The Lab Report

Volume 1, Issue 3 October 2011

Table of Contents

ASCLD/LAB accredited since 2004.

To Screen or Not to Screen, That is the Question….

In recent months, there has been a lot of discussion concerning the question of evidence screening prior to submission to the laboratory for analysis. There is no one good answer for that question - some sections have very specific guidelines for submission and welcome screening while other sections need to have all of the related evidence (no officer screening) in order to perform a thorough examination. This issue will touch on the different analytical section needs and concerns with the issue of evidence screening prior to submission for analysis. Also included in this issue will be current laboratory backlog numbers, general evidence submission/handling tips, and information on professional training attended/provided! In addition, we would like to welcome two new staff members to our laboratory: Christel Davis (Forensic Scientist - Biology Unit) and Meggan Macomber (Forensic Scientist - Chemistry Unit).

If you have any questions/concerns regarding the topics related to this issue of The Lab Report, please do not hesitate to contact us (laboratory staff contact information - pg. 14).

Enjoy!

Amy Weber (Firearm/Tool Mark Section Analyst - editor, The Lab Report)

The Backlog Corner

Biology Unit: 173 assignments (approx. 6 month turnaround time)

Physical Sciences Unit:

Firearm/Toolmark cases: 43 assignments (approx. 6 month turnaround time)

NIBIN: 105 assignments (approx. 7 month turnaround time)

Latent Fingerprints Section: 49 assignments (approx. 6 week turnaround time)

Chemistry Unit:

Controlled Substances: 392 assignments (approx. 8 week turnaround time)

Toxicology: 27 assignments (approx. 8 week turnaround time)

Trace: 4 assignments (approx. 4-6 week turnaround time)

Biology Unit: To Screen or Not to Screen...

The pendulum is still in full swing! You may have noticed that as little as six months ago, you were getting your DNA reports in as little as 60 to 90 days. Unfortunately, we are back to about six months before you get your report. **What has changed?** We have seen a sudden rise in the case submission rate as well as being short the equivalent of about 1.5 analysts. In an effort to try and stop this ever swinging pendulum, the Biology Unit has taken a close look at our evidence submission policies. **Effective September 23**, the Crime Lab has updated the Biology Unit evidence submission policy and implemented the **new supplemental evidence submission form for Biology cases (750A) (see below listed hyperlink to the new form)**. The goal of the new policy and corresponding form is to help the Biology unit provide you with results that will be helpful to your investigation in a timely manner.

http://www.statepatrol.nebraska.gov/formList.aspx?folderName=CrimeLab

Our new submission guidelines follow a **tiered approach** to evidence examination. Prior to submitting your evidence to the Biology Unit, completion of the NSP 750A supplemental form will allow you to prioritize each individual piece of evidence. The lab will process the first tier of evidence first. If no useful information is gleaned from the first tier, the lab will proceed to the second tier, and so on.

What is a tier? For a homicide, the first tier is limited to ten (10) probative items. A sexual assault will include the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit and one other intimate item (i.e. condom, underwear, tampon, etc.) or five (5) items if no kit was collected. Property crimes will be limited to three (3) items. These limits do not include reference samples.

The Biology Unit understands that each case is unique, and when warranted with prior communication, the unit may test additional items if a justifiable need can be demonstrated. It is still acceptable to submit more items, but understand that the additional items will not be automatically examined. Communication will be the key to making this new approach successful!

Biology Unit Analysts

Jason Linder

Christel Davis

Melissa Kreikemeier

Brandy Porter

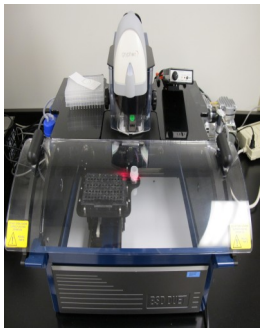
Katie Rector

Heidi Young

CODIS Staff

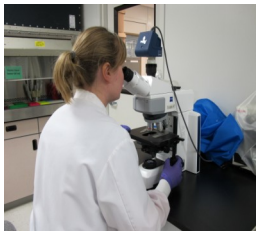
Katie Rector (state CODIS administrator)

Hillary Duin (tech)



DNA BSD Punch

Biology Unit: To Screen or Not to Screen...

