



WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY

THE LAB REPORT

VOLUME 5 NO. 1 — SPRING 2019



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Latent Print Focus
- AFIS Upgrade
- Photography

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

This year has been and will continue to be a year of change and continuous improvement. Each section of the laboratory has goals and objectives they have set forth to accomplish by the end of 2019. These include, but are not limited to, implementation of urine analysis of sexual assault kits (SAKs) in the Toxicology Section, the optimization of recently implemented DNA technology that identifies/quantifies male DNA and eliminates the need for traditional serology screening of SAKs, and elimination of the Drug Identification backlog by providing a 30-60 day turnaround time for all drug cases. It is also our goal to increase the number of scientists who are certified in specific forensic disciplines and for a seamless transition to the new ISO 17025:2017/AR 3125 ANAB accreditation standards. We look forward to another exciting year! If there is anything we can do to improve our services, please don't hesitate to let us know by using the below link to our feedback survey.

Sincerely,

Sheri Lemons

Laboratory Director



West Virginia State Police
Forensic Laboratory Director—Sheri Lemons

Links:

[WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY FIELD MANUAL](#)

[FORENSIC LABORATORY EVIDENCE SUBMISSION FORM](#)

[CURRENT JOB POSTINGS](#)

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: LeAnne Simms

Hello, I am LeAnne Simms, a Latent Print Examiner in the Latent Print Section of the Forensic Laboratory. I am originally from Barboursville, WV, and currently live in Hurricane, WV, with my husband, Jeremy, two daughters, Jenna and Emmy, and our dog, Oscar. I am a 2004 graduate from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and English. I am an active member of the International Association for Identification (IAI).



I started working at the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory in February 2005 in the Central Processing Section. I have been employed in the Latent Print Section since my transfer in October 2008. I am currently a Forensic Scientist 5 and trained to competency in all facets of the latent print discipline. This competency includes knowledge of the biological morphology of friction ridge skin and knowledge and experience in the physical, chemical, and electronic processing of evidence for friction ridge skin impressions, as well as in the preservation of developed latent impressions. I am trained to use the ACE-V (analysis, comparison, evaluation and verification) methodology on developed latent impressions and non-latent impressions (i.e. inked or electronically taken fingerprints [Livescan]), as well as the documentation of examination results, in the use of all equipment in the section, including the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), and in the preparation of a latent print report for the investigator. I have testified in matters pertaining to the field of latent prints in US federal court and in West Virginia circuit court. I have also testified in matters pertaining to biological processing in West Virginia circuit court.

I hold the Technical Leader position in the section and am responsible for maintaining technical systems used by the latent print examiners. I also work on the fingerprint component of CODIS for the Biochemistry Section, and I am the laboratory's backup IT administrator for JusticeTrax, the Laboratory Information Management System.

I appreciate the opportunities from which my various positions across different sections within the laboratory have provided me. I have benefited from learning more about the technical side of the systems used in the Latent Print Section, I have the advantage of seeing hundreds of fingerprints while making comparisons for CODIS, and I love the challenges presented to me while aiding in the function and maintenance of JusticeTrax. Working in different areas of focus with different people has been interesting and enjoyable.

Latent Prints: AFIS UPGRADE

Stephen C. King
Supervisor, Latent Print Section

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or AFIS, overseen by the West Virginia State Police, is currently undergoing a major multi-million dollar upgrade. Idemia, a leader in AFIS technology, is the vendor providing the new system. The MorphoBIS will have the latest technology in livescan finger and palm print capture, in facial and iris recognition software, in interfaces with the FBI/CJIS databases, and in finger and palm print matching capabilities. Livescan finger and palm print capture stations will also be available for the first time in West Virginia's regional jails, ensuring exemplars taken by and at those facilities will be made part of the state's database.

The upgrade will also dramatically impact the Latent Print Section of the laboratory. New hardware and software will improve our ability to search eligible crime scene impressions through the state database. Because of the substantial improvements to the finger and palm print matching system in the database, the number of associations made to crime scene prints is expected to rise substantially. Additionally, all latent prints currently in the Unsolved Latent File will be re-searched by the new system and matches on old cases are expected. Any matches pertaining to older cases will result in a supplemental report being issued to the department who made the original submission.

