small flap/strip of material.
- 17.9.3.5 The setting time will be approximately five to eight minutes at 68 degrees Fahrenheit and twelve to fifteen minutes at 14 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 17.9.3.6 Before removing the cast, it should be photographed in place in the scene.
- 17.9.3.7 The cast should be removed carefully to avoid damaging it. The flap/strip portion of the cast can be stapled to the front of a latent lift card or the cast can be placed in a small coin envelope/evidence box.
- 17.9.3.8 If utilizing a latent lift card, it should be filled out as completely as possible and shall include the date and initials of the person collecting the cast, a case number, and a description and diagram of the surface from which the impression was cast. The lift card should also contain significant information about the orientation and/or position of the impression on the surface, ideally including the location of the flap/strip.
- 17.9.3.9 If placing the cast in a small coin envelope, identifying information, as outlined in Section 17.9.3.8, should be included on the outside of the coin envelope.
- 17.9.3.10 Mikrosil casts may become stuck to one another if packaged in a way that they could contact one another. For this reason, each cast should be packaged separately in a small envelope or box.
- 17.9.3.11 Multiple casts from the same surface/location (e.g. several pry marks on a window frame) may be packaged in the same outer evidence envelope/sack as long as the casts are contained in individual inner packages.

#### 17.9.4 Safety

- 17.9.4.1 Do not allow the hardener to contact the eyes or mucous membranes. In case of contact, immediately flush with plenty of water.

### 17.10 TIRE EXEMPLARS

- 17.10.1 The tire exemplar provides a record of the characteristics present on the tire at a given time.

- 17.10.2 Tire impressions should record fine detail with appropriate contrast and/or three-dimensional features of accurate size, shape, and clarity.
- 17.10.3 The impression a tire leaves will be slightly different depending on whether or not it is under load. If exemplars are being made for purposes other than elimination, they should include the full circumference of the tire when under load; typically this is between six and eight feet in length.
- 17.10.4 Partial exemplars may be collected for purposes of elimination of non-suspect vehicle tires or for documentation of an obvious exclusion based on tread design differences.
- 17.10.4.1 A photograph of the tire tread is a sufficient elimination exemplar; a scale should be included in the photograph. Make and model information about the tire and vehicle should be recorded.
- 17.10.4.2 A white adhesive lift can be used to take a tire elimination exemplar. A large adhesive lift can pick up residual material from a tire, providing a good representation of a section of the tread design. Information about the tire and vehicle should be recorded.
- 17.10.5 When it is determined that the collection of tire exemplars is to be performed while processing a vehicle, the CSI should ideally first seek the assistance of a Footwear/Tire Tread examiner.
- 17.10.5.1 It may be beneficial to provide the Footwear/Tire Tread examiner with images of the impression and/or vehicle tires ahead of time. In some cases, the collection of full exemplars may be deemed unnecessary. This decision shall only be made by someone trained as a Footwear/Tire Tread examiner.
- 17.10.5.2 If comparison of individual characteristics is to be requested, the collection of the tires is required even when tire exemplars have been collected. The conclusions of a subsequent comparison may be limited if the tires are not available for examination.
- 17.10.6 Equipment  
Broom  
Kraft paper  
Duct tape  
Work gloves  
Scissors/utility knife  
Chart board  
Wet media film  
Tape or chalk (for marking sidewalls)

Permanent markers

Cloth measuring tape

Method 1 equipment:

Petroleum Jelly or Silicone Oil

Magnetic Fingerprint Powder

Magnetic Fingerprint Powder Brush

Clear Lacquer Spray

Method 2 equipment:

Black Printer's Ink

Clear Plastic Sheeting

- 17.11 An appropriate facility/surface and several preparatory steps should be completed prior to beginning the collection of tire exemplars.
- 17.11.1 A facility or an area with an adequate surface to collect tire exemplars shall be secured. A smooth area of asphalt or concrete is sufficient and should be swept clean. The size of the area needed depends upon the vehicle and tires, but should be at least long enough to permit one full tire rotation with enough extra room to bring the vehicle to rest off of the exemplar.
- 17.11.1.1 The vehicle bays in a fire department are often sufficient for this process.
- 17.11.2 Roll out enough paper to keep the tires from collecting debris while moving. Secure the paper with tape.
- 17.11.3 Clean the tires by rubbing them lightly while wearing work gloves. Cleaning should be to remove surface debris only. Rocks in the tread or other similar items should be left in place.
- 17.11.4 Measure the circumference of the tire(s) of interest using a cloth measuring tape.
- 17.11.5 Measure the wheel base of the vehicle.
- 17.11.6 Mark the tire with tape at five to six points equidistant around the tire and label them alphabetically (e.g. A-F); the tread wear indicators are ideal for creating these points. The number of points may vary at the Tire Tread Examiner's discretion, depending on the size and design of the tire. Document the location of the labels on the tire with enough detail (e.g. close photography) that the labels can be recreated and/or replaced at a later date.
- 17.11.7 Record the information from the vehicle and tire side wall:  
Make/model/year of the vehicle  
Make/model of the tire  
DOT number of the tire  
P-metric tire size designation  
Mold numbers (when possible)

- 17.12 Making exemplars using the petroleum jelly/silicone oil, fingerprint powder on wet media film method- Method 1
- 17.12.1 It is important to use only a small amount of petroleum jelly/silicone oil or detail can be lost or obscured. This method provides good detail and a transparent background that facilitates the comparison process.
  - 17.12.2 Tape sections of chart board together to achieve a length slightly longer than the tire circumference, typically four to six extra inches. If using wet media film, secure a length of film on top of one of the lengths of chart board.
  - 17.12.3 Using gloved hands, rub a very small amount of petroleum jelly or silicone oil to coat one or both of your hands.
  - 17.12.4 Thoroughly rub the tread surface of the tire so that an even, thin coating is applied to the full circumference.
  - 17.12.5 Place an end of chart board (with film) just in front of the tire.
  - 17.12.6 Drive the vehicle in a continuous motion over the chart board, depositing an impression on the film. As the tire rolls, mark the locations on the exemplar where the A-F labels on the tire correspond.
  - 17.12.7 Develop the impression by powdering it with magnetic fingerprint powder.
  - 17.12.8 Spray three to four coats of a fixative, such as a clear lacquer, to preserve the exemplar and allow it to dry as per the manufacturer's instructions prior to handling or packaging. The impression can be damaged if it is touched before it is dry.
  - 17.12.9 Mark the exemplar with pertinent case information that includes the location and orientation of the tire.
  - 17.12.10 Two exemplars from each tire are recommended. The exemplars should be off set so that they do not end in the same location.
  - 17.12.11 Repeat the process for each tire as necessary.
- 17.13 Making exemplars using black printer's ink- Method 2
- 17.13.1 Tape sections of chart board together to achieve a length slightly longer than the tire circumference, typically four to six extra inches. Repeat this step.
  - 17.13.2 Apply a thin layer of printer's ink to one of the sets of chart board; this will act as an inking pad.
  - 17.13.3 Tape clear plastic sheeting to the other set of chart board.
  - 17.13.4 Line the chart board sets up so that the tire is inked and then rolls over the plastic sheeting.
  - 17.13.5 Move the vehicle in a continuous motion over the chart board, depositing an impression on the film; pushing the vehicle is preferable to driving the vehicle. As the tire rolls, mark the locations on the exemplar where the A-F labels on the tire correspond. If the tire tread

- indicators were not used as labels, the tire tread indicators should also be marked on the film.
- 17.13.6 Mark the exemplar with pertinent case information that includes the location and orientation of each tire.
- 17.13.7 Two exemplars from each tire are recommended. The exemplars should be off-set so that they do not end in the same location.
- 17.13.8 Allow the ink to dry prior to packaging; this may take overnight or longer.
- 17.13.9 Repeat the process for each tire as necessary.
- 17.14 Documentation for tire tread exemplars
- 17.14.1 The following information shall be recorded in the case notes regarding the exemplars:
- Method of exemplar collection.
  - Number of exemplars collected from each tire.
  - Tire sidewall information (as outlined in Section 17.11.7)
  - Vehicle information (as outlined in Section 20.2.2)
- 17.14.2 The following information shall be recorded on each exemplar collected:
- Case #/Lab #
  - Date of collection.
  - Initials of the person collecting the exemplar.
  - Location of the tire on the vehicle (e.g. driver side front, passenger side rear, etc.)
  - Direction of travel.
  - Where on the exemplar the specific tire locations designated (e.g. A-F) correspond.
  - Direction toward the front of the vehicle.
  - Indication of the outside and inside edge of the impression (as the tire is mounted on the vehicle).
- 17.15 Tire exemplars should be completely dried prior to packaging.
- 17.16 Tire exemplars may be rolled for packaging. Tire exemplars should be packaged in an evidence sack, cardboard box, or other similar evidence package sufficient to hold the rolled exemplars.



## 18.0 Trace Evidence

18.1 Trace evidence consists of a wide variety of materials, is usually very small, and may be a fragment of a larger item.

18.1.1 Trace materials include, but are not limited to, hairs, fibers, glass fragments, metal shavings, wood shavings, paint chips, soil, and vegetation.

18.1.2 Trace materials may be easily dislodged. Care should be taken to avoid loss, contamination, and cross-contamination.

18.2 A strong white light may be utilized at an oblique angle in order to visualize trace evidence. If a particular type of evidence being searched for would react with a different wavelength of light, an alternate light source (ALS) may be utilized.

18.2.1 A flashlight or white light setting on an ALS are the most common sources for a strong white light.

18.2.2 An ALS may only be utilized by CSIs who have received training in the appropriate use of an ALS.

18.2.2.1 When using an ALS to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.

18.2.2.2 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength.

WAVELENGTH	CORRESPONDING FILTER
<400nm	yellow or clear UV safe
400-450nm	yellow
450-540nm	orange
>540-700nm	red

18.2.2.3 No one wavelength will affect every type of fiber. When searching for fibers, a wide range of wavelengths should be utilized.

18.2.2.4 Dark colored hairs may not react in the same way as light colored hairs. An ALS may be effective for searching for light colored hairs, but a strong white light may be preferable when searching for dark colored hairs.

18.2.2.5 Permanent eye damage can occur from reflected, refracted, or direct illumination by the ALS to the eye. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. A CSI should never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into their own eyes or another person's eyes.

18.3 Trace evidence may be collected using a variety of methods, depending on the type of material and the surface.

- 18.3.1 Individual items of trace material may be picked up using forceps.
- 18.3.2 Individual items (e.g. hairs) may be picked up by folding an adhesive paper (i.e. Post-It Note) around the item so that it is sandwiched between the two sides of the adhesive paper.
- 18.3.3 Adhesive lifts may be used to collect trace from a large surface area.
  - 18.3.3.1 "Lint rollers" and clear adhesive lifts may be utilized to collect possible trace from large areas.
    - 18.3.3.1.1 Adhesive lifters are not always appropriate for items to be tested for wearer DNA as it would remove skin cells from the surface. Adhesive lifters should not be used to collect paint or polymers as the adhesive can leach into the material and change its chemistry.
    - 18.3.3.1.2 Clear packing tape (or similar tape) shall not be utilized due to the type of adhesive material it has and the damage it may inflict to trace evidence.
  - 18.3.3.2 The lift or roller is applied to the surface and light pressure is applied. The lift or roller may be utilized until its tackiness is reduced or until collection from the surface has been completed.
  - 18.3.3.3 Each adhesive sheet from a lint roller should be placed in a plastic pouch/sleeve to prevent adhesion to evidence packaging. Adhesive lifts should have a clear cover affixed.
  - 18.3.3.4 Lint rollers shall be new to avoid any potential cross-contamination.
  - 18.3.3.5 Sheets of trace material shall be labeled based on the area from which it was collected. Each adhesive lift or lint roller sheet should be placed in its own envelope to avoid cross contamination.
- 18.4 Trace materials shall be placed in an inner evidence container.
  - 18.4.1 Due to the small nature of trace evidence, it is more likely to be lost in a standard evidence envelope if it is not contained in a smaller inner container.
  - 18.4.2 A druggist's fold, coin envelope, glassine envelope, vial, or similar container may be used as inner packaging for individual trace evidence.
  - 18.4.3 A large manila envelope may be used as inner packaging for adhesive lifts.
- 18.5 Trace material may be packaged in a variety of outer evidence containers, such as evidence envelopes or sacks, depending on the size/type of inner container utilized.

18.5.1 Multiple containers of individual items of trace evidence may be packaged in the same outer evidence container if they were collected from the same area.

18.5.1.1 For example, three individual hairs taken from the victim's right hand, each placed in their own glassine envelope, may all be placed in one evidence envelope.

18.5.2 Adhesive lifts or lint roller sheets may be packaged in the same outer evidence container if they were collected from the same area.