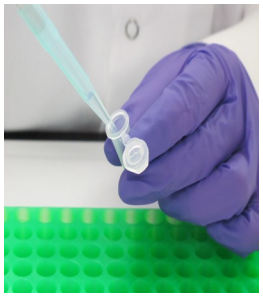


In addition, it is critical that items of evidence be properly packaged. Each item needs to be individually packaged. For example, the lab often gets a package labeled "Victim's clothing" as one item when in reality it contains a shirt, pants, underwear, socks, and shoes for a total of five items. Each of these items should be packaged individually. This is important for many reasons, not the least of which is cross contamination from one item to another. The best way to think of it is that if the evidence can be separated into multiple pieces (top sheet, fitted sheet, pillow case 1, pillow case 2, etc), each needs to be in a separate package. It is acceptable to place the individual packages into a single container for ease of shipping or transporting the evidence to the lab.

The new 750A supplemental form, which is now mandatory for all DNA cases, is also meant to answer many of the routine questions we call you about regularly. For example, before a forensic DNA profile from an item of evidence can be entered into CODIS, it must meet a set of standards. Many of the questions regarding where the evidence was collected, who it belonged to, etc, are designed to answer these questions. You will also notice that we are asking for permission to consume the samples if necessary. Because we often have limited amount of sample, we must use the entire sample in order to have a chance of getting a DNA profile. This leaves nothing for court or defense testing purposes. If you know it is ok to consume the sample, initial the form and we will not need to hold the analysis pending this phone call to you or the prosecutor.

Lastly, the Biology Unit will no longer test evidence in a case that has had DNA testing performed by another lab (exceptions will be made for cold cases or unique circumstances). Due to the fact that every lab has different procedures and interpretation guidelines (one method is not superior to another), it is very difficult to provide consistent results and testimony when crossing from one lab to another. Having analysts from two different labs testifying to different methods and interpretation guidelines can be very confusing to a jury and result in the jury disregarding the DNA evidence.

Our primary goal is to provide you with scientific results of the highest quality in a timely fashion. We believe this new approach will allow the flexibility needed for the unusual cases that will always require a unique approach, but will provide a guideline to allow more cases to be processed in a timely manner. Please never hesitate to call the lab with questions or concerns!



Firearm/Toolmark Section: To Screen or Not to Screen…

There are often misconceptions with regard to the submission of the vast types of evidence that are analyzed by the firearm/toolmark section. The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory Firearm/Toolmark Section is responsible for a wide variety of examinations that are provided to submitting agencies to include: fired bullet analysis, fired cartridge case/shotshell analysis, firearm function and identification (to include full auto conversions), serial number recovery (firearm and tool), gunshot residue/ muzzle to target range estimation, toolmark analysis, footwear impression analysis, and tire impression analysis. **For analysis from this section to be complete and timely, it is imperative that ALL firearm/toolmark/footwear/tire evidence be submitted - evidence that may seem inconsequential to the collecting agency (e.g. unfired ammunition, magazines, etc) can be essential for examination purposes!** In other words, please do not screen evidence prior to submission to the firearm/ toolmark section.

One of the primary concerns regarding evidence screening is that crime scene responders are not equipped with all of the laboratory examination equipment (specialized microscopes, lighting, etc.), sample databases, training, peer to peer networks, or other resources readily available to the Crime Lab's firearm / toolmark staff. Some firearm, toolmark, and/or impression evidence features can be deceiving to the naked eye and it can be nearly impossible to accurately evaluate and interpret evidence from a scene without the proper equipment, resources, and training.

Below are guidelines for evidence submission for the various types of evidence that may be submitted for firearm/toolmark casework analysis.

Firearm / Toolmark Section Analysts

Kent Weber

Amy Weber

Sarah Zarnick

Firearm and Ammunition Evidence - Myth vs. Fact

Myth: The Crime Lab can't do anything with fired/damaged bullets…

Fact: Contrary to popular belief, fired and damaged bullets **are** useful in forensic analysis and can often tell the analyst (and therefore the investigating agency) more about the make/model of firearm used than a fired cartridge case. Fired bullets also frequently display clues to a bullet's path in a crime scene, as indicated by adhering substances, hollow-point cavities filled with a foreign material, abrasions or impressions indicative of specific crime scene objects, etc.