The new software will allow us to search latent finger impressions through the FBI database without restrictions, which are currently in place due to the outdated software we must use. Now, we can only search 30% of the FBI database at a time, which leads to multiple searches of a single latent fingerprint to achieve full coverage. The new software removes all restrictions and full coverage can be achieved with a single search. One of the biggest advantages the new searching software will provide is that we, for the first time, will be able to search latent palm print impressions through the FBI palm print database. Since West Virginia shares borders with Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky, the ability to obtain full access to the FBI finger and palm print databases could lead to more latent impressions being matched in cases involving cross-state criminal activity.

Please remember that the ultimate effectiveness of this multi-million dollar upgrade heavily depends on the finger and palm print exemplars that are submitted to the Criminal Identification Bureau – Biometric Identification Section. The finger and palm print exemplars should be taken in a manner to ensure that all of the ridge detail is recorded and done so as clearly as possible.

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CONT: AFIS UPGRADE

Unfortunately, our current database does not have all of the criminal arrest exemplars it should have (perhaps no more than 60%), which means officers are not taking fingerprints for all of the arrests that they make. It is critical that all officers take and submit criminal exemplars in those instances they are legally obligated to do so. Not only will this improve the chances for success of cold latent print searches, it also provides a greater pool of finger and palm print exemplars from which latent examiners can draw in those cases for which a suspect is known.

West Virginia was the last state in the country to obtain an AFIS when our first was purchased in 1999. The new system upgrade that is currently being implemented, and which will go into effect this summer, will be our third and

will offer the most current technology available. Many thanks must go to the leadership of the West Virginia State Police who understand that technology cannot remain dormant and still be effective. Many thanks must also go to the West Virginia Legislature who, too, understood the critical need that this technology plays in public safety. And, as always, many thanks must go to the citizens of the state who entrust their tax dollars to the public sector and whose reasonable expectation is that the money will be spent in the most responsible way. It is the belief of those of us who will use the new AFIS that the money invested by the public for this system will be money well spent.

Pictured below is a current AFIS station at the WVSPFL.



NEVER GIVE UP: A STORY OF PERSEVERANCE

Robyn Lewis

Latent Print Section

Scene 1: The story opens with an investigator diligently working a burglary scene, black fingerprint powder filling the air as the officer searches for clues to who might have committed this crime. Swirling the powder brush across the various surfaces obviously disturbed by the perpetrator, what the officer seeks begins to appear. “At last”, he says to himself, “fingerprints!” As the ridges continue to develop, a thought goes through the officer’s mind, “this time, I WILL get a positive report from the lab!” After the prints are developed, the officer carefully places the fingerprint lifting tape over the prints, taking special care to avoid wrinkles or air bubbles in the tape. Success, he thinks. The lifts are as smooth as the glass-top table they were lifted from. Now he carefully places the tape on his background card, labeling it with all of the information he needs and places it in an envelope for submission to the lab.

Cut to the Latent Print Section as the latent print examiner opens the submitted envelope from the burglary scene and removes the submitted lift. Upon analysis, it is determined that although ridge detail is present, the amount of distortion that is also present renders the print of no value. The case file is reviewed and a negative report is issued.

Scene 2: As the officer opens the envelope containing the report on the burglary, he knows this time will be different. He has submitted so many cases to the lab over the years and has always gotten negative results. He knows this time is going to be different. But no, another negative report. “What do I keep doing wrong?”, he says aloud.

Scene 3: The officer has responded to another crime scene. This time it’s an armed robbery at a convenience store. As he is getting out his fingerprint kit, he pauses, wondering if he should even try. “After all”, he thinks, “I never get positive results.” But, realizing he owes it to the victim to do everything he can, he begins processing. And as the fingerprint powder is applied to the surface, he sees the ridges beginning to develop. Once the powdering is complete, he takes out the lifting tape, preserves the prints on a background card, and labels the lifts with the pertinent information: “Right side of the cash register drawer”, the date, and his initials. And once again, he packages the lifts for submission to the lab.

Scene 4: At the lab, the latent print examiner opens the envelope containing the lifts from the convenience store armed robbery and removes the lift cards to begin the examination.

The lift card labeled “right side of the cash register drawer” is analyzed and contains a partial latent fingerprint. Upon

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CONT: PERSEVERANCE

further analysis, it is determined that even though there is distortion present in the print, there is enough clarity to continue on with a comparison. But because there is no suspect, a search by the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) will be conducted. After the AFIS search is completed, and all of the verifications are made, the case file is reviewed and the report issued to the officer.

