OVERVIEW

The Trace Evidence Section is staffed with 2 personnel and a supervisor. The section is responsible for the analysis of a wide range of evidence including typical trace items such as fibers, glass and paint as well as footwear impressions, gunshot residue collection kits and arson samples.

SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE:

Fire Debris (Arson)

Material recovered from suspected arson scenes can be analyzed to determine if an accelerant such as gasoline was used.

Explosives

Material recovered from suspected exploded and unexploded bombs and bomb components can be analyzed to determine if the material is an explosive or explosive residue.
Fiber Comparison

Fibers collected from a crime scene or victim can be compared to submitted fabrics and carpets to determine if the fibers may have originated from the material.

Paint Comparison

Paint chips and smears found on items such as vehicles or burglary tools can be compared to known samples of paint to determine if the painted item could be the source of the chip or smear.

Gunshot Residue

Samples collected from subject’s hands can be analyzed to determine if gunshot residue is present and thereby corroborate the subject having fired a gun.
Vehicular Accident Reconstruction

Head and running lamps can be examined to determine if the lamp filament was on at the time of an impact. Speedometers can be examined in an effort to determine the speed of a vehicle at the time of an impact. Broken vehicle parts left at a scene can be compared to a suspected vehicle to determine if a fracture match exists.

Tape Comparison

Tape such as duct tape can be compared to the remaining tape on rolls to determine if the roll could have been the source of the tape used.

Footwear and Tire Track Comparison

Impressions of shoes and tires left at crime scenes can be compared to suspected shoes and tires in an effort to determine if the shoe or vehicle was the source of the impressions.
Glass Comparison

Fragments of broken glass found at the scene or on a suspect’s clothing can be compared back to items such as broken windows to determine if the window could be the source of the glass fragments.