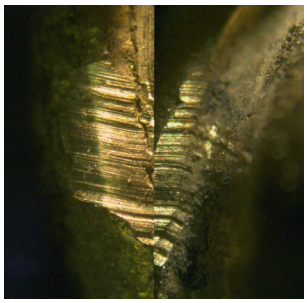
Myth: There were a lot of fired cartridge cases and/or fired bullets found at the scene...The Crime Lab will only need a few of them to do their examination…

Fact: If two firearms with the same class characteristics (caliber) are used in a shooting incident, submitting only some of the cartridge cases or bullets for analysis may result in one firearm (or another shooter) being completely unaccounted for in the analytical process. The naked eye is seldom strong enough to differentiate between individual characteristic differences if all class characteristics are the same. Submit all of the evidence from a scene to be examined microscopically!

Firearm/Toolmark Section: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Myth: Unfired ammunition is of no value for comparative analysis...

Fact: Unfired ammunition is vital in the analytical process as well, as ammunition characteristics are utilized to determine similarity of fired vs. unfired components, and some unfired ammunition may have firearm cycling or magazine marks with comparison value that can link a firearm to the unfired ammunition.



Unfired ammunition (left) identified to firearm test fired specimen (right)

Myth: The Crime Lab doesn't need wads, plastic ammunition components, or pellets…

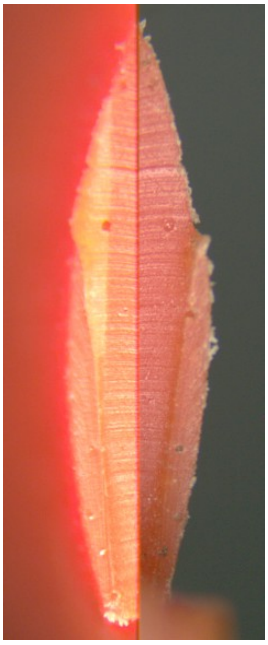
Fact: Omission of a single ammunition component (e.g. shotgun wad, plastic pellet, etc.) can be the difference between an inconclusive result or definitive conclusion in some forms of analysis.

All firearms and fired ammunition components, regardless of suspected involvement in a specific shooting event, should be submitted for NIBIN entry in case some of those firearms were used in other incidents unbeknownst to the crime scene responder or primary investigative officer.

Serial Number Recovery

- **Attempts to recover serial #s prior to submission to the crime lab can result in the inability of the lab to offer any assistance whatsoever**. There are dozens of acid etching reagent formulations possible, and each one is intended for use on specific metals or alloys. **Crime scene kits purchased for serial number recovery are seldom equipped with a full array of restoration reagents.** Use of a reagent on a material for which it is not intended can destroy evidence instead of permitting its recovery.
- Some serial numbers can be recovered through magnetic particle methods (used on ferrous metals). The use of acid etching reagents prior to magnetic processing can render the latter useless, especially if a stronger-than-necessary reagent is applied.
- Crime lab staff employ serial number recovery methods in the order of the least destructive to most destructive as a means of ensuring a full range of recovery options are possible.
- Some makes/models of firearms have hidden serial numbers or other factory markings that can be used to track down the actual serial number. In some instances, attempts to recover a number does not require the use of acid etchants, and instead makes use of databases or other resources available to crime lab firearms staff. Occasionally, hidden serial numbers are located in close-enough proximity to the original, that the use of acid etching agents will obscure or interfere with attempts to recover the hidden number.

Serial number recovery using non-destructive magnetic recovery techniques



Cut extension cord insulation Evidence to evidence microscopic comparison

Firearm/Toolmark Section: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Toolmark Evidence

- Tools are often used in ways that are not intended for that type of item, and therefore can leave behind markings from different parts of a tool that the average tool user doesn't understand. Best to have all tools submitted for evaluation than only a couple**. (NOTE)** Some common sense applies here in that a hammer cannot cut a padlock, just as a wood saw cannot leave behind a drill mark. However, a screwdriver can be used as a prying tool, chisel, or hammer, depending on the user's creativity (or desperation).

- Selection of the most probative toolmarks at a crime scene is difficult and often misunderstood, frequently requiring magnification and lighting to properly assess markings with comparison value. Better to have all toolmarks (or casts of all toolmarks) from a scene than only a few.

- Toolmarks on wire, cables, fence, etc. should all be submitted, as some of those items will not have adequate toolmarks for comparison, and this is not obvious until macroscopic examination.

Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence

- Due to the difficulty in capturing all useful markings in a single photograph (based on the necessity of lighting angle & directional variations to highlight details in different ways), all photographs exhibiting impressions need to be submitted to the Crime Lab.

- The level of detail and clarity of footwear/tire impression photographs look different (and are often not of sufficient quality) when enlarged for analysis as opposed to being viewed on a small camera viewing screen.

- **Physical size of an impression is NOT the same as shoe/tire size**. Confusing these two characteristics can result in the omission of probative evidence.

- **Tread pattern and physical size consistency of shoe/tire impressions are often given more weight than is prudent**. **Tread pattern and physical size are class characteristics and are not sufficient by themselves to identify a shoe or tire as the source of an impression.**

- As many casts/lifts/impression mediums should be recovered as supplies allow in order to maximize the amount of probative evidence available for analysis. As stated previously, tread pattern and physical size characteristics alone are not enough to make definitive conclusions regarding a suspect shoe/tire, and many evidence impressions may need to be examined to adequately assess associations or eliminations between evidence items.

Firearm/Toolmark Section: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Footwear and Tire Impression Evidence (continued)

- **All suspect shoes with a tread pattern resembling evidence impressions should be submitted**. There are often subtle differences between shoes with similar tread patterns that are not always obvious to crime scene personnel. Pattern overlap may account for some evidence discrepancies that can be misunderstood as a different tread pattern altogether.

The primary goal of the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory Firearm/Toolmark Section is to provide you with scientific results of the highest quality in a timely fashion. **It is imperative that we are provided all firearm, toolmark, and impression evidence that is recovered from a scene (no matter the amount) in order for us to be able to provide you, the submitter, the most complete analysis possible from the start of the investigation!**

Please contact the Firearm/Toolmark Section if you have questions with regard to evidence submission and/or analysis.

Seeds used as "green" shotshell buffer material

Submission Criteria for the NSP Crime Lab Databank Unit

It is important to know that the submission criteria for samples being sent to the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) Crime Laboratory's Databank Unit are completely separate from the Casework submission criteria of the NSP Crime Laboratory. The Databank Unit analyzes the State Offender samples that are collected under the DNA Identification Information Act and uploads them into CODIS. DNA samples are eligible to be submitted to the NSP Crime Laboratory's Databank Unit when they meet the following criteria:

✦ A person who is **convicted** of a **felony offense** or **other specified offense**, on or after July 15, 2010, who does not have a DNA sample available for use in the State DNA Sample Bank.

✦ A person who has been **convicted** of a **felony offense** or **other specified offense** before July 15, 2010, who does not have a DNA sample available for use in the State DNA Sample Bank, and **who is still serving a term of confinement or probation for such felony offense or other specified offense on July 15, 2010, shall not be released** prior to the expiration of his or her maximum term of confinement or revocation or discharge from his or her probation unless and until a DNA sample has been collected.

✦ **Other specified offense** means misdemeanor stalking or false imprisonment in the second degree or an attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit stalking, false imprisonment in the first degree, false imprisonment in the second degree, knowing and intentional sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult, or a violation of the Sex Offender Registration Act.

Chemistry Unit: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Toxicology Section

For DUI samples, Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) screening is **very** helpful. The Drug Recognition Experts controlled evaluation allows the DRE to classify which drug (or drugs) the person may be using. **This information should be included on the laboratory submission form**.

In the absence of a DRE screen, or even in addition to, it is helpful to include any information gained from the suspect as to what possible substances may have been ingested.

Trace Section

Due to the extreme variety of samples received in this unit, it is best to contact the trace analyst with submission and packaging questions.

Chemistry Unit Analysts

Celeste Laird

Mike Auten

Vicky Cowan

Abbey Dodds

Meggan Macomber

Brad Rutledge

The trace section of the laboratory performs the following analyses: Fire debris samples for the presence of accelerants, possible explosives to determine if they are in fact explosive and to which category they belong, paint comparisons, tape comparisons and fracture matching, and unknown analysis/examination of many other types of substances.

The crime laboratory DOES NOT currently perform any testing on glass, soil or fiber samples.