Scene 5: The officer receives the lab report and hesitates before opening it. “Is this going to be just another negative report?”, he wonders. As he begins reading, he sees a name listed on the report as an AFIS candidate. His eyes widen as he continues to read. The latent print developed on the cash register drawer was sufficient for an AFIS search and an identification was made to an individual well known for criminal activity in the area that did not have legitimate access to the drawer. “Finally!”, he says, “Positive results!” And as the officer heads out to find the individual whose name showed up as the AFIS candidate in the lab report, he says to himself, “I am so glad I didn’t give up!”

Epilogue: Although this story is not based on actual events, it seems to be the attitude of a lot of officers who more often than not get negative results from the Latent Print Section. They wonder what they are doing wrong or feel like they can’t do a good job processing for and collecting latent prints. And some may even use past negative results as an excuse not to even try. But before you automatically think it’s something you’re doing wrong, let’s look at the nature of latent print evidence.

Because most latent prints are made up primarily of water, the longer they remain on a non-porous surface (for example glass, plastic, or metal), deterioration will eventually occur. If the prints are deposited in a high-traffic area, they can become distorted by overlapping touches, swipe marks or completely wiped off the surface. If the surface is textured or dirty, the surface itself can distort the print to the point of no value. And during normal activity, because of the way we usually handle objects, we typically don’t leave behind full or pristine latent prints. Sure, practicing latent print processing and collecting will make you better and we should all strive to get better at our professions. But don’t let the first thing you think when getting a negative latent print report is that you did something wrong.

So when responding to a crime scene, remember this: you can only develop what is there. But also remember the officer in the story above. He was ready to give up, but made the effort at his next scene and ended up with positive results. The only way you can get positive results is to keep processing and submitting. And eventually, your hard work – and perseverance – will pay off, and you will let a victim know how much you truly care.

Pictures ARE Worth a Thousand Words

Lara D'agostin
Latent Print Section

Photography is an essential part of crime scene processing. It can, however, become a frustrating and daunting task to take good quality pictures in low light environments. It is vital that you understand the capabilities of your equipment as well as all of the resources available to you when encountering challenges in the field. There are a few quick tips that can make your job a little easier when it comes to crime scene photography.

As easy and convenient as it might feel in the moment to pull out your cell phone instead of worrying about your issued camera, those feelings will quickly go away when your cell phone is subpoenaed for evidence at a trial. No one wants their personal pictures, messages, and information to become the subject of questions on the stand when it has nothing to do with the case itself.

Get to know your camera. It doesn't matter if you have a top of the line or a standard point and shoot, either way, you need to know what your camera can and can't do.

Most of the time we put our cameras on the auto setting and click. For the majority of your pictures this will be a perfectly acceptable method of making your job easier.

However, you will encounter situations dealing with small spaces, low light, and fine detail. In these situations do you know how to manipulate your camera to do what you need it to do?

Have no idea what aperture, shutter speed, and ISO do?

Don't fear! Each of these settings in your camera can help give you more light when all of your pictures seem to be turning out dark. A quick search on the internet will yield you an abundant amount of videos, tutorials, charts, and examples about each of these settings and how they benefit you. You can even search your specific camera to find advice on how to make adjustments.

Aperture refers to how much light your lens allows into the camera; this setting also determines if the whole image is in focus or if an item starts to lose focus the more it is spaced out from other items. Shutter speed controls how long that light is exposed to your image. Are you outside on a bright sunny day? Your shutter speed will be very fast - fractions of a second. Are you at a crash scene in total darkness? Your shutter speed will need to be multiple seconds so the camera can pull in as much light as possible.

If you still feel lost in a maze of information consider your social network. Do you know someone who loves photography that might be able to walk you through some of the basics? Need in-service credits? Consider taking one of the courses offered each year through the West Virginia State Police Academy. Don't forget to check within your own community, too. There are many passionate people who are highly skilled that would be happy to help you.

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CONT: PICTURES = 1000 words

Many art, craft, and hobby stores have classes to teach basic photography.