18.5.2.1 For example, four adhesive lifts taken from the driver's seat in a vehicle may all be placed in one evidence envelope or sack.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 19.0 Firearms and Tool Mark Evidence

- 19.1 Numerous types of firearm related evidence are commonly encountered in crime scenes. Handguns, long guns, cartridges, cartridge cases, bullet fragments, other fragments of ammunition, and gunshot residue may be found when investigating a scene.
- 19.2 All firearms shall be treated as if they are loaded and ready to fire.
  - 19.2.1 When handling a firearm, it shall not be pointed at the handler or another person.
  - 19.2.2 When handling a firearm, the CSI shall consider the setting (i.e. backdrop) and surroundings in the scene.
  - 19.2.3 A CSI's finger should never be placed on the trigger. When moving the firearm, the CSI shall be mindful of anything that could contact the trigger and engage it.
- 19.3 Firearms and related evidence should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.
  - 19.3.1 A firearm should not be altered in any way prior to full documentation. If it is altered prior to documentation, the person who altered it, and the reason for such alteration, shall be explained in detail in the notes.
  - 19.3.2 Documentation of a firearm, prior to altering it, should include the position of the safety mechanism (if applicable), if a cartridge case is caught in the ejection port (i.e. stove-piped), and any abnormalities to the firearm. Care should be taken to avoid disturbing any evidence (e.g. blood, hairs, fibers, latent prints) on the surface of the firearm.
  - 19.3.3 For crime scenes in which a shooting has taken place, all involved firearms, magazines, and any related evidence (e.g. speedloaders) should be fully documented.
  - 19.3.4 After documentation is completed as per Section 19.3.2, the firearm can be rendered safe. If a CSI is not comfortable with, or is not physically capable of, clearing a weapon, they may ask for assistance from another CSI or an officer. Care should be taken to minimize disturbance to potential evidence on the firearm when rendering it safe.
  - 19.3.5 Antique, foreign, and homemade firearms may function differently than modern firearms and may not be cleared as easily.
  - 19.3.6 The following information should be documented for all firearms: make, model, caliber, serial number, color. Any unusual conditions, as well as the absence of identifying information, should be noted.
  - 19.3.7 Revolvers should be documented as follows:

- 19.3.7.1 Using a permanent marker, marks should be made on the top of the cylinder, on either side of the frame, to show which chamber was positioned under the hammer when the revolver was recovered.
- 19.3.7.2 When the cylinder is released from the frame, the cylinder rotation, the contents of the chambers (cartridges/cartridge cases) and their relative positions, shall be documented. Documentation should include the headstamp for each cartridge and/or cartridge case. This may be accomplished with a simple diagram and photography.
- 19.3.8 Semi-automatic handguns should be documented as follows:
- 19.3.8.1 The magazine should be ejected from the magazine well, but not unloaded. The slide should be moved back so that any round in the chamber is ejected through the ejection port. The contents of the chamber and the magazine well should be documented, including the magazine capacity.
- 19.3.8.2 Once documented as a unit, the contents of the magazine can be removed. The cartridges should be documented in order as to how the magazine was loaded. Documentation should include the headstamp for each cartridge.
- 19.3.8.3 An ammunition box may be utilized to maintain control of the cartridges during documentation.
- 19.3.9 Rifles should be documented as follows:
- 19.3.9.1 The magazine should be removed from the magazine well, but not unloaded. The bolt/lever should be moved so that any round in the chamber is ejected. The contents of the chamber and the magazine well should be documented. Documentation should include the headstamp for each cartridge.
- 19.3.9.2 If the rifle doesn't have a removable magazine, the cartridges should be removed from the magazine, one at a time.
- 19.3.9.3 An ammunition box may be utilized to maintain control of the cartridges during documentation.
- 19.3.10 Shotguns should be documented as follows:
- 19.3.10.1 Break action shotguns have a hinged opening where the chamber meets the barrel(s); shotguns may have one or more barrels. The shotgun should be opened so that any

- shotshell(s) in the barrel(s) can be removed. The contents of each chamber should be documented.
- 19.3.10.2 Shotshell(s) may project back towards the handler when the shotgun is opened.
- 19.3.10.3 Most bolt action and pump action shotguns have a magazine tube. Shotshells should be removed from the magazine tube, one at a time.
- 19.3.10.4 Documentation should include the headstamp for each shotshell.
- 19.3.10.5 An ammunition box may be utilized to maintain control of the cartridges during documentation
- 19.3.11 Any measurement taken of a firearm at the scene is considered descriptive and general documentation.
- 19.3.12 When noting the location/position of the firearm, it may be relevant to note which direction the barrel is pointed relative to the grip of the firearm.
- 19.4 The headstamps of cartridges and cartridge cases should be photographed prior to packaging. If the headstamp cannot be photographed while the evidence is in place, it may be photographed upon collection.
- 19.4.1 If an evidence marker was used to identify a cartridge or cartridge case, it should be included in the photography of the headstamp.
- 19.5 It may be difficult to locate cartridge cases, bullet fragments, pellets, and/or other small ammunition components.
- 19.5.1 A high intensity white light should be one of the first tools utilized to search for small firearms components.
- 19.5.2 Cartridge cases may react differently depending on whether they hit against soft surfaces (e.g. carpet, bedding, clothing) or hard surfaces (e.g. wall, floor, table). A cartridge case may bounce against a hard surface and ultimately come to rest in a location that is unexpected.
- 19.5.3 Bullets may fragment differently based on their construction and based on the types of surfaces they impact. A bullet may be deflected after impacting a surface or perforating an object.
- 19.5.4 Pellets are spherical and may roll after landing on hard surfaces.
- 19.6 If firearms testing may be requested, relevant ammunition from the scene should be collected.
- 19.7 Projectile impacts may be chemically tested for the presence of copper or lead residues. Only those CSIs or Forensic Scientists who have appropriate training, such as those in the Firearms discipline, may perform the chemical tests. The procedures outlined in the Firearms manual(s) will be followed when performing any chemical tests at crime scenes.

19.8 Gunshot residue (GSR) is the name given to particles of barium, antimony, and lead that are expelled from the barrel, the cylinder gap of revolvers, and the ejection port of a firearm when discharged. Inorganic GSR (IGSR) are residues from the primer, cartridge case, projectile, and/or the firearm that are primarily made of metal, metal oxides, or metal salts. Organic GSR (OGSR) are residues from the propellant and the priming mixture that are organic compounds. Primer GSR (PGSR) are residues generating from the priming mixture that could be inorganic or organic in nature.

19.8.1 GSR may be collected from people and surfaces using a GSR collection kit.

GSR should generally precede collection of other evidence from the same area, unless more probative evidence is likely and requires prioritized collection. GSR is easily lost from hard surfaces such as painted vehicle panels, metal, and glass

19.8.2 GSR collection kits include small stubs with an adhesive surface that, when touched against a surface, may collect trace amounts of GSR.

19.8.3 When collecting GSR samples from a subject's hands using a GSR kit, the back of the left hand, the left palm, the back of the right hand, and the right palm surfaces should be sampled. The samples should be taken from the entire surface, while focusing on the areas that are more likely to contain GSR based on how a firearm is designed to be held (e.g. area around thumb and index fingers). Samples should be taken from each surface until the stub surface is no longer sticky.

19.8.4 Adhesive tape lifting can be used to collect samples from many dry surfaces. Adhesive tape lifts used for Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) sample stubs effectively collect OGSR from skin, clothing, and objects. The adhesive surface should be dabbed onto the surface until the tackiness is lost.

19.8.5 Swabbing can be used to sample from skin surfaces (e.g. hands, face, neck) or inanimate objects (tables, vehicle, clothing). Swabbing may be used for wet or dry surfaces. When using a wet swab to collect samples, ethanol and isopropanol are preferred.

19.8.6 For all GSR samples collected, the surface from which the sample was collected shall be noted. If the time elapsed between the shooting incident and the sample collection is known, it should be noted. If a form is included in the GSR kit, the information requested should be entered as completely as possible.

19.8.7 Samples collected should be placed in an airtight container as internal packaging, immediately to reduce possible loss due to evaporation. External packaging may be an envelope or paper bag. Samples should be stored frozen to maximize preservation.



19.9 Collection of firearm related evidence may be determined based on the size of the evidence, its condition, and any item it impacted, perforated, or penetrated.

19.9.1 If a bullet is lodged in an item that is small enough to be collected, the entire item should be collected.

19.9.2 If a bullet has lodged, penetrated, or perforated a portion of the structure of the scene (e.g. wall, door, floor), the structure may be cut open to retrieve the bullet.

19.9.2.1 Prior to attempting the removal, the area should be fully documented.

19.9.2.2 Authorization from the primary detective or investigating agency shall be obtained prior to removal; note who specifically gave authorization for those actions.

19.9.2.3 If the bullet is lodged in the surface, the area to be removed should extend several inches away from the bullet to avoid impacting it with the cutting tool. The piece that is removed should be packaged with the bullet left in place in the surface. A designation should be made (e.g. north, up) so that the cut out from the surface could be placed back into its original position if needed.

19.9.2.3.1 There should be no attempt to extract the bullet from the surface, as tools used for extraction could impart marks to the bullet surface, which could affect examination/analysis.

19.9.2.4 If the bullet has penetrated drywall, but it is uncertain if the bullet has lodged in the wood framing of the wall, or has simply fallen in the void between framing, the drywall should be removed to view the interior of the wall. The drywall should be cut near the bullet defect, and the cut should extend to each side until framing can be found. The drywall can then be cut downward to the floor, parallel to the wood framing. When the drywall is removed, the interior of that section of wall should be visible from the framing on each side, and all the way to the floor.

19.9.2.5 If the bullet has penetrated through a fabric covered item (e.g. car seat, couch), cut three sides of a square a sufficient distance away from the hole and then fold the fabric back. This allows the replacement of the fabric back into its original and proper position for documentation purposes.

19.9.2.6 If an area is damaged in the collection of evidence, it should be documented in notes and with photos.

- 19.9.2.7 If a bullet/projectile cannot be found or physically recovered, the reasons should be documented.
- 19.9.2.8 An accounting of the relative number of projectile impacts, projectiles, and cartridge cases should be completed when feasible.
- 19.9.3 Each cartridge case, bullet fragment, shot cup, wad, or pellet should be packaged in its own inner evidence package (e.g. coin envelope, cardboard box). If numerous pellets are collected from the same area, they may be packaged together in the same inner evidence package.
- 19.9.4 All of the cartridges collected from a firearm may be packaged together in one evidence envelope.
- 19.9.5 Any bullet fragment thought to be contaminated with biological fluids should be packaged in paper to facilitate drying.
- 19.9.6 Each item of firearm related evidence may be packaged individually in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging). The weight of the items should be considered when packaging magazines; multiple magazines should be placed in a cardboard box to maintain the integrity of the packaging.
- 19.9.7 Several items from the same area, each in their own inner packaging, may be placed together in an evidence envelope or sack (outer packaging), depending on the scene circumstances and CSI discretion.
- 19.10 Handguns should be packaged in small cardboard gun boxes and long guns should be packaged in large cardboard gun boxes.
  - 19.10.1 Firearms should be secured to the cardboard box using cable ties to minimize movement in the box.
  - 19.10.2 Cable ties may be placed around the grip, frame, or may be placed through the magazine well/ejection port.
  - 19.10.3 Cable ties should never be inserted into the barrel of the firearm.
  - 19.10.4 An evidence label should be affixed to the exterior of the gun box if it is not printed with labeling fields.
  - 19.10.5 If a firearm was recovered in water, it should be placed in a container of the same water from which it was recovered such that it is completely covered.
- 19.11 TOOL MARKS
- 19.12 Tool marks are often encountered at the point of entry in crime scenes and may be located throughout the scene, depending on the scene circumstances.
  - 19.12.1 Striated tool marks are caused when the cutting edge of a tool is brought into contact with and slid against a surface (e.g. chisel scraping along door casing).

- 19.12.2 An impressed mark occurs when a tool is forced into soft material (e.g. side-to-side leverage of a pry bar) or when tools with opposed jaws cut through a surface (e.g. wire cutters).
- 19.12.3 Saw and drill marks may be present when these tools have been used on a variety of different surfaces, including bone.
- 19.13 Tool marks should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to collection.
- 19.14 If a tool is recovered, care should be taken to protect it from the creation of any new marks or loss of any unique markings during transport and storage. There should never be an attempt to “fit” a recovered tool into any tool marks found on scene.
- 19.14.1 A tool should be packaged in a rigid outer container, such as a cardboard box, and secured with cable ties. The working end of the tool may be covered (e.g. bubble wrap) to prevent any damage that would affect examination/analysis.
- 19.14.2 Due to the variety of sizes and shapes of tools, creativity may be necessary to create evidence packaging that sufficiently protects the evidence and the evidence handlers. Several types of evidence packaging may have to be joined together to create an adequate package.
- 19.15 If the item bearing the tool mark cannot be collected, the tool mark may be cast.
- 19.15.1 Casting is used to collect a three-dimensional impression. Mikrosil and AccuTrans are types of silicone-type casting material that are commonly used to collect tool mark impressions when photographic methods may not be appropriate.
- 19.15.2 Equipment
- MIKROSIL
  - Mikrosil base (brown, black, white, gray)
  - Mikrosil hardener
  - Mixing cards/latent lift cards
  - Wooden mixing sticks/stir stick/tongue depressor
  - Snow Print Wax
  - ACCUTRANS
  - AccuTrans base (brown, white, transparent)
  - AccuTrans catalyst (light grey, transparent)
  - AccuTrans extruder gun
  - Paper towel
  - Mixing tip
- 19.15.3 General casting method
- 19.15.3.1 All supplies should be assembled prior to mixing the casting material.