Controlled Substances Section

The drug section of the laboratory is mindful of the state and federal statutes as they apply to controlled substances. Every attempt is made to test items to achieve the maximum sentence possible. **The following submission rules apply to drug samples:**

- **No hypodermic syringes may be submitted to the laboratory unless they are of the screw off needle type and the needle has been entirely removed by unscrewing it from the syringe.** Confirmation of removal MUST be documented on the NSP 750 form. If a hypodermic syringe, without screw off needle, is the only thing in a case, or the probable cause for a search or arrest, the syringe may be flushed with water or rubbing alcohol and the rinse liquid may be submitted to the laboratory. The evidence MUST be labeled as being a BIOHAZARD. Please note that if other items from the same suspect are submitted along with the syringe rinse, it will not be tested unless it is indicated that it was the probable cause for a search or arrest. We do not recommend sampling and submission of hypodermic syringes due to the extreme health risk involved.

Chemistry Unit: To Screen or Not to Screen…

- **For large marijuana seizures, up to 2 lbs will be accepted into the laboratory**. In the event that one brick weighs more than 2 lbs, one total brick will be accepted. If it is necessary to have all other bricks tested, samples from each remaining brick may be submitted. The samples should be identified as samples coming from a larger brick and will be analyzed, but not weighed.

- **For large cocaine or heroin cases, up to 1 kilo (approx 2 lbs) of powder will be accepted into the laboratory**. In the event that one bundle weighs more than 1 kilo, we will accept on total bundle. If it is necessary to have all other bundles tested, samples from each reaming bundle will be accepted. These samples should be identified as samples coming from a larger bundle and will be analyzed, but not weighed.

- For large methamphetamine cases it is permissible to submit the entire case.

- Cases being prosecuted federally allow much higher quantities for their sentencing guidelines. Larger quantities should be weighed on high volume, certified balances such as these available at the NSP Troop areas, grain elevators, and post offices.

When cases are submitted which contain only residues, or items with weight along with items containing residue, the testing procedure will be as follows:

- Where only one suspect is named on the submittal form, only one residue will routinely be tested. The residue tested will be at the discretion of the chemist, unless an item is indicated to be the probable cause for the search or necessary for a higher charge. This MUST be communicated on the submittal form.

- Where more than one suspect is named on the submittal form, every attempt will be make to test one residue from each person. In the event that they are not labeled as to the source, the chemist will randomly select the same number of residues as suspects to test.

- In the event that numerous items containing residue are packaged together, only one of them will be tested due to probably cross-contamination. If no specific item is indicated on the submittal form, the chemist will select the item to be tested.

Large quantities of hazardous chemicals will not be accepted. If the submitter is not familiar with the State Patrol's Clandestine Laboratory sampling guidelines, they may either contact one of the trained Clandestine Laboratory Investigators or one of the Crime Lab Chemists for information on proper packaging of the chemical for submission.

Latent Fingerprints: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Latent print evidence can typically be divided into two categories: **Porous** and **Non-porous**. **Porous evidence** is conducive to the preservation of prints because latent print residue can soak into the surface. Some of the examples of porous evidence are: paper, unfinished wood, cardboard, etc. **Non-porous evidence** such as plastic, glass, metal, foil, etc., is much more fragile because the latent print residue may just be lying on the surface. Even the slightest handling can "wipe away" a latent print on non-porous surfaces.

Latent Fingerprint Section Analysts

Mariana Ward

Steven Burke

Bridget Driver

Helpful Handling Tips for Latent Print Evidence

- **WEAR GLOVES!!**
- Evidence should not be handled more than necessary. It is possible to deposit latent prints while wearing latex gloves!
- Evidence should be touched in the areas that are least likely to contain friction ridge detail: along the sides/corners and where the surface is roughly textured.
- Protect latent evidence from careless handling and improper packaging.
- Submit all latent print lifts to the laboratory and allow latent print examiners to determined what lifts are suitable for identification.
- Avoid unnecessary writing or marking on surfaces to be processed for latent prints.
- Avoid taping or sticking labels on the surfaces to be processed for latent prints.
- Collect only the most probative evidence for the case.

Surfaces that Cannot be Processed for Friction Ridge Detail

- Fabric, canvas, cloth
- Sponges
- Inside of footwear
- Suede leather

Size Restrictions for Evidence to be Processed for Latent Prints

Please contact the NSP Latent Section if you are submitting large items (i.e. ATM) for latent processing

Items that do not contain sufficient surface to hold value latent impressions:

- Rubber bands
- Small gauge wire
- Paper clips
- .22 caliber cartridge cases

Latent Fingerprints: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Submission of Digital Evidence for Latent Processing

- **The latent photographed should fill out the frame; a scale should be included in the frame making it obvious which measurement was used (centimeter or inch).**
- Use centimeter scale; please make a note if using any other measurement scale (i.e. inches).
- Capture impressions in lossless file formats: TIFF or RAW
- Do not submit side shots of latent impressions – the impressions should be photographed from the top, at 90° to the surface.
- Do not submit investigative photographs; only close-ups of latent impressions will be examined for value friction ridge detail.