Heading out to a crime scene with photography equipment isn't as easy as just checking to make sure your batteries aren't dead. Your gear bag should include a tri-pod, extra SD or memory cards, back up batteries and ways to charge them, an external flash, and measuring scales. The last thing you want to do is find yourself at a scene with a corrupted SD card or a dead battery. Even if you share photography equipment in your unit, make it a habit to double check all of these things before you head out of the office.

Now that we live in the digital age, it has become easier to take lots of pictures without having to worry about buying and developing film. While each crime scene will be different, it's always important to take as many pictures as you can. Remember, you are the official recorder of what you are physically seeing. You are the one chance to stop time and show other officers, prosecutors, and jury members the exact conditions of an environment without having to rely completely on your report and memory.

Take pictures of everything. The scene itself, individual items, location markers (street signs, house numbers, landmarks), cars on site, bystanders gathered around, and more. When dealing with evidence lead yourself through pictures to that specific place. Find a shoe impression on the ground? Are there fingerprints on the window? Ask

yourself: Do you have pictures that will show you later where that specific impression was located? If someone asks you later, can you use your photographs to recreate the scene and where each item of evidence was located?

If you are just starting as a photographer, it is very easy to forget to take pictures as the movement of your crime scene can be quick and sometimes chaotic. Take the time to pause and develop a game plan. Make a check sheet for different situations so you are sure before you leave you've covered all your bases. Taking 50-100 images might feel excessive, but remember, you are capturing that scene. It is not uncommon to take over 100 images for minor crimes and over 400 for major crimes.

An easy rule: When you feel like you've taken enough photos, take more.

Of course the more pictures you take, the more likely you are to have a bunch of pictures that weren't the best quality. Maybe you were adjusting your settings to figure out how much light you needed. Maybe you forgot to remove the lens cap for the first ten shots. Maybe you weren't on auto focus and everything is blurry.

These things happen to the best of us. However, never delete those images. Cameras digitally number your pictures. If there are suddenly twenty images missing from that sequence it can raise a lot of questions in court. It is much easier to explain why you had a blurry or

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CONT: PICTURES = 1000 words

overly bright image than it is to defend yourself against the speculation of a defense attorney.

Now that you have covered the general crime scene – important locations, evidence ready to be collected, victim wounds, and all of the other information around you at the scene – let's talk about forensic evidence images.

There are four basic rules when taking evidence photographs of latent prints, shoe impressions, tire impressions, tool mark impressions, and blood spatter:

One: Keep your camera perpendicular to the impression.

By being directly across from the impression with your camera, you reduce the chances of changing the size of detail in the impression.

Two: Include a scale. It doesn't matter if you prefer inches or centimeters, make sure the scale is visible without covering the impression and is on the same plane as the impression. (You might have to push the scale down into mud to be equal to the tire

impression or use a sticker scale to deal with a latent print on a curved surface.)

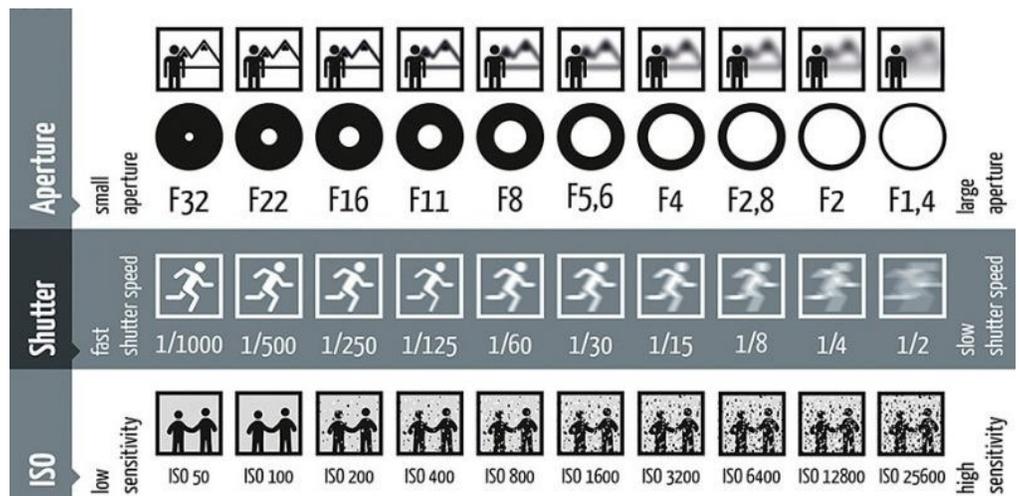
Three: Focus your camera.