- 19.15.3.2 Brown colored casting material is preferred for casting tool mark impressions.
- 19.15.3.3 MIKROSIL
- 19.15.3.4 Squeeze out a line of Mikrosil sufficient to cover the impression on the mixing card. Squeeze out a line of hardener next to the line of Mikrosil so that both lines are approximately the same length. Thoroughly mix the two components using a mixing stick for approximately one minute.
- 19.15.3.5 Remove the mixed Mikrosil from the card and apply it to the surface, taking care to work the casting material into or on the impression, without allowing the mixing stick to come in contact with the impression. Ideally, a small amount of Mikrosil will extend out onto the surface, adjacent to the impression, to create a small flap/strip of material.
- 19.15.3.6 The setting time will be approximately five to eight minutes at 68 degrees Fahrenheit and twelve to fifteen minutes at 14 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 19.15.3.7 ACCUTRANS
- 19.15.3.8 Remove the syringe plug on the syringe and discard. Extrude a small amount of material directly out of the syringe onto a paper towel until it is evident that base and catalyst are being ejected. This ensures proper mixing. Immediately wipe the syringe orifice to remove excess material.
- 19.15.3.9 Attach the mixing tip to the syringe by aligning the prongs inside the mixing tip with the syringe orifice. Seat onto the syringe and twist clockwise (90 degrees) to lock in place. Apply AccuTrans directly from the syringe. Dispense casting material over the top of the impression. Ideally, a small amount of AccuTrans will extend out onto the surface, adjacent to the impression, to create a small flap/strip of material.
- 19.15.3.10 The setting time will be approximately four minutes at 68 degrees Fahrenheit and 32 minutes at 14 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 19.15.3.11 DOCUMENTATION AND COLLECTION OF CASTS
- 19.15.3.12 Before removing the cast, it should be photographed in place in the scene.

19.15.3.13 The cast should be removed carefully to avoid damaging it. The flap/strip portion of the cast can be stapled to the front of a latent lift card or the cast can be placed in a small coin envelope/evidence box.

19.15.3.14 If utilizing a latent lift card, it should be filled out as completely as possible and shall include the date and initials of the person collecting the cast, a case number, and a description and diagram of the surface from which the impression was cast. The lift card should also contain significant information about the orientation and/or position of the impression on the surface, ideally including the location of the flap/strip.

19.15.3.15 If placing the cast in a small coin envelope, identifying information, as outlined in 17.9.3.7, should be included on the outside of the coin envelope.

19.15.3.16 Casts may become stuck to one another if packaged in a way that they could contact one another. For this reason, each cast should be packaged separately in a small envelope or box.

19.15.3.17 Multiple casts from the same surface/location (e.g. several pry marks on a window frame) may be packaged in the same outer evidence envelope/sack as long as the casts are contained in individual inner packages.

#### 19.15.4 Safety

19.15.4.1 Do not allow the Mikrosil hardener to contact the eyes or mucous membranes. In case of contact, immediately flush with plenty of water.

## 20.0 Vehicle Processing

- 20.1 Vehicles may hold an abundance of evidence, depending on the amount of contact the suspect and/or victim may have had with the vehicle. A vehicle should be examined thoroughly and should be treated in all aspects like a stand-alone crime scene.
- 20.2 A vehicle should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to searching the vehicle and collection of any evidence.
- 20.2.1 A vehicle should be photographed as outlined in Section 9 of this manual. Section 9.31 outlines the specific photographs that should be taken of a vehicle.
- 20.2.2 Notes should include the location and condition of seals, including the time they were broken. Vehicle descriptions should include the year, color, make, model, license plate number, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN); note if the VIN plate/sticker and/or license plate(s) are missing. The general condition of the vehicle and its contents shall be noted.
- 20.2.3 Sketches/diagrams may be utilized as appropriate, depending on case circumstances. Diagrams of a variety of styles of cars, trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles are available and may be printed out and used for efficiency. Sketches may be utilized to supplement notes as appropriate.
- 20.2.4 Consideration should be made to document the location/position of vehicle components (e.g. driver's seat) in case its location/position is relevant to the investigation. During processing, components may be moved/altered.
- 20.3 The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is available on a plate affixed to the driver's side of the dashboard (near the windshield), on the edge of the driver's door, and in the engine compartment.
- 20.3.1 The VIN may also be present on vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, or other vehicle-related documentation; care should be taken that the documentation is relevant to the involved vehicle, since documentation can be easily moved from one location to another.
- 20.3.2 Current models of vehicles have a standard VIN of 17 characters. Vehicles manufactured prior to 1981 might have fewer characters.
- 20.3.3 The 10<sup>th</sup> character of the VIN indicates its model year.

- A: 1980 or 2010
- B: 1981 or 2011
- C: 1982 or 2012
- D: 1983 or 2013
- E: 1984 or 2014
- F: 1985 or 2015

- G: 1986 or 2016
- H: 1987 or 2017
- J: 1988 or 2018
- K: 1989 or 2019
- L: 1990 or 2020
- M: 1991 or 2021
- N: 1992 or 2022
- P: 1993 or 2023
- R: 1994 or 2024
- S: 1995 or 2025
- T: 1996
- V: 1997
- W: 1998
- X: 1999
- Y: 2000
- 1: 2001
- 2: 2002
- 3: 2003
- 4: 2004
- 5: 2005
- 6: 2006
- 7: 2007
- 8: 2008
- 9: 2009

20.4 A systematic approach to searching a vehicle may be accomplished by dividing the vehicle into areas based on the occupants/areas (e.g. driver, front passenger, rear driver side, rear passenger side, third row driver side, third row passenger side, cargo area, trunk, etc.).

20.4.1 Areas associated with the driver should be labeled as “driver”, rather than as “driver’s side” (e.g. driver’s door rather than driver side front door).

20.5 The extent of the examination and/or processing of the vehicle is dictated by the type of crime and/or types of evidence that may be present.

20.5.1 Areas that are often overlooked include the headliner, visors, sunroof, engine compartment, and undercarriage.

20.6 A strong white light may be utilized at an oblique angle in order to visualize small evidence. If a particular type of evidence being searched for would react with a different wavelength of light, an alternate light source (ALS) may be utilized.

20.6.1 A flashlight or the white light setting on an ALS are the most common sources for a strong white light.

20.6.2 An ALS may only be utilized by CSIs who have received training in the appropriate use of an ALS.

20.6.2.1 When using an ALS to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.



20.6.2.2 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength.

WAVELENGTH	CORRESPONDING FILTER
<400nm	yellow or clear UV safe
400-450nm	yellow
450-540nm	orange
>540-700nm	red

20.6.2.3 Permanent eye damage can occur from reflected, refracted, or direct illumination by the ALS to the eye. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. A CSI should never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into their own eyes or another person's eyes.

20.7 Trace evidence may be present on the interior surfaces of the vehicle and/or on items found in the vehicle.

20.7.1 Trace evidence should be examined and collected as outlined in Section 18 of this manual.

20.7.2 One piece of adhesive collection material may be used to collect trace evidence from one area in a vehicle (e.g. driver's seat cushion/backrest, rear passenger side floorboard, cargo area floor, etc.).

20.8 Biological stains may be present on the interior and exterior surfaces of the vehicle and/or on items found in the vehicle.

20.8.1 Biological evidence should be examined and collected as outlined in Section 13 of this manual.

20.8.2 Presumptive blood tests should be conducted as outlined in Section 11 of this manual.

20.9 Latent prints may be present on the interior and exterior surfaces of the vehicle, and/or on items found in the vehicle.

20.9.1 Latent print processing should be conducted as outlined in Section 16 of this manual.

20.10 Gunshot residue (GSR) may be present on the interior and exterior surfaces of the vehicle, and/or on items found in the vehicle.

20.10.1 Collection of GSR samples should be conducted as outlined in Section 19 of this manual.

## 21.0 Buried Body Excavations and Scattered Human Remains

- 21.1 Bodies that have either been buried or exposed to the environment for an extended period of time present challenges to crime scene investigation. The greater the amount of time that has elapsed since the body has been in an area, the greater the likelihood that evidence and items associated with the crime may have been dispersed. Evidence items associated with buried bodies or bodies that decompose on the surface over an extended period tend to be widely dispersed in the surrounding soil and vegetation. This demands the application of archeological techniques to locate, document, and collect the evidence and its scene context.
- 21.1.1 Care should be taken to examine the area for evidence that may help determine whether the death took place in the area, or if the death may have taken place at another location, and the body was taken to the area for disposal.
- 21.1.2 The examination of a scene containing a buried body or an outdoor skeletal recovery shall include consultation with the local Medicolegal Authority's office and should include consultation with a forensic anthropologist, anthropologist, or similarly trained expert.
- 21.1.3 CSIs working to process scenes involving buried body excavations or scattered remains should have training in archeological techniques and methods to facilitate the thorough recovery of human remains and associated evidence, enable complete documentation, and maintain the chain of custody of evidence.
- 21.1.4 ISPFs works to maintain partnerships with anthropologists who may be able to attend a scene as an advisor, give instructions for scene methodology, and/or differentiate between human and non-human bones.
- 21.1.4.1 Consideration should be given for the possibility of a burial related to the recovery of a Native American person and burial sites of possible historical significance.
- 21.2 Clandestine graves may be discovered by chance or by searching an area based on information provided by a subject. There are a number of different methodologies and tools that may be employed to attempt to detect a clandestine grave in an area.
- 21.2.1 A visual examination of an area of interest may indicate areas of disturbance. Depending on a number of factors (e.g. the length of time the body has been buried, the type of soil, etc.), the grave may vary in appearance from the surrounding area. There could be disturbed soil, a grave mound, soil texture, solid color, soil compaction, and/or a change in vegetation between the grave and the surrounding area.

- 21.2.2 Non-invasive techniques used to search for graves include the use of aerial/drone photography, cadaver dogs, magnetometers, ground-penetrating radar, and infrared thermography. Intrusive techniques for locating graves include the use of probes and vapor monitors. These techniques may only be utilized by trained experts.
- 21.2.3 Shovels may be used to remove topsoil in an area. Care should be taken to penetrate the soil in a shallow, horizontal motion to avoid having the end of the shovel impact anything in the grave. If any item in the grave is inadvertently struck by a shovel, it shall be documented in the notes.
- 21.2.4 The use of heavy machinery in an attempt to locate a grave should be the last option undertaken, when all other attempts to locate a grave have failed.
- 21.2.4.1 Heavy machinery, such as a backhoe, may be utilized to slowly scrape topsoil in layers from the area in question. If any artifact is discovered, the process shall be halted, and standard excavation techniques are utilized.
- 21.3 The area of a potential gravesite should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to searching the area and collection of any evidence.
- 21.3.1 If available and appropriate, aerial photography should be done in addition to traditional crime scene photography.
- 21.4 Once a gravesite has been detected or is suspected by any means, consideration for excavation should be undertaken. Additionally, the path in/out of the area, and the possibility of any discarded evidence along that path, should be considered and those areas preserved.
- 21.4.1 A grid search is often the most appropriate method to search an area involved in an excavation. A reference point (RP), or several reference points (RP's), may be established, depending on the size and elements involved in the terrain. Flags, evidence markers, or other means should be used to identify items of potential evidentiary value. If there is the possibility of more than one decedent in the grave, a numbering/labeling system should be used with unique identifiers for each element or groupings of elements within the grave.
- 21.4.2 A physical grid may be established over the area to be excavated. All measurements can be made to the RP's established within the grid itself. Since the grave is a three-dimensional artifact, depth shall also be documented for each discovery.
- 21.4.2.1 The grid should be oriented north/south and east/west as much as practical, given the scene circumstances. Stakes

should be driven into the ground at the four corners of the grid.

- 21.4.2.2 String or flagging tape should be used to connect the four stakes and establish the outer perimeter of the grid. At least one string line should be checked to ensure it is level; it may then be used for depth measurements to items of evidence.

21.5 The surface of the area should be examined first. Any visible items of potential evidence shall be documented prior to excavation.

21.5.1 Once surface finds are properly documented and collected, the site should be examined with a metal detector; any hits should be marked for further documentation and excavation; surveyor flags work well for this.

21.5.2 Loose debris (e.g. leaves, twigs, etc.) should be removed by hand and examined for any potential evidentiary value. Care should be taken for any items that have scene context (e.g. sticks fashioned in a cross formation) and to ensure that underlying items of evidence are not disturbed.