Multi-Section Examination Requests on an Item

In cases where multiple laboratory examinations may be needed, but the types of examinations performed would affect other sections' results, a decision may have to be made which examination would be more valuable for your case.

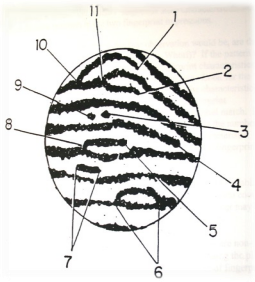
Some latent processing techniques (i.e. RUVIS, Wet Wop) can destroy DNA. On the other hand, collecting DNA (swabbing) prior to latent processing will wipe away value friction ridge detail from the surface of an item.

Also, since latent impressions are extremely fragile, any handling of the evidence by examiners in other Lab sections (Trace, Controlled Substances), may possibly destroy value friction ridge detail.

Value of the Evidence v. "Catching" the Responsible Party

Most of the latent processing techniques, with an exception of RUVIS examination, will alter, if not completely destroy, the appearance of an item. Before submitting evidence for latent print processing, the monetary value of an item should be assessed. The monetary value of collectibles, antiques or high dollar electronic devices may, in some instances, outweigh the benefits of apprehending the responsible party.

Instances in which valuable items need to be processed, the owner(s) of the item (s) should be contacted by the investigating officer prior to the submission of the evidence to the NSP Latent Section for latent processing. In addition, consent for latent processing should be obtained. The NSP Crime Lab Latent Print Section will not assume liability for any items that may lose their appearance and/or value after application of latent processing techniques.



Latent Fingerprints: To Screen or Not to Screen…

Processing for Latents Prior to Submitting Evidence to the NSP Latent Section

A decision on the full spectrum of laboratory processes required in a case (i.e. DNA, Latents, and Firearms) should be made before conducting any field processing.

Due to the fragile nature of the latent impressions, or because of the size of an item in question, some field latent processing **may** need to be done by the investigating officer. In order to obtain the best results, field latent processing of non-porous items that require only latent print examination should be limited to superglue fuming, or to dusting and lifting of the impressions. With either procedure, the officer should be aware that they can either over glue / over powder or under glue / under powder the evidence, hence destroying any value friction ridge detail that may have been present on the item.

Officers should not process for latent prints if they are not comfortable with the particular latent processing technique. Instead they should submit the evidence item (s) to the NSP Crime Lab for latent processing.

Officers should not dust the items for latent prints if they are unable to lift the impressions. The fingerprint powder will eventually fall off of the item, and the impression may be lost for good.

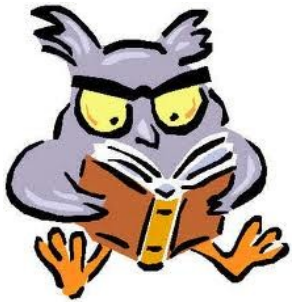
Porous (paper) evidence should not be processed with fingerprint powder. Processing techniques that yield better processing results are available in the NSP Crime Lab.

Officers should not field process porous items with Ninhydrin or Iodine fuming. The impressions developed with these techniques will eventually fade away, and subsequent re-processing of the item more than likely won't yield the same results.

If the item in question is too large in size to be submitted to the NSP Latent Section, any developed ridge detail should either be lifted (if processed with powder), or it should be photographed in an appropriate file format and with the scale included in the frame.

If you have any questions about latent processing techniques you should use for field processing or about the proper packaging of evidence for latent submission to the Lab, please call the NSP Crime Lab, Latent Print Section at 402-471-8950.

Crime Laboratory Analyst Training Attended / Provided



Forensic scientists at the laboratory are encouraged to attend and provide technical training yearly in order to keep current with the ever-evolving scientific aspects of their specialized professional disciplines. Technical training allows us to provide the agencies we service with the most current scientific analysis and techniques available. In addition, the analysts will provide training **FREE OF CHARGE** to law enforcement related agencies in the state of Nebraska. Below is a list of national training seminars/conferences that were attended by Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory analysts, as well as a list of training that was provided by the crime lab statewide (June-September).