This is a rule for all of your photography, but it is extremely important when taking photographs that will be examined

by fingerprint and footwear examiners and other forensic scientists.

Four: Use light to your advantage. You most likely will have located the latent fingerprint, footwear or tire impression, or tool mark while you were searching the scene using your flashlight. Whatever position you held your light to see the evidence in the first place will probably be the best angle of light to use when taking a photograph of the impression. You can adjust the angle of the light as necessary until you are able to see the subject more clearly.

Like many aspects of your training, practice will help make you more proficient and better equipped to deal with new challenges. Practice photography outside of work. Take pictures at sporting events, while camping, of your favorite hobby, at your children's ball games or activities. The more you practice, the easier it will become to understand your equipment and adapt to situations at crimes scenes.



SUPER GLUE FUMING

Stephen C. King
Supervisor, Latent Print Section

It is a technique that is commonplace on television crime dramas such as CSI and NCIS, and, for those old enough to remember, it was famously used by Eddie Murphy in the 1984 movie Beverly Hills Cop as well as by Nicolas Cage in 2004's National Treasure. Though not the oldest latent print development method – that designation goes to powder processing - super glue fuming is in its fourth decade as a staple of both field and laboratory latent print development. While routinely used by some police officers, super glue fuming remains intimidating for most. Fortunately, super glue fuming (also known as cyanoacrylate fuming or CA) is one of the easiest processes to use in a laboratory environment and at a crime scene. It can also be used with a minimum of expense. This article will deal with when to use super glue, the safety factors involved with the use of super glue, the equipment needed to perform the technique, and the proper procedure for maximizing results.

When to Use Super Glue Fuming — Super glue fumes react with the residue of a latent print on nonporous surfaces. This reaction can make the latent print visible. It also hardens the latent print (a process known as polymerization), making it less fragile. Nonporous surfaces include glass, metal, plastic, finished wood, laminates, and glossy finishes on paper items. Super glue fuming is not recommended for use on porous items such as paper.

An important factor you must consider before you super glue fume is whether the item of evidence is going to need additional processing by another section of the laboratory. If you desire the item to be checked for blood, gunshot residue, drugs, or other types of evidence, super glue fumes may interfere with those types of testing. In cases where an item needs multiple testing, please forward it to the laboratory. The Latent Print Section can process the item for you after the other sections have completed their examinations.

Another important factor to consider is whether you want to use super glue fuming on a particular item. Super glue can be a destructive technique, capable of permanently bonding latent prints and any other type of residue to a surface. It has also been proven to have destructive effects on the circuitry of vehicles, stereos, and other electronic devices, often depriving the owner of the item's value and future use. Before processing the property of a victim, discuss the potential destructive risks with the owner.

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CONT: SUPER GLUE FUMING

Safety — Super glue vapor can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat and should be used only in a well-ventilated area. Super glue can bond skin quickly and strongly. The use of gloves when applying the glue is highly recommended. Should bonding of skin occur, do not attempt to pull the glued skin apart. Soaking the skin in warm soapy water has been successful in loosening the bond, allowing the skin to be gently separated. Nail polish remover has also been effective in loosening the bonding agent.

Equipment — The equipment needed to perform super glue fuming can be extremely varied: from automated chambers that can cost tens of thousands of dollars to a cardboard box and a garbage bag that may cost you nothing.

The **super glue** itself is inexpensive and can be purchased from any of the fingerprint supply companies. The glue can be purchased either in bottles or in packets. The liquid super glue in the bottle tends to be more economical. The packets are a little more expensive, but are convenient when fuming large enclosed areas such as the interior of a vehicle or a room in a house. You can increase the life of super glue by storing it in a refrigerator.

Elaborate **fuming chambers** can be purchased or built depending on one's depth of pocket or breadth of mechanical ability. Since most police department budgets will not allow for these types of chambers, modest alternatives are available that can work well.

For instance, the most commonly used chamber is a fish aquarium. Aquariums can be purchased in most box stores, pet shops, or on-line for a reasonable price and in varying sizes depending on the investigator's needs. Plastic freezer and trash bags and cardboard boxes make economical, but effective, portable fuming chambers. Large sheets of plastic (such as those sold as paint drop cloths) can be used for large objects by placing the object under a sealed tent fashioned from the plastic.