21.5.3 Once loose debris is removed, the ground should be reexamined for any objects or items of evidence. Ground plants should be removed by cutting them at ground level, unless a forensic botanist requests the root system to be retained.

21.6 Screens should be used to examine all litter, debris, or soil removed from the excavation site. This should preclude missing small items such as bullet fragments, teeth, small bones, and other small artifacts.

21.6.1 A methodology should be established prior to excavation so that the location from which soil was taken is not lost as screen sifting is undertaken. By doing so, the location of any evidence that's discovered can be documented properly. Additionally, if soil samples are to be collected, their location from the site can be determined.

21.6.2 A two-level screening effort is recommended. The first screen is usually made up of 1/4 inch mesh, while the second is made up of 1/16 inch mesh. Double screening will make it more likely that small objects such as hairs, fibers, or shot pellets are located and recovered.

21.7 Actual excavation of the site should be undertaken in levels. General archeological protocol dictates that excavations proceed in arbitrary levels following the surface contour until an evident stratum (i.e. layer) is located (man-made or natural).

21.7.1 A stratum may be a layer of some specific type of soil, a layer with some form of particular debris, or any level in which an artifact or artifacts become exposed.

21.7.2 Once excavated and mapped, the process continues for each newly discovered stratum.

- 21.7.3 The primary tools required for excavation include trowels and brushes. Use of these hand tools helps to prevent damage to the sides of the grave and the evidence contained in the grave.
- 21.7.4 Because the sequence of artifacts uncovered is important, dirt should be removed in no more than 2-to-4-inch layers. If a layer of a material is less than 2 inches (e.g. 1 inch layer of gravel), then less material should be removed when excavating that stratum.
- 21.7.5 Vegetation that is growing through the remains should be left intact as much as possible and collected with the remains.
- 21.7.6 As the grave sides are exposed, they should be examined for evidence of tool or footwear marks.
- 21.8 As each artifact is discovered, it shall be properly documented using photography, notes, sketches/diagrams, and location from RP's.
- 21.8.1 Each object's elevation should be measured in relation to the grid RP. Elevation can be measured using a string, string level, and plumb bob.
- 21.8.2 A north indicator may be utilized as a reference for photography inside the grave as landmarks aren't present in the grave as they are on the surface.
- 21.9 Upon initial exposure of the body, there may be a desire to expose the remains quickly. However, it is important to maintain elevation control, slowly exposing the body and collecting any artifacts.
- 21.9.1 There should be a significant number of photographs taken as the body is exposed, documenting each step and the condition of the body.
- 21.9.2 Once the body is completely exposed, its position is documented in relation to the grid, and any associated articles found on or beside it are documented fully prior to collection. The body may be protecting evidence, including tool and footwear impressions; care should be made to prevent soil from filling in the impressions or compacting any impressions.
- 21.9.3 Once the body is removed, excavation continues until the base of the grave is reached; at least 2 to 4 inches below the body should be excavated. The total depth of the grave should be measured and documented.
- 21.10 Scattered or skeletonized remains may appear in two different ways; either a skeleton or badly decomposed body is found relatively complete in a single location or it is widely dispersed over a large area. Dispersal may vary greatly depending on animal activity, erosion, or flooding. Additionally, the body may have been dismembered and scattered intentionally as a countermeasure by the suspect.
- 21.10.1 While each type of scene shall follow the same general processes for documentation and collection of evidence, widely dispersed remains can be more difficult to map.

- 21.10.2 Scattered remains may be due to a suspect's actions, but is frequently the result of animal activity. Bones found in a remote setting should first be determined to be human before beginning full scene processing; a forensic anthropologist or other appropriately trained person should make that determination.
- 21.10.3 Once the remains are verified as human, a grid should be established over the primary location of remains. The size and scope of the grid is determined by the amount of scatter.
- 21.10.4 A line search is effective when dealing with remains scattered over a large area. When searching, any obvious remains should be marked with a flag until they can be documented and collected. If an item is questionable, it should be flagged for consideration; some small bones aren't easily discerned from rocks. Once the search is done, the area should be checked with a metal detector.
- 21.10.5 After documenting the surface and all obvious remains, the area immediately surrounding the remains should be cleaned and exposed in the same way as a grave. Surface debris and plants should be removed. Care should be taken to document plants growing in and around the body as plant growth may help establish timelines. All items of evidence shall be documented, mapped, and collected. Once surface evidence is collected, the area beneath the remains should be troweled to a depth of at least 2 inches and the soil should be searched for artifacts.
- 21.10.6 When dealing with scattered remains, a human skeleton diagram/bone list may be utilized to keep track of which bones have been found and as a reference for the basic anatomy of human bones. Additionally, by keeping track of which bones have been found, the presence of too many bones of one type (e.g. three right femurs) immediately demonstrates the presence of more than one victim.



## 22.0 Entomology

- 22.1 Insect activity that takes place in, on, and around a dead body may assist a forensic entomologist in determining time since death.
  - 22.1.1 In the absence of a forensic entomologist on scene, CSIs can collect specimens to be sent for later analysis.
  - 22.1.2 Each life stage should be collected for each type of insect present on and around the body.
  - 22.1.3 The CSI should note that some life stages may not be present, early stages may be small, later stages can be dispersed to around ten feet from the body, and, depending on the environment, may have become hidden (e.g. burrowed into soil and under carpet); this may warrant a more extensive search.
  - 22.1.4 Specimens can vary in size and appearance. Stages include: eggs, larvae, pupae, adults, empty puparia and larval skins.
  - 22.1.5 Labels should be done in tandem; that is, one label in the container (using a pencil) and a duplicate label on the outside of the container. Labels should include case number, item number, collector name, time, date, geographical location, site of the collection (on or around the body), and ethanol concentration for relevant samples.
  - 22.1.6 Temperature is vital to the calculation of the time since colonization as insect development is temperature dependent. Temperature data from government weather stations are most commonly utilized.
- 22.2 Insects may be present whether the decedent is indoors or outdoors. In indoor scenes, note when the first responders entered and whether they left doors open or opened windows to ventilate the scene, which can allow ingress and egress of adult insects. This may also affect the temperature in the scene.
- 22.3 Flies may begin laying eggs on the body within 20 minutes of death. Flies target any warm, moist areas of the body.
  - 22.3.1 Flies lay eggs in the nostrils, eyes, mouth, or any opening that is available on the body. If eggs are present in an area that is not a natural opening to the body, it is likely the site of an injury.
  - 22.3.2 Eggs develop into larvae (i.e. maggots). The maggots will be present together in a mass. When the maggots mature, they leave the body.
  - 22.3.3 When the maggots leave the body, they enter the soil or other surrounding areas where they pupate, forming a hard casing from which a fly later emerges.
  - 22.3.4 With careful collection of both living and preserved maggots, pupae casings, and adult flies, a time of death may be determined.



- 22.3.5 Usually, half of the specimens are preserved, while half are kept alive in order to allow them to mature.
- 22.4 Insect activity should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to searching the area and collection of any evidence specimens.
- 22.4.1 Photographs of insect activity should be taken, both with and without scale, from the following areas: on the body, prior to any alteration; the surface where the body rested, after its removal; close-up images of the body and wounds; insects on and off the body.
- 22.4.2 Time and date the body was discovered should be noted.
- 22.4.3 A diagram should be made to indicate location of insect colonization.
- 22.5 Collection of specimens of flies should occur immediately upon discovery, as adult flies relocate quickly once the body is disturbed. Different locations on a body could be colonized at different times and by different species. Live samples collected for rearing shall not be commingled (e.g. from different life stages or collected from different locations on the body).
- 22.5.1 Collection of larvae
- 22.5.1.1 The temperature of the larval mass should be noted. Larvae (~50-60, minimum) can be collected with forceps or by using a moistened paint brush.
- 22.5.1.2 Live samples (~20-30) should be placed in a container with moisture and a food source (e.g. piece of liver and moistened paper towel).
- 22.5.1.3 The same approximate number of larvae (~20-30) should be collected for preservation. They should be placed in vials of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol (70%).
- 22.5.1.4 The site of collection from the body, collector's name, time, date, and geographical location should be noted.
- 22.5.2 Collection of pupae
- 22.5.2.1 Pupae are usually found in drier environments, away from the maggot mass; they may be found in clothing and surrounding soil.
- 22.5.2.2 Live specimens require moisture and air, but also demand careful sealing, as adult flies can emerge from the pupae at any time.
- 22.5.2.3 Samples collected for preservation should be placed in vials of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol (70%).
- 22.5.3 Collection of adult flies
- 22.5.3.1 An insect net can be utilized to catch adult flies. A sticky trap can also be used. Sticky traps should be labeled, inverted into a cylinder with the sticky side on the inside

ensuring not to overlap the sticky section, and placed in a sealable plastic bag.

22.5.3.1.1 Adults caught with a net should be placed directly into a container with a liquid preservative, frozen, or stored dry. If adults are collected with a sticky trap, the trap should be stored in a dry place or freezer.

22.5.3.2 Live specimens require moisture and air, but also shall be carefully sealed to avoid escape.

22.5.4 Soil samples from a variety of areas, including beneath the body and at distances of approximately three to ten feet around the body, should be collected and placed in small containers. The location of collection should be noted on the container. Depending on soil compaction, the search can be as deep as 10 cm.

22.6 Considerable notes should be taken to document the environment (indoors or outdoors) in which the insects have been living.

22.6.1 Note if the area is shaded or sunlit, the nature of the foliage (e.g. wooded, grassy), the weather conditions (including soil and air temperature), the thermostat setting, broken windows, open windows without screens, and the condition of the body (e.g. buried, partially buried, clothed).

22.6.2 Each specimen should have a notation as to the date and time collected, the stage of development, and the specific location on the body.

22.6.3 Note other potential sources of insects near the decedent, as they might be either a source of the colonizing insects or a source of unrelated but confounding insects. These may include other carrion, decomposing food, garbage, or dirty diapers.

22.7 Ideally, insect evidence should be collected from the scene. In some cases (e.g. limited time, lack of equipment), it may not be possible, or insects may not be noticed, until autopsy.

22.7.1 If collection is going to take place at autopsy, determine from staff the time that the remains entered the morgue refrigeration and when they were removed for examination.

22.7.2 The temperature of the refrigerator and the examination room should be determined and the amount of time between removal from refrigeration and sample collection should be noted.

22.7.3 Any ticks, lice or fleas present on the body should be collected and placed in 70% ethanol; note whether they were alive or dead upon collection.

22.7.4 Note if any insect artifacts (e.g. sting locations or insect feeding sites) are present on the body.

22.8 Entomology samples may be packaged in a variety of outer evidence containers, such as evidence sacks or boxes, depending on the size/type of vial or collection container used.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 23.0 Fire Scenes

23.1 Fire scenes are one of the most complex and difficult scenes to work.

23.1.1 Conditions of fire scenes that create difficulties include the fire damage itself, the damage to the stability of the structure, the presence of debris covering items, the addition of water and/or fire retardant, the destruction of the scene/evidence during firefighting efforts, and the fact that dark surfaces do not reflect light well.

23.2 Safety should be the first concern prior to entering a fire crime scene.

23.2.1 Structural concerns may affect the way a CSI can move safely through the scene. Prior to entry, the scene shall be determined to be safe by the Fire Marshal or investigating fire department; a note should be made as to who made the authorization to enter.

23.2.2 Inhalation of dusts and gases are a health concern on scene. In order to prevent exposure, a particulate mask should be utilized (at a minimum), based on the condition of the scene.

23.2.3 The effects of fire and of firefighting may damage the structure and items in the scene. Care should be taken to avoid sharp objects when moving through the scene and moving items to search for evidence.

23.2.4 The fire marshal, fire investigator, or fire department personnel can advise CSIs of fire scene safety and areas of concern.

23.3 Investigations of fire crime scenes involve coordination with the fire department and/or fire investigator.

23.3.1 Origin and cause determinations are made by the fire investigator. They can be helpful in determining areas of focus for documentation and evidence collection.

23.3.2 The fire department should be consulted in order to determine how they altered the scene during their response.

23.3.2.1 During fire suppression, firefighters may force entry into buildings, break windows, tear down walls, or move objects such as furniture.

23.3.2.2 During overhaul, firefighters search for hot spots and eliminate them. In doing so, debris may be removed from the scene.

23.4 Fire scenes should be properly documented using photography, notes, and sketches/diagrams (as appropriate) prior to searching the scene and collection of any evidence.

23.4.1 Camera settings and/or photographic techniques should be altered to adequately photograph a scene blackened by the action of fire. Adjustments should be made to increase the amount of light gathered while the shutter

is open, which can be accomplished through changes to the ISO, shutter speed, and f-stop in the camera, or by the use of additional lighting techniques.