National Training Attended:

- Midwest Forensic Science Resource Center DNA Symposium
- National Institute of Justice DNA Grantees Workshop
- The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners Annual Training Seminar
- Forensic Science Leadership & Management Certificate Program
- International Association for Identification Symposium & Workshops
- Trace Evidence Symposium & Workshops
- Drug Enforcement Agency Course
- American Society of Crime lab Directors Management Workshops
- Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Symposium & Workshops
- CODIS DNA Databank software training
- ASCLD/LAB International Standards Assessment Workshop

Training provided by crime lab analysts:

- CODIS Offender Collection & Prelog training (Scottsbluff, North Platte, Grand Island, Norfolk, Omaha, and Lincoln)

Additionally, one of our forensic scientists completed a 9-month, intensive Footwear/Tire Track Examiner Training Program through the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC).

Tips on Evidence!!

Agency Resubmission of Evidence for Additional Analysis

If an agency re-submits items of evidence for ADDITIONAL analysis , PLEASE let the NSP Crime Laboratory evidence technicians know that it is a resubmission. This way the evidence item is not checked in as a new item for analysis.

If a resubmitted item is checked in as a new item, it could lead to a multitude of problems for the submitting agency and the laboratory down the road!

Laboratory Director:
Pam Zilly

Nebraska State Patrol
Crime Lab
1233 Arapahoe St.
Lincoln. NE 68506

(main) 402-471-8950
(fax) 402-471-8954

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday
8am—5pm

Evidence Receipt Hours:
Monday-Friday
9am-4pm

To contact the crime lab with general laboratory questions, call the main phone number or email Vicki Hopkins at:

Vicki.Hopkins@nebraska.gov

The Lab Report Editor:
Amy Weber

Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab Staff Contact Information:

Laboratory Director:		
Pam Zilly	402-471-8967	Pam.Zilly@nebraska.gov
Evidence Section:		
Jan Johnson (sup.)	402-471-8951	Jan.Johnson@nebraska.gov
Margaret Wiesen	402-471-8950	Margaret.Wiesen@nebraska.gov
Quality Assurance Manager:		
Vicki Hopkins	402-471-8983	Vicki.Hopkins@nebraska.gov
Physical Sciences Unit:		
Scott Lanagan (Manager)	402-471-8877	Scott.Lanagan@nebraska.gov
Firearm/Toolmark Section		
Kent Weber (sup.)	402-471-8960	Kent.Weber@nebraska.gov
Amy Weber	402-471-8699	Amy.Weber@nebraska.gov
Sarah Zarnick	402-471-8925	Sarah.Zarnick@nebraska.gov
Latent Fingerprint Section:		
Mariana Ward (sup.)	402-471-8918	Mariana.Ward@nebraska.gov
Steve Burke	402-471-8962	Steven.Burke@nebraska.gov
Bridget Driver	402-471-8914	Bridget.Driver@nebraska.gov
Questioned Documents Section:		
Pam Zilly	402-471-8967	Pam.Zilly@nebraska.gov
Chemistry Unit:		
Celeste Laird (Manager)	402-471-8978	Celeste.Laird@nebraska.gov
Controlled Substances		
Vicky Cowan	402-471-8980	Vicky.Cowan@nebraska.gov
Abbey Dodds	402-471-8977	Abbegayle.Dodds@nebraska.gov
Meggan Macomber	402-471-8976	Meggan.Macomber@nebraska.gov
Toxicology		
Brad Rutledge	402-471-8979	Brad.Rutledge@nebraska.gov
Trace		
Mike Auten	402-471-8987	Mike.Auten@nebraska.gov
Biology Unit:		
Jason Linder	402-471-8958	Jason.Linder@nebraska.gov
Katie Rector (CODIS)	402-471-8822	Katherine.Rector@nebraska.gov
Melissa Kreikemeier	402-471-8957	Melissa.Kreikemeier@nebraska.gov
Christel Davis	402-471-8871	Christel.Davis@nebraska.gov
Brandy Porter	402-471-8870	Brandy.Porter@nebraska.gov
Heidi Young	402-471-6941	Heidi.Young@nebraska.gov
Hillary Duin (Lab Tech)	402-471-8966	Hillary.Duin@nebraska.gov