While neither is absolutely necessary to perform effective super glue fuming, **heat** and **humidity** are often twin components introduced during the process. Heat will accelerate the fuming process while humidity returns moisture to the latent print residue attracting the fumes more effectively. Heat should only be used at a low temperature such as that produced by a coffee warmer or a low watt light bulb. A hot plate is acceptable as long as only the lowest setting is used. Humidity can be introduced using a Styrofoam cup of warm water. Water that is too hot may cause items to perspire, which could harm latent print residue. Getting the right temperatures for heating the super glue and creating just the

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CONT: SUPER GLUE FUMING

right amount of humidity takes practice, but this skill is well within the abilities of those investigators willing to try.

In addition to the primary items of equipment just described, a few odds and ends will be needed, especially if using an aquarium: aluminum foil for holding the liquid super glue, weather stripping and tape for creating air-tight seals on the chamber, a dowel rod, and wire, clothespins, or hooks for suspending items within the chamber.

With the super glue purchased and the chamber constructed, you are now ready to process.

Procedure — Super glue fuming is a simple procedure. It is not, however, without its pitfalls. Though every situation will be different – presenting different problems – there are a few standard procedures which can be followed to improve your chances of developing latent impressions. The following guidelines apply primarily to using an aquarium on portable items of evidence, which will make up the majority of your processing situations (cans, bottles, handguns, baggies, etc.).

1. Place the items in the chamber. If fuming several items, make sure they do not touch. Ideally, items should be suspended in the chamber to allow for full circulation of the fumes over all of the surfaces of the items. If an item is too heavy to suspend, lean the item on one of the sides of the chamber exposing as much as the surface of the item as possible.

Note 1: Wear gloves during all contact with items of evidence to avoid leaving your own prints on the items and to provide protection from accidental contact with the super glue.

Note 2: It is helpful to place a monitoring strip inside the chamber with the evidence. This is nothing more than a small piece of plastic on which you have placed a test print. By watching the monitoring strip, you will be able to see how the development is proceeding.

2. Build the humidity inside the chamber to 80%. Unless you have a humidity monitor, this will be a guess. A Styrofoam cup of warm tap water works well at creating the humidity. Seal the cup of water in the chamber allowing enough time for rehydration of the latent print residue. This may take several minutes.

Note: While using humidity creates a better environment for latent print development, you can proceed without it.

3. Place a few drops of glue on a container you fashioned from a piece of aluminum foil. The number of drops of glue

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CONT: SUPER GLUE FUMING

will vary depending on the size of your chamber and the number of items you are fuming. If you are using a small aquarium, 3 or 4 drops should suffice; a large aquarium may take 5 to 8 drops. Practice will improve your ability to estimate the amount of glue. If you must err – and we all have – it is best to err by using too little than too much. If the items have been lightly fumed, further processing with powder by you or a chemical dye stain at the laboratory can expose what is there. Overdevelopment (the items will be covered with a heavy white residue) usually eliminates the possibility of salvaging any usable latent prints.

4. Place the aluminum foil container with the super glue on the heat source you are using inside the chamber. The desired temperature is between 90 and 110 degrees (F). A coffee warmer is ideal for generating this level of heat. If you are not using a heat source, place the glue in the center of the chamber to allow for uniform circulation.

5. Seal the chamber as tightly as possible to prevent fumes from escaping.

6. Monitor the results. If you are using heat, reactions may occur in two or three minutes; without heat, the reaction could take as long as twenty minutes to an hour. Once the prints begin to develop, monitor closely. Usually, once ridge detail (the lines of a latent print) becomes visible, the items are ready to be removed.

7. Clear the chamber in a well ventilated area. Remove the items.

8. Ideally, you will want to photograph what you have developed. Once photographed, the fumed items can be further processed by you or by the Latent Print Section at the laboratory.

By learning and mastering how to use super glue fuming in the processing for latent prints, investigators can increase the yield of usable impressions. This makes sense because you will be processing an item much closer to the point of contact than one of us at the laboratory can. Of course, we will remain available to process all of your collected evidence if that is your wish. We know that a police officer's duties are many and we are glad to fulfill our supporting role. If, however, you are interested in improving how you perform evidence collection, and particularly latent print evidence collection, then