- 23.5 Fire patterns leave effects in the scene which may be crucial to origin and cause analysis. While CSIs may not be familiar with fire patterns, depending on their training and experience, they should document any patterns relevant to their investigation of the scene.
  - 23.5.1 Fire patterns include char patterns, smoke and soot patterns, and damage patterns.
  - 23.5.2 Fire signs may present themselves as a surface effect, such as bubbling of paint on a wall or the directional melting of glass in a light bulb.
- 23.6 When working in a fire scene, it may be helpful to begin working in areas with the least amount of damage and move toward areas with greater amounts of damage. By doing so, it can give the CSI a better understanding of the condition of the scene prior to the fire.
- 23.7 The evidentiary value of physical evidence in the fire scene may not be known until at or near the end of the fire scene examination. As such, the entire fire scene should be considered potential physical evidence and should be protected and preserved.
- 23.8 Evidence from fire scenes often include burnt fire debris, liquids recovered at the fire scene, a suspect's clothing, and/or ignitable liquids found in the suspect's possession.
- 23.9 The position of knobs and switches on any equipment, appliances, or utility services may be an important element in the investigation. The position of any pertinent knobs and switches should be documented in notes and via photography.
- 23.10 For scenes in which an accelerant is thought to have been used, an area of substrate that was not affected by the accelerant should be collected separately as a control.
- 23.11 When collecting evidence from a fire scene, any tools that are used should be cleaned with water between collecting items. The use of an alcohol based cleaner could affect the analysis of the item.
  - 23.11.1 The lid of a friction lid can could be used to help scoop/collect the evidence into the can; this would help to eliminate contamination during collection.
- 23.12 Fire scene evidence shall be packaged in clean, airtight containers.
  - 23.12.1 Debris samples and clothing should be packaged in either a lined friction lid can, a glass jar, or a heat-sealable polyethylene or nylon bag that is designed for use with fire evidence.
    - 23.12.1.1 Friction lid cans should not be filled more than 2/3 full.

- 23.12.1.2 The groove at the top of the can should be free of debris prior to attaching the lid.
- 23.12.1.3 The lids of friction lid cans shall be hammered down tightly, but not with such force as to damage/buckle the can itself.
- 23.12.1.4 If packing materials are to be used inside the can, the evidentiary item should first be placed in a paper sack before being placed inside the can. Alternatively, the packing materials could be placed inside a paper sack, then placed around the item of evidence. By doing this, small items or fragments of items won't get lost amongst the packing materials.
- 23.12.2 Glass vials should be used for liquids suspected of being or containing an ignitable liquid. The glass vial should be packaged in a friction lid can with adsorbent material to prevent the contents of the vial from contaminating adjacent samples and to protect the vial from damage/preserve the sample in case of breakage.
  - 23.12.2.1 Glass vials should not be filled more than 2/3 full.
  - 23.12.2.2 Samples packaged in glass vials shall be transported to the ISPFS lab via ground transportation.
- 23.12.3 External packaging may include paper sacks and cardboard boxes.
  - 23.12.3.1 Friction lid cans may be sealed, labeled, and submitted without placing the can inside additional packaging.
- 23.13 For all evidence that requires special storage considerations, the external packaging should have the storage medium noticeably written (e.g. "freeze", "refrigerate") in bold print.
- 23.14 Fire evidence should be stored under refrigeration until analysis.
  - 23.14.1 Fire evidence thought to contain substrate materials likely to contribute to the degradation of petroleum products such as manure, vegetation, and/or soil, should be frozen until analysis.

## 24.0 Documentation and Evidence Collection from Victims, Subjects, and Suspects

- 24.1 A variety of different people may interact with the victim, suspect, or crime scene. Documentation of their condition and/or collection of evidence from their person may be crucial.
- 24.2 In some cases, domestic animals (e.g. dogs, cats, livestock) may be involved in the crime. Collection of evidence from animals for genetic analysis may be necessary.
- 24.3 A person should be properly documented using photography and notes prior to collection of any evidence.
  - 24.3.1 Consideration for the different types of evidence that may be present should be contemplated prior to beginning the collection process.
  - 24.3.2 Ideally, the person should be prohibited from changing their clothes or washing their body prior to evidence collection. If the person altered their clothing and/or condition, it should be noted.
- 24.4 When photographing a living person, identification and condition photographs should be taken.
  - 24.4.1 Photography of living persons should take place as outlined in Section 9.29 of this manual.
- 24.5 Hands are often the location of different types of evidence.
  - 24.5.1 If it is thought that a person may have had considerable interaction with a suspect or victim (e.g. fist fight, defensive movements), greater documentation should be made. This should also bear on the type(s) of evidence that may be present.
  - 24.5.2 Injuries (or lack thereof) may help to corroborate or refute an account of the interaction(s).
  - 24.5.3 The probative value of gunshot residue (GSR), blood, potential DNA, and other evidence should be weighed against one another, as the collection of one may affect the collection of another.
    - 24.5.3.1 GSR should be collected as per Section 19.6 of this manual.
    - 24.5.3.2 Biological material should be collected as per Sections 13.6-13.10 of this manual.
- 24.6 Biological materials may be present on other areas of a person's body. Biological material should be collected as per Sections 13.6-13.10 of this manual.
- 24.7 A known DNA sample (i.e. reference sample) may be collected from a person to facilitate future DNA analysis.
  - 24.7.1 Cap-Shure or standard wood/plastic shaft sterile swabs may be utilized to collect a known DNA sample.



- 24.7.1.1 Wearing disposable gloves, remove the swabs from the sterile packaging. Using two swabs simultaneously, place the cotton tips of the swabs in the person's mouth and vigorously swab the insides of both cheeks. Move the swabs between the gum line and the fold of the cheek, and under the tongue. Remove the swabs from the person's mouth.
- 24.7.2 After collection, Cap-Shure swabs may be placed in an evidence envelope without allowing the swab to dry due to the capsule design.
- 24.7.3 After collection, standard swabs should be placed in a vented swab box or a small, coin-type envelope; time should be allowed for the swab to dry. It is effective to tent the envelope to keep it somewhat open in order to facilitate swab drying.
- 24.7.4 The external packaging should include the name of the person from whom known DNA swabs were collected, not just an indication of "victim" or "suspect."
- 24.8 Sexual Assault Kits shall not be collected by Crime Scene Investigators.
  - 24.8.1 Sexual Assault Kits shall be collected in accordance with the "Idaho Sexual Assault Response Guidelines, Best Practices."
    - 24.8.1.1 Best practice for medical forensic examinations are ones performed by a medical provider trained in sexual abuse evaluation. This may include a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE), or Pediatric SAFE.
- 24.9 Finger, palm, and footprint exemplars may be collected from a person to facilitate future comparisons.
  - 24.9.1 Exemplars should be collected as per Section 16.13 of this manual.
- 24.10 Buccal swabs and pulled hair may be collected from domestic animals to determine their DNA profiles.
  - 24.10.1 Buccal swabbing using cotton, nylon, or other swab types is the preferred method for collecting DNA from domestic cats and dogs. Buccal swabs should be sterile. Cotton swabs can sometimes be problematic for buccal collection from dogs.
  - 24.10.2 The collector shall complete the following:
    - 24.10.2.1 Isolate any animal(s) to be tested from other individuals (including nursing animals) and remove food and water at least 30 minutes prior to sample collection.
    - 24.10.2.2 If buccal swabs from more than one animal will be collected, complete the process for one animal and change gloves or clean hands before collection from the nest.

- 24.10.2.3 Wearing disposable gloves, remove the swabs from the sterile packaging. Using two swabs simultaneously, place the cotton tips of the swabs in the animal's mouth and vigorously swab the insides of both cheeks. Move the swabs between the gum line and the fold of the cheek, and under the tongue. Remove the swabs from the mouth.
- 24.10.2.4 Place the head of the swab against the inside of the cheek and gums, and swirl/wipe vigorously eight to ten times. collection,
- 24.10.2.5 Swabs should be placed in a vented swab box or a small, coin-type envelope; time should be allowed for the swab to dry. It is effective to tent the envelope to keep it somewhat open to facilitate swab drying.
- 24.10.2.6 The external packaging should include identifying information from the animal from which the buccal swabs were collected.
- 24.10.3 Pulled hair with roots are the preferred DNA source for domestic mammals other than cats and dogs; cut hairs are not acceptable.
- 24.10.4 The collector shall complete the following:
  - 24.10.4.1 If hairs from more than one animal will be collected, complete the process for one animal and change gloves or clean hands (and any tools used) before collecting hairs from the next animal.
  - 24.10.4.2 Package loose hairs in a paper fold or adhere to a sticky note fold and then place in a paper envelope.
  - 24.10.4.3 Collect thick hairs such as those from the mane, tail, or fetlock (base of leg just above the hoof). The area on the animal from which hairs are collected should be dry. If dirt or debris is present, brush the area to remove it.
  - 24.10.4.4 Use fingers or pliers (or similar) to grasp hair close to the skin and pull approximately ten hairs at once (do not cut hairs). Repeat this until 20 to 30 hairs with roots have been obtained. For pigs, which have very thick hairs, five to ten hairs with roots are sufficient.
  - 24.10.4.5 Package hairs in a paper fold or adhere to a sticky note fold and then place in a paper envelope for internal packaging.
  - 24.10.4.6 The external packaging should include identifying information from the animal from which the hairs were collected.

## 25.0 Field Services requests in the laboratory

- 25.1 There may be instances in which a field services action would be better accomplished in the laboratory. This most likely would take place when an action could be taken on scene, but is elected to be done in a laboratory setting to minimize loss or contamination to item(s) of evidence. These types of actions would be outside the scope of an already existing discipline in ISPFS.
- 25.2 Any item to be submitted for a field services request shall be submitted by the agency to ISPFS in the same manner as any other item of evidence for processing.
- 25.3 All of the methods outlined in this manual shall be in place, regardless of the processing taking place in the laboratory.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 26.0 Crime Scene Response Vehicle

- 26.1 A dedicated crime scene response vehicle will be the first choice for any crime scene response. Another laboratory vehicle may be utilized, depending on availability and necessity of use.
- 26.2 The dedicated crime scene response vehicle should be loaded with the gear, equipment, and supplies necessary to respond to and process a variety of types of scenes.
  - 26.2.1 Camera(s), the LizQ system, ALS flashlights/units, and other equipment that has an ISPFS property tag are high value items. These items should be stored in the crime scene storage room until needed and should be returned to the crime scene storage room after use.
  - 26.2.2 Some types of crime scenes require specialized tools, equipment, or supplies. Specialized items should be taken from crime scene storage as needed.
  - 26.2.3 Camera batteries, flashlights, and other batteries shall be recharged after use. They should be placed on chargers upon returning from a crime scene so that they are ready for the next crime scene response.
  - 26.2.4 Some of the supplies used in crime scene response are consumables; that is, they are used once and are not able to be used again. Consumables, such as swabs, evidence packaging, and gloves should be replaced frequently to avoid running out while on scene.
- 26.3 The general care of the dedicated crime scene response vehicle is the responsibility of the Crime Scene Discipline Lead and the CSIs.
  - 26.3.1 The vehicle should be cleared of trash and other items after each use. The vehicle should be washed and cleaned as necessary, based on the weather and conditions encountered.
  - 26.3.2 Any issues with the vehicle should be reported to the Crime Scene Discipline Lead and/or Lab Manager as soon as they are realized so that they may be remedied.

## 27.0 Validation

- 27.1 Procedures for the validation and/or performance verification of methods used in ISP Forensic Services are outlined in the ISP Forensic Services Quality/Procedure Manual.
- 27.2 Validation/performance verification data, results, and summaries for methods employed for Crime Scene shall be maintained in that section.

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 28.0 Forms

28.1 Form note pages may be utilized to supplement the note-taking process. The use of forms is not required and may be utilized based on CSI preference.

28.2 Forms that are being tested may be stored on a shared computer drive. Approved forms are stored in the quality system.

28.3 Approved forms:

- Crime Scene Notes Check List
- Evidence Collection Notes page
- Presumptive Blood Testing Notes page
- Vehicle Diagrams
- Clan Lab Notes Check List
- Briefing Notes
- LizQ Capture Notes
- Impression Evidence Notes page
- MCP Notes page
- ALS Notes page

## 29.0 Tools and Equipment

- 29.1 When responding to crime scenes, CSIs may utilize a variety of tools and equipment. The proper use of tools and equipment ensures that evidence is documented and collected properly and that CSIs remain safe.
- 29.1.1 If a CSI is unsure how to properly use a tool or piece of equipment, they should consult another CSI or the Crime Scene Discipline Lead.
- 29.1.2 Tools and equipment that are utilized at a scene should be cleaned prior to returning them to their storage location. If they are unable to be cleaned at that time, they should be kept separate from clean equipment (e.g. in a bin, bag, etc.) until they can be cleaned. Cleaning and maintenance help to keep the tools and equipment functioning properly.
- 29.1.3 If a tool or piece of equipment fails or is in need of service or repair, the item should be removed from the crime scene tools and equipment, labeled as "out of service", and the Crime Scene Discipline Lead shall be notified. Service or repair is necessary when an item ceases to work as it is intended.
- 29.2 ALTERNATE LIGHT SOURCE (ALS)
- 29.2.1 An alternate light source (ALS) is a portable, multi-waveband, and tunable light source that is used to enhance or visualize potential items of evidence. Different substances, such as latent print residue, body fluids, chemicals, or other organic substances may react differently to different wavelengths of light. When a luminescent deposit is excited with a particular wavelength of light, the deposit absorbs the light and re-emits it at a different wavelength. The short-lived light being re-emitted is termed fluorescence.
- 29.2.1.1 Crime scene response may include the use of an electrical, tunable ALS, ALS flashlights (e.g. Polilight Flare +2), and/or the Crime Lite Auto.
- 29.2.2 An ALS is used to attempt to create contrast between a substance and the surface upon which it is deposited.
- 29.2.3 Some surfaces may have fluorescent properties and may react to the ALS.
- 29.2.4 To operate the ALS, first turn on the ALS. Make sure the ALS comes to full operating power (fan and bulb reach consistent speed/brightness).
- 29.2.4.1 When using an ALS to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.
- 29.2.4.2 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength.



WAVELENGTH	CORRESPONDING FILTER
<400nm	yellow or clear UV safe
400-450nm	yellow
450-540nm	orange
>540-700nm	red

29.2.4.3 Turn off the ALS lamp and allow it to cool completely before powering off ALS unit.

29.2.5 Use of ALS shall be recorded in case notes, along with observations. The wavelength and filter combination should be noted, especially if it is unusual.

29.2.6 If the ALS malfunctions, it shall be taken out of service until it can be repaired. The ALS shall be tagged indicating that it is out of service.

29.2.7 As with other electrical appliances, guard against electrical shock. Ensure that all connections are proper and that no loose, damaged, or frayed wires exist. Make sure the ALS is unplugged before attempting any maintenance. Do not use outdoors if wet conditions exist.

29.2.8 The eyes are generally more vulnerable to the ALS than the skin, and appropriate eye protection shall be used. Permanent eye damage can occur from reflected, refracted, or direct illumination to the eye. Most of the light emitted by an ALS is not absorbed, but is reflected and scattered off the surface being examined. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. Never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into the CSI's eyes or the eyes of another person in the vicinity. Filtered goggles or shields shall be utilized when using this equipment as they provide protection from potentially harmful rays and provide additional enhancement for viewing evidence.

### 29.3 INFRARED THERMOMETER

29.3.1 A gun-style infrared thermometer can be used to measure the surface temperature of objects or fluids.

29.3.2 For greatest accuracy, the "measurement spot" on the area being measured should be measured at an 8 to 1 ratio (at 8" from the target, the "measurement spot" would be 1" in diameter; at 16" from the target, the spot would be 2" in diameter, etc.).

29.3.3 To operate the thermometer, point it at the surface to be measured (at the appropriate distance) and depress the "trigger" mechanism. The readout screen will display the measured temperature.

29.3.3.1 The temperature can be set to read in either Celsius or Fahrenheit.

29.3.4 The thermometer is set to read in a temperature range of -4 degrees to 605 degrees Fahrenheit and to be accurate to +/- 2%.

29.3.5 The thermometer requires a 9-volt battery for power.

- 29.3.6 For safety, the infrared thermometer should not be pointed at any person. Personnel should avoid looking at the thermometer's infrared light.
- 29.3.7 The exterior of the thermometer can be cleaned with a mild detergent or a disinfecting wipe.

#### 29.4 LASER MEASURING DEVICE

- 29.4.1 A laser measuring device can be used to take measurements easily and quickly in a crime scene; it can be used indoors or outdoors.
- 29.4.1.1 Use of the laser measure outdoors may be negatively impacted by bright sunlight.
- 29.4.2 A laser measure may be preferable to a standard measuring tape in taking measurements because it can be used by one person alone. Additionally, it doesn't have to be deployed across long expanses of potentially contaminated surfaces in the way a standard tape measure would.
- 29.4.3 The laser measure is pre-set with the rear edge of the unit as the reference point (RP) for measurements.
- 29.4.3.1 The unit can be set with the RP at the front edge of the unit or to the tripod (if the unit is attached to a tripod). When the unit has powered down and then is powered on again, it will reset the RP to the rear edge of the device.
- 29.4.4 Once the laser measure is powered on, the laser is automatically activated and the laser measure is measuring.
- 29.4.5 To take a measurement, place the laser measure against the desired starting point of the measurement (e.g. wall) and aim at the surface to be measured to. Press the measure button (black triangle) to take the measurement.
- 29.4.5.1 For a highly reflective surface, the laser may not be able to fix itself against the surface. In that situation, the target card or a similar surface can be placed against the target surface in order to collect a measurement.
- 29.4.6 The last three measurements will show on the unit's display.
- 29.4.7 The last thirty measurements are automatically stored in the unit.
- 29.4.7.1 To retrieve stored measurements, press the function button [Func] and use the plus or minus buttons to cycle through the measurements functions until "Memory" is selected; then press the black triangle button. Use the plus or minus button to scroll through measurements recorded.
- 29.4.8 For safety, the laser should not be pointed at any person. Personnel should avoid looking at the laser light; the laser beam could cause blindness.
- 29.4.9 The exterior of the laser measuring device can be cleaned with a mild detergent or a disinfecting wipe.

## 29.5 RECHARGEABLE FLASHLIGHTS

29.5.1 Flashlights are an important tool for navigating poorly lit areas in a crime scene and for discovering/locating items of evidence.

29.5.2 Streamlight flashlights feature a multi-function switch for varying lighting effects.

29.5.2.1 Press the switch momentarily to turn the flashlight on at full intensity; release to turn off.

29.5.2.2 Press and hold the switch to cycle through brightness levels; release at desired level.

29.5.2.3 A single press of the switch from any “on” mode will turn the flashlight off.

29.5.2.4 A quick double-click of the switch will activate the strobe function.

29.5.3 After using a flashlight, it should be returned to the charger so that it is ready for the next use.

29.5.4 To charge the flashlight, turn it off and insert it into the black charger/holder. The switch module (below the head) fits into a mating recess in the charger. Many flashlights have both an AC charger and a vehicle charger.

29.5.4.1 When the Streamlight flashlight is properly inserted in the charger, the LED in the switch module will illuminate with the following indication:

29.5.4.1.1 Steady glow- battery is charging.

29.5.4.1.2 Steady flash- charging is complete.

29.5.4.1.3 Rapid flash- problem with charging the battery.

29.5.5 The exterior of the flashlight can be cleaned with a mild detergent or a disinfecting wipe.

## 29.6 ADAMS WEB / FORAY

29.6.1 Digital images (i.e. photographs) are frequently captured for documentation of crime scenes, vehicles, evidence, and people.

29.6.1.1 Photographs shall be captured as outlined in Section 9 of this manual.

29.6.2 Adams Web is a digital imaging system that provides a way of storing, filing, annotating, and viewing digital images. The digital image name assigned by the camera shall be included in Adams Web as the “File Name.” Information about the Event/Location may be entered in the “Description” field. “Tags” may be used to group images for convenience.

29.6.3 All digital images taken during a field services response shall be uploaded to the Adams Web digital imaging system as soon as practical.

- 29.6.3.1 Folders in Adams Web shall be named by the lab case number.
- 29.6.3.2 When uploading digital images, the lab number, crime and date of crime should be entered.
- 29.6.4 When images are acquired into a case Folder, they should be acquired in batches, based on the response event/location. If a CSI responds to three different scenes, one batch of images should be uploaded for each of the three events/locations.
  - 29.6.4.1 Adams Web can sort digital images based on groups of images that are uploaded together, which is called a "Set."
  - 29.6.4.2 When acquiring images, the "Category" should be selected as "Crime Scene Documentation".
  - 29.6.4.3 When uploading digital images, a description can be entered during the acquisition process, which shall be applied to every image in that set. By entering a description during the acquisition process, the CSI only has to enter the description once, instead of in each individual image. The description should contain information about the images depicted (e.g. address, vehicle description, subject's name, date of response).
- 29.6.5 Tags can be used as a way to group images together for reference. Tags are created by editing the image(s) and adding an identifier (e.g. CSI initials, key word) in the "Tag" field.
  - 29.6.5.1 Tag identifiers should be entered exactly the same in each image in order to sort correctly.
  - 29.6.5.2 Multiple images can be selected at once, and a tag can be entered that shall apply to all selected images.
  - 29.6.5.3 One image may have multiple different tags.
- 29.7 Crime-lite AUTO
  - 29.7.1 The Crime-lite AUTO (CLA) is a compact, portable piece of equipment that allows the user to examine surfaces and capture images using a variety of ultraviolet (UV), visible, and infrared (IR) light sources in real time. The CLA can be used to enhance or visualize potential evidence on a variety of surfaces. The CLA combines the light sources of an ALS and the photography of a camera. It may be used as an ALS only, or may be used to photograph reactions on areas illuminated with its ALS.
    - 29.7.1.1 Crime scene response may include the use of the CLA to supplement searching and documentation.
  - 29.7.2 The CLA main unit is made up of light sources (main ring and wide-angle illumination arms), camera filters (Band Pass (BP) and Long Pass (LP)), an

imaging system capable of photography and video, a touchscreen display, and a rechargeable battery.

29.7.2.1 The main unit may be powered by a power adapter.

29.7.2.2 The main unit has ports for HDMI connection, USB connection, a Micro SD card, and a Micro USB connection. A Micro SD card should be used as the image storage device.

29.7.2.3 The CLA main unit can be mounted on a tripod.

29.7.2.4 An oblique lighting ring may be attached to the front of the CLA main unit.

29.7.2.5 A coaxial lighting unit may be attached to the front of the CLA main unit and connected to the unit via a Micro USB cable.

29.7.2.6 The CLA has the capability of wireless and Bluetooth connectivity. A cell phone may utilize a mobile application to remotely control the CLA unit.

29.7.3 The CLA light sources may be used to attempt to visualize a substance, create contrast between a substance and the surface upon which it is deposited, or otherwise make evidence more visible so it can be documented and collected. The light sources may be combined with any of the filter options, even if the filter is not the one recommended for a particular light.

29.7.3.1 Different substances, such as latent print residue, body fluids, chemicals, or other substances may react differently to different wavelengths of light. When a luminescent deposit is excited with a particular wavelength of light, the deposit absorbs the light and re-emits it at a different wavelength. The short-lived light being re-emitted is termed fluorescence.

29.7.4 Some surfaces may have fluorescent properties and may react to the light sources.

29.7.5 To operate the CLA, power the unit ON. The user interface (touchscreen) controls the settings for the CLA unit, which includes brightness, image format, light source selection, intensity, camera settings, wireless connectivity, and other settings.

29.7.5.1 To change camera settings, select the “camera” icon with the “settings” wheel. Once in the camera menu, select icons for focus, advanced camera settings, and/or white balance as desired.

29.7.5.2 To change light and filter settings, select the “light bulb” icon. Once in the light menu, select the color of dot that represents the wavelength desired. The default camera

filter will be applied based on the wavelength selected. Selected lights and filters will be indicated by a white border around the icon.

- 29.7.5.3 To capture an image, press the “camera” icon on the right-hand side of the user interface. To capture a video, press the “video camera” icon on the right-hand side of the user interface.
- 29.7.5.4 To view any image(s) captured, press the “stack of photos” icon to view the gallery.
- 29.7.5.5 To make an annotation to an image in the gallery, press the “freehand” icon. Once in the annotation tool, various tools are available for annotation, including a rectangle tool, freehand draw tool, line tool, and number tool.
- 29.7.6 The optimum working distance between the CLA and the surface being examined is approximately eight inches (~200mm).
- 29.7.7 Use of the CLA shall be recorded in case notes, along with observations. The wavelength and filter combination should be noted, especially if it is unusual; this may be accomplished either in the notes or by saving the documentation files as outlined in 29.7.11.
- 29.7.8 Images should be saved as JPEG for documentation purposes and as TIFF for comparison purposes.
- 29.7.9 For each type of evidence being searched for, there are recommendations as to the light and filter combinations that would be most effective.
  - 29.7.9.1 The CLA main ring has the following color/wavelength (nm) options: UV (350-380), Violet, (395-425), Blue (420-470), Blue-Green (445-510), Green (480-560), Orange (570-610), and Red (600-660).
  - 29.7.9.2 The CLA wide angle illumination arms have the following color/wavelength (nm) options: UV (350-380), IR (800-900), and white (400-700).

