

# Notes: Collecting & Packaging Evidence

(1)

## Collecting Evidence

(1) Evidence handled carefully & gently

- to avoid damage/loss of material
- vacuum critical area

(2) mobile crime lab carries necessary supplies to protect the scene, photo, collect & package evidence.

## Handling Evidence

(1) carefully

(2) use latex gloves & disposable forceps to touch evidence

(3) submit evidence intact, if possible

(4) for large items- remove evidence from item instead of removing the item

## Packaging Evidence

(1) Types of Packages

(A) unbreakable pill bottles, manila envelope, screw-cap glass vials, sealable plastic bags, & metal pill boxes

(B) air-tight containers for charred evidence - to prevent evaporation of petroleum residues

(2) Biological Evidence

(A) use only disposable tools

(B) place in paper bags to dry

(C) use red biohazard sticks

(D) if you can't dry evidence, place in non-porous container & refrigerate

## Chain of Custody

list of people who come in contact/possession with the evidence, everyone on the list can be called to court.

## Standard / Reference Sample

physical evidence whose origin is known:

(1) blood or hair from suspect & victim

(2) buccal swab for DNA

(3) uncontaminated surface material close to physical evidence

# Notes: Physical Evidence

## Common Types of Physical Evidence

- (1) blood, semen, saliva
- (2) documents - ink, paper, indented writing
- (3) drugs
- (4) explosives
- (5) fibers - natural or man-made
- (6) fingerprints
- (7) firearms & ammunition
- (8) glass
- (9) hair
- (10) impressions - tools, shoes, tires, teeth
- (11) organs & physiological fluids
- (12) paints
- (13) petroleum products
- (14) bags
- (15) plastics
- (16) powders
- (17) serial #'s
- (18) soil & minerals
- (19) vehicle lights
- (20) wood or plant matter

## Examination of Physical Evidence

### Identification

- its physical & chemical identity

### Comparison

- to compare to standard/reference samples
- draw conclusions about origins

## Forensic Databases

### IAFIS

Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System

- 1999
- maintained by the FBI
- contains fingerprints & criminal histories of nearly 50 million subjects

### CODIS

Combined DNA Index System

- 1998

• maintained by the FBI

- all 50 states have a DNA databank of convicted felons

• Rapid DNA - process for developing DNA using a buccal swab - 90 min.

### NIBIN

- National Integrated Ballistics Information Network
- maintained by the ATF
- allows analysts to compare markings made by a firearm on bullets & cartridge casing

### PDQ

- International Forensic Paint Data Query
- maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- contained info on the make, model, year, assembly plant on 13,000 vehicles

### SICAR

- Shoeprint Image Capture & Retrieval
- commercially available system for comparing identifying crime scene shoe prints

### NamUs

- National Missing & Unidentified Persons System
- 2007
- free
- maintained by University of North Texas