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Recommended Light</b>	<b>Recommended filter</b>
Blood	White, Violet, Blue, IR	780 LP (IR)
Semen, Urine	Blue/Green	550 BP or 550 LP
Saliva, Sweat, Vaginal Fluid	Blue	530 BP or 495 LP
Bruises/Bite marks	UV, Violet, IR	
Tattoos	IR	
Body Fluids (general)	UV, Violet, Blue, Blue Green	
Gunshot Residues	Blue, Blue Green, IR	
Fibers	UV, Violet, Blue, Blue Green, Green, Orange, IR	
Hair	Violet, Blue	
Bone/Teeth	UV, Violet, Blue, Blue Green, Green	
Drug Residues	UV, Violet	
General debris	White, Violet, Blue, Blue Green, Green, Orange	
Paint	White, IR	
Fire Accelerants	Blue, Blue Green, Green	

29.7.10 The photo editing features of the CLA should not be utilized to alter an image.

29.7.10.1 The only allowable editing to an image in the CLA is to make annotations, if desired, to supplement note taking. An image may be annotated to note an area examined, what portion of the surface was swabbed, or other pertinent information.

29.7.10.2 If an image is annotated, the CLA saves the altered image as the original image's name with "-1" added onto the end. Each separate file created from the original image will have a number added to it in the same manner (e.g. "-2", "-3"). If an annotated image is further edited, the file will be renamed sequentially in the same way, after the first addition (e.g. "-2-1", "-3-1").

29.7.11 When the CLA captures an image, it captures data about the image as well. The hash file contains information to authenticate the image. The other file contains information about the settings used when capturing the image. Both files write the memory card with the image file and are numbered the same as the image file; the file extensions and/or icons indicate the difference between the files. All files shall be uploaded to the digital imaging system.

29.7.12 If the CLA malfunctions, it shall be taken out of service until it can be repaired. The CLA shall be tagged indicating that it is out of service.



- 29.7.13 Visible light (white, violet, blue, blue-green) presents no risk to the eye for exposure times shorter than 0.25 seconds. The automatic blink/aversion response of the eye to bright light will occur within this timescale unless the user deliberately stares at the light. Do not stare directly into the beam.
- 29.7.14 Ultraviolet (UV) light exposure to the skin and eyes should be limited. The daily cumulative safe exposure limits for skin and eyes are delineated in the CLA User's Manual. Use of appropriate goggles provides safe eye protection for 8 hours at any exposure distance.
- 29.7.14.1 Using the wide angle illumination arms: at 0 cm distance from the CLA, skin will reach its exposure limit at 8.7 minutes and eyes will reach their exposure limit at 19 seconds; at 10cm distance from the CLA, skin will reach its exposure limit at 1.9 hours and eyes will reach their limit at 4 minutes; at 25 cm distance, skin will reach its limit at 8+ hours and eyes will reach their limit at 21 minutes.
- 29.7.14.2 Using the main ring, at 0cm distance from the CLA, skin will reach its exposure limit at 70 seconds and eyes will reach their limit at 3 seconds; at 10cm distance, skin will reach its exposure limit at 14.5 minutes and eyes will reach their limit at 31 seconds; at 25cm, skin will reach its limit at 1.3 hours and eyes will reach their limit at 2.7 minutes.
- 29.7.15 Infrared (IR) light presents no eye or skin hazard at any other distance than if the eye was placed almost in contact with the IR LED; in that instance the maximum time before damage would occur is 53 seconds.
- 29.7.16 Do not operate the equipment with damaged electrical connection cables.
- 29.7.17 Do not subject the CLA to excessive mechanical shock. Do not drop.
- 29.7.18 Attach the protective cap to the front of the device when it is not in use and store the device in the case provided.
- 29.7.19 Remove dust and deposits from external surfaces using a soft dry cloth or paper tissue. When necessary, a mild cleaning solution may be used. Allow all surfaces to dry thoroughly before resuming use.
- 29.7.20 Alcohol-based cleaning agents may degrade the surface of some types of plastic and should be used sparingly.
- 29.7.21 Do not cover the beam from the CLA or direct the beam onto heat sensitive materials for long periods.
- 29.7.22 Do not cover the light output head or obstruct the air flow around it. Do not use the CLA if it becomes excessively hot; allow the CLA to cool before resuming use.

## 29.8 Polilight Flare PLUS 2 (PFP2) light source

- 29.8.1 The Polilight Flare PLUS 2 is a battery driven, multiple array “state of the art” Light Emitting Diode (LED) forensic light source with a variety of filtered light outputs. It has been specifically designed to assist the forensic scientist to efficiently carry out an examination at the crime scene.
- 29.8.2 The PFP2 produces powerful narrow bands of light at center wavelengths of 365, 415, 450, 505, 530, 545, 620, and 850nm, in addition to white light. The intensity and beam profile of the output can be varied to suit the application.
- 29.8.3 Each light has its own battery supply; the battery is charged in one of the charger cradles in the carrying case.
- 29.8.4 The PFP2 is waterproof and can be used to depths of more than 300 ft (100 m). The UV light is not waterproof but is water resistant.
- 29.8.4.1 Crime scene response may include the use of a PFP2 light, based on the type of evidence being searched for.
- 29.8.5 A forensic light source is used to attempt to create contrast between a substance and the surface upon which it is deposited.
- 29.8.6 Some surfaces may have fluorescent properties and may react to the PFP2.
- 29.8.7 To operate the PFP2, first turn on the unit using the Reed switch collar at the base of the head. Turn to the left and release to turn the unit on. While on, turn to the left and release to turn the unit off.
- 29.8.7.1 To lock the PFP2, turn the collar to the left and release four times within three seconds; release by repeating the four turns to the left within 2 seconds.
- 29.8.8 The intensity can be changed, cycling between 100% and 35%. To change the intensity, turn the control switch to the right and hold to vary the intensity in steps.
- 29.8.9 Special short-pass filters have been incorporated into the 415, 450, 505, 530, and 545nm lights, since those lights are specifically used for a wide range of applications.
- 29.8.9.1 When using the PFP2 to observe an item/surface, goggles shall be worn.
- 29.8.9.2 The appropriate goggles should be used, depending on wavelength. (R-red, O-orange, Y-yellow, C-clear)

<b>Filter</b>	<b>White Light band</b>	<b>Goggle(s)</b>	<b>Type of Evidence</b>
365 nm	Ultraviolet band	R/O/Y/C	General, stains, fingerprints
415 nm	Violet	O/Y	Blood prints/spatter, GSR
450 nm	Blue	O	General, semen, urea, fibers
505 nm	Blue-Green	O/R	Superglue, Ninhydrin prints
530 nm	Green	R	DFO prints, minimize surface
545 nm	Green-Yellow	R	DFO prints, minimize surface
620 nm	Orange-Red	R	NIN prints, minimize surface
400-750 nm	White Light	O	General searching, footprints

- 29.8.10 Use of the PFP2 is best carried out at night or in a darkened room.
- 29.8.11 Use of the PFP2 shall be recorded in case notes, along with observations. The wavelength and filter combination should be noted, especially if it is unusual.
- 29.8.12 If the PFP2 malfunctions, it shall be taken out of service until it can be repaired; it shall be tagged indicating that it is out of service.
- 29.8.13 As with other electrical appliances, guard against electrical shock. Ensure that all connections are proper and that no loose, damaged, or frayed wires exist. Make sure the charging case is unplugged before attempting any maintenance.
- 29.8.14 The exterior of the light can be cleaned with a wet soft cloth; dilute mild detergent can be used. DO NOT use harsh solvents such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methylated spirits, etc. DO NOT use any abrasive material on the optics.
- 29.8.15 The PFP2 is a high intensity light source, which if used inappropriately, may be a hazard to the eyes and skin. The maximum intermittent direct beam skin exposure must not exceed 20 minutes per day, while the maximum continuous direct skin exposure must be less than 10 minutes per day. Appropriate goggles shall be worn by the operator and all people within 45 feet (15 m) of a working PFP2 unit. Extreme care should be taken around highly reflective surfaces. Never look directly into the light or allow beams to bounce off the surface into the CSI's eyes or the eyes of another person in the vicinity.

## 30.0 Report Writing

30.1 Crime scene documentation and report writing shall be according to the ISPFS Quality Manual.

30.2 Reports shall be entered in the Field Services matrix of the case assignment in the ILIMS system.

- 30.2.1 An assignment shall be created with the “Section” selected as “Field Services”; the “Task Type” shall be selected as “Field Services”. The Case File should be assigned to the CSI who will be writing the report, unless there is associated evidence (e.g. Digital Media) associated with the Field Services response.
- 30.2.2 In the “Scene Personnel” panel, a separate entry shall be made for each CSI, for each response date. In each entry, the total travel time, total time on scene, and number of locations shall be entered.
- 30.2.3 In the “General Crime Scene” panel, a separate entry may be made for each response event or location. Only the pertinent fields shall be entered in this panel, based on the processing conducted. If three vehicles were processed at a department’s garage, it may make sense to create an entry for each vehicle. If the information can be sufficiently conveyed in one entry, without confusion, then only one entry may suffice.
- 30.2.4 In the “Autopsy Services” panel, a separate entry should be made for each decedent. Enter the pertinent fields based on the quantity of each item that was collected at autopsy.
- 30.2.5 In the “Subject Exemplars” panel, list the quantity for each type of exemplar collected from a person.
- 30.2.6 In the “General Notes” panel, additional information may be added to the notes for the case.
- 30.2.7 In the “Report” panel, the case narrative is entered. There is a limit on the number of available characters per entry, so multiple entries may have to be made in order to write a long report.
- 30.2.8 In the “Verification of Accompanying Personnel” panel, there are three entries to be made. Each accompanying CSI shall fill out a verification panel. After reviewing the content of the notes and report, any suggested changes or corrections should be entered in the “Notes from Accompanying Responder” field. Once the corrections have been completed, the accompanying CSI shall fill in the “Information Verified” field (password entry required) and the date field.

- 30.2.9 Once all accompanying personnel have verified the content of the report, it can be sent for technical review.
- 30.2.9.1 During review, entries made in the notes, the matrix, and the report shall be checked by the reviewer for spelling, grammar, and content.
- 30.3 Reports shall be as clear and concise as possible, but shall include enough detail to adequately describe the scene, evidence, and activities performed. The reader should be able to clearly understand the scene from the report, without having to reference photographs or sketches.
- 30.4 Reports shall be written in the first person and shall be in an active voice. If multiple people performed tasks, the report shall indicate which people performed which tasks. Only the tasks performed by ISPFS personnel shall be included in the report.
- 30.5 All time notations shall be in military time and shall include the time zone abbreviation (e.g. MT, PT). If the time changes between standard and daylight savings time while out on a crime scene, make note of the time change and add a notation for which times fall into which time designation (e.g. MST/MDT, PST/PDT).
- 30.6 Reports shall not contain any information that is not represented in the crime scene notes, which includes the crime scene sketch.
- 30.7 Reports do not need to be broken down into sections with headings, unless the report is so complicated that the additions of section headings would help the reader to better understand the report.
- 30.7.1 If headings are used, recommended headings would be "Scene Description", "Victim(s)", "Evidence", and "Scene Activities".
- 30.8 Reports shall be organized in the following order, including only those sections and information relevant to the activities performed:
- 30.8.1 Basic scene and response information, including date, time, names of CSIs responding to the scene, location, type of investigation, personnel who were present at the scene, how the scene was secured, and/or environmental conditions.
- 30.8.2 Description of vehicles, buildings, and other scenes
- 30.8.2.1 Vehicle descriptions should include the year, color, make, model, license plate number, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). The vehicle's location and the condition of any seals shall be noted, including the time the seals were broken. The general condition of the vehicle and its contents shall be noted.
- 30.8.2.2 Building descriptions shall include the type of building, the number of stories, the direction it faces, the type of location, and the number and types of rooms contained

therein. The general condition of the building and rooms of importance shall be noted. Specifically note any damage that may be pertinent to point of entry or exit.

30.8.2.3 Other types of scenes shall be described using cardinal directions referenced from a landmark or location or described generally, including GPS coordinates.

### 30.8.3 Description of rooms of importance

30.8.3.1 Starting with the doorway to the room, moving around the room (either clockwise or counterclockwise), describe the furniture and items in the room, including structures. For fixed items, like doors and windows, use *present tense* to describe. For items that are moveable, use *past tense* to describe, as the report only indicates their location at the time you were on scene. Note condition of lights (on, off), window shades (up, down, open, closed), appliances, etc.

### 30.8.4 Description of Victim(s)

30.8.4.1 Describe the body's position in the scene. Describe all clothing, visible jewelry, and accessories. Note the location of any visible injuries and note the presence of apparent blood or other fluids, if present.

### 30.8.5 Description of items of evidence in the scene

30.8.5.1 Describe the item of evidence sufficiently that it can be distinguished from other similar items of evidence. Use serial numbers or identifying numbers, brands, or labels, as applicable. Include evidence markers with descriptions.

30.8.5.2 If the investigating agency assigns their own item number to an item of evidence, that number may be included so that the items can be easily correlated with that agency's reports.

### 30.8.6 Scene Activities

#### 30.8.6.1 Photography

30.8.6.1.1 Include a general statement that the scene or vehicle was photographed for overall location, identification, and condition, including who captured the photos.

30.8.6.1.2 If any victims, suspects, or subjects were photographed, note that they were photographed for overall identification and condition. If there is something specifically photographed that is pertinent to the

investigation, it should be specifically included in the report.

- 30.8.6.1.3 If any photographs are taken of fingerprints, footwear, tire tracks, or tool marks, make note that comparison quality photographs were taken of that evidence, and from what location(s) in the scene.

#### 30.8.6.2 Presumptive Test for Blood

- 30.8.6.2.1 All items that were tested shall be noted. If there are a small number of items, they may be listed individually. If there are a large number of items, they may be grouped to indicate a number of items from a particular location within the scene.

- 30.8.6.2.2 Positive results shall be reported by individual items, if there were few items, or by quantity and location, if there were numerous items.

- 30.8.6.2.2.1 Positive results shall use the term “indicating” in regards to the presence of blood.

- 30.8.6.2.3 Negative results shall either be reported indicating that for all other items tested, blood was not detected, or that for specific items/areas, blood was not detected.

- 30.8.6.2.4 The name of the CSI(s) who conducted the testing will be included in the report.

#### 30.8.6.3 Evidence Collection

- 30.8.6.3.1 Each item of evidence that is collected from the scene shall be listed in the report.

- 30.8.6.3.2 If multiples of the same type of evidence were collected (e.g. swabs, adhesive lifts, latent lift cards, etc.), they may be grouped to indicate the number of items from a particular location within the scene.

- 30.8.6.3.3 If the location of a particular piece of evidence is significant, its measurement to a reference point shall be included in the report.

- 30.8.6.3.4 Note the person to whom evidence was turned over and at what time.

#### 30.8.7 Final Notes

- 30.8.7.1 Note the time that you cleared the scene.



- 30.8.7.2 If digital images were transferred to the investigating agency, note the person/agency and the time that the images were transferred.
- 30.8.7.3 Note that all digital images were uploaded to the digital imaging system.
- 30.8.7.4 If a CD/DVD/thumb drive of images was made for the agency, indicate which type of media was used, to whom it was delivered/sent, and on what date/time.

30.9 The following are basic report writing examples; actual reports may vary based on case circumstances and/or situations. There may be situations that do not fit the examples given and wording shall be developed as the need arises. (Blanks and items in parentheses indicate a choice or description should be entered).

#### **Basic Scene Information**

On (date), (other CSI title/name and) I responded to (location – address, city, county, Idaho) to assist with a (type) investigation. (People/agency) were present upon my arrival and the scene was (cordoned off with crime scene tape/secure). The weather was \_\_\_\_\_ and the temperature was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ degrees F.

#### **Description of Scene- Vehicle**

Vehicle 1 (V1) is a (year) (color) (make) (model), (license plate state/number), VIN: (17 characters, tenth character is vehicle year). V1 was located at (location) and (each door/trunk/hood) was sealed upon my arrival; I broke the seals at (time).

#### **Description of Scene- Building**

(Location) is (single/two/three) story home that faces (direction) in a residential neighborhood. The house consists of (number and type of rooms).

(Location) is a(n) (apartment/condominium) that faces (direction) in a multi-unit complex.

(Location) is a commercial building that faces (direction). The building consists of (number and type of rooms).

#### **Description of Scene- Other**

...an undeveloped area (direction) of (landmark, location).

...a (desert/wooded/etc.) area at (GPS coordinates).

#### **Description of Rooms of Importance**

The door to the master bedroom is in the northeast corner of the room. South of the doorway, on the east wall, there is a closet door and the door to the master bathroom. There are two windows on the south wall. A freestanding mirror was in the southeast corner of the room, south of the bathroom door.

A bed was against the west wall, extending eastward into the room. A nightstand with a lamp (powered on) was against the west wall, north of the bed.

### **Description of Body**

The victim, tentatively identified as (First Last) was lying on the floor, north of the bed, with his head to the west and his feet to the east. His head was turned so that the right side of his face was against the floor. His right arm was bent at the elbow, his right hand resting palm side up, next to his right hip. His left arm was straight at his left side. His right leg was straight, and his left leg was bent slightly at the hip and the knee. The victim was wearing a dark blue hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans with a black belt, gray socks, and gray athletic shoes. A gold-colored chain was visible around his neck. There was an area of apparent blood on the left side of his mouth and on his right hand, at the base of his thumb.

The victim, an unidentified (female/male)...

### **Description of Items of Evidence in the Scene**

In the master bedroom, there was a Glock G43 semi-automatic handgun (SN ABC123) on the nightstand (Marker 4/ PPD Item 2), a box of ammunition on the floor (Marker 5), and one cartridge case on the floor (Marker 6). Swabs of apparent blood were collected from the closet door exterior handle (Marker 12), closet door frame (Marker 13), and baseboard south of closet (Marker 14).

### **Photography**

I photographed the (scene/vehicle) for overall location, identification, and condition.

I photographed the (victim/suspect) for overall identification and condition.

I took comparison quality photographs of (footwear/tire track/fingerprints) from (location in scene)

FS \_\_\_\_\_ photographed the (exterior, interior) of the scene using the LizQ imaging system.

### **Presumptive Test for Blood**

I/CSI name performed a presumptive test for the presence of blood on (number) items from (locations). Positive results, indicating the presence of blood, were obtained on (number) stains from (locations). Blood was not detected on the other items tested. Swabs were collected from (locations).

Results from presumptive chemicals tests for the presence of blood were (negative/inconclusive) for (locations).

### **Latent Print Processing**

(Items/Areas) were processed for latent prints.

Comparison quality photographs were taken of latent prints (labels) by (CSI name).

Latent prints (labels) were developed on (items/areas); all other areas processed either contained insufficient ridge detail or had no ridge detail developed.

### **Evidence Collection**

I collected twelve latent lifts: four from exterior of the window east of the front door, six from the master bedroom, and two from the kitchen. I collected three (gel lifts) of footwear impressions (Markers A-C) from the floor east of the front door of the residence.

Evidence (items) was/were collected by (CSI).

All evidence collected was turned over to (person/agency) at (date/time).

### **Final Notes**

I cleared the scene at (time).

I transferred digital images to (person/agency) on (date).

I uploaded all digital images to the digital imaging system and provided a (CD/DVD) of the images to (person/agency) on (date).

Property of Idaho State Police Forensic Services  
Internet Copy

## 31.0 Review

- 31.1 Technical and Administrative reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the ISPFS Quality/Procedure Manual.
- 31.2 Reports shall be written as outlined in Section 28 of this manual.
- 31.3 One report may be written that represents the work of all the CSIs who responded to a scene or series of scenes.
  - 31.3.1 If CSIs respond to multiple locations, process multiple vehicles, and/or document multiple people in the course of one crime scene response, all of the responses may be included in one report.
  - 31.3.2 If the crime scene response is conducted over several consecutive days, one report may be written.
  - 31.3.3 If additional requests for further crime scene assistance are received at a later date, a separate report should be written for each subsequent response.
    - 31.3.3.1 The subsequent responses should have separate reports from prior responses so that they don't impede the completion and release of the reports from the prior responses.
- 31.4 Each CSI shall review the content of the notes and the report prior to the report being considered for review.
  - 31.4.1 Each CSI shall initial each page of the physical notes packet. Notes pages generated in ILIMS will only bear the initials of the CSI writing the report.
  - 31.4.2 Each CSI shall verify the content of the report, indicate the need for any corrections and/or changes, and sign and date the Verification of Accompanying Personnel panel in the ILIMS matrix.
- 31.5 Review may not be completed by one of the CSIs who responded to the scene. Only those CSIs who have been trained by the Crime Scene Discipline Lead can complete report reviews.
- 31.6 The information in the matrix regarding scene personnel, actions taken, tests performed, etc. shall be consistent with the information contained in the field notes.
- 31.7 Any information present in the report shall be contained in the notes, including sketches.
  - 31.7.1 Identifying numbers, including marker numbers, serial numbers, license plate numbers, etc. should be checked for omissions and/or transpositions.
  - 31.7.2 Any direction indications should be checked against sketches.
  - 31.7.3 For any presumptive tests that were conducted, results should be clearly indicated in the report. The report shall also clearly state who performed the presumptive test(s).

- 31.8 Administrative documentation for the case should be attached in the Case info tab in ILIMS.
- 31.8.1 Copies of search warrants and/or consent forms should be attached in the Case Info tab, rather than included in the notes packet.
- 31.8.2 If the reviewer chooses to print the report and make suggested changes and/or corrections on it, that document shall be scanned and attached to the Case Info tab.
- 31.9 All photographs taken at the crime scene shall be uploaded to the digital imaging system.
- 31.9.1 Information may be entered in the description field; it may contain date, location, or other pertinent information related to the images.
- 31.9.2 A notation should be made in the report that digital images are being retained by ISPFS.
- 31.9.2.1 A disposition statement should be automatically generated from the ILIMS system upon entry of photography in the general crime scene panel in the matrix. If it does not generate, a statement should be added to the report manually.
- 31.10 The matrix entries, notes pages, and report should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.

## 32.0 Proficiency Testing

- 32.1 Annual proficiency testing shall be conducted for any disciplines, processing, or testing for which a training program is in place and an CSI has satisfactorily completed the training program.
  - 32.1.1 CSIs may be trained in different disciplines, processing, and testing that are utilized in crime scene.
  - 32.1.2 Annual proficiency testing shall be conducted in presumptive blood testing.
  - 32.1.3 CSIs who complete annual proficiency testing in their primary discipline shall not perform an additional proficiency test for crime scene if they also perform the duties of their primary discipline at crime scenes.
    - 32.1.3.1 For example, a latent print examiner who completes a processing proficiency test in the latent print discipline shall not have to complete an additional proficiency test in order to perform latent print processing at crime scenes.
- 32.2 Testing shall be in accordance with the ISPFS Quality/Procedure Manual.
- 32.3 Documentation of any mock crime scene, processing, and/or testing that is completed in the course of a proficiency test shall be entered in ILIMS in the same way as standard case work.

## 33.0 Safety and Well Being

- 33.1 Safety is a primary concern when responding to field services requests. CSIs should reference the Idaho State Police Forensic Services Health and Safety Manual or seek guidance from the Laboratory Health and Safety Officer regarding general safety procedures.
- 33.2 Personal protective equipment and clothing should be worn when working in scenes that may have biological or other hazards.
- 33.2.1 Tyvek suits, booties, disposable gloves, face masks/shields, and safety glasses are available and may be utilized based on the scene hazards.
- 33.3 Boots that prevent puncture and crushing of the foot should be worn on all crime scene responses.
- 33.4 Chemicals and reagents used in crime scene processing may be hazardous; the appropriate precautions should be taken prior to the use of any chemical or reagent, especially in confined areas.
- 33.4.1 CSIs should consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for further safety information for particular chemicals. SDS may be found at: <http://www.msds.com> or <http://www.hazard.com/msds>
- 33.5 Firearms located in crime scenes are often loaded and ready to fire; all firearms should be handled as such.
- 33.6 When searching a crime scene for evidence, caution should be taken by the CSI as there may be hidden hazards (e.g. needles, razor blades, etc.) that may be inside other items.
- 33.7 Environmental concerns, such as very high or very low temperatures, can quickly affect CSIs. CSIs should take breaks sufficient to maintain hydration and to avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Wearing PPE, such as Tyvek suits, can accelerate the likelihood of heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke. CSIs shall follow safety guidelines as outlined in the ISPFS Quality Manual and ISPFS Health and Safety Manual.
- 33.7.1 In the event of a heat injury, such as heat exhaustion, the affected CSI should go to an air-conditioned space, which may just mean sitting in the crime scene vehicle. The affected CSI should drink water and rest until their body has recovered and they are feeling well enough to work again. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headache, muscle cramps, tiredness, and weakness.
- 33.7.2 If the heat injury escalates to heat stroke, the affected CSI should be removed from the crime scene work to an air-conditioned space. Symptoms of heat stroke include a core body temperature greater than 104 F and may



include a throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, seizures, confusion, muscle weakness, disorientation, and passing out. Heat stroke is a medical emergency; call paramedics to the scene to administer treatment.

33.8 Vicarious Trauma is exposure to the traumatic experiences of other people, which is inevitable for CSIs who respond to crime scenes involving trauma. Vicarious trauma can cause CSIs to experience reactions including, but not limited to, unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, nightmares, headaches, and nausea.

33.8.1 On scene, CSIs should check in with one another to determine if they are experiencing symptoms of the stress of vicarious trauma. If they are, they should remove themselves from the scene temporarily to take a break. If they don't feel that they can continue working the crime scene, they should contact the Crime Scene Discipline Lead.

33.8.2 Vicarious trauma may manifest hours, days, weeks, or longer after completing work at a crime scene. If a CSI is experiencing Vicarious Trauma as a result of exposure to a traumatic crime scene, they should contact the Crime Scene Discipline Lead or any peer support person to discuss resources available and to discuss future crime scene responses.

33.8.3 On the I drive, in the "Crime Scene" folder, there is a folder labeled "Vicarious Trauma". In this folder there are a number of resources to provide assistance to those experiencing vicarious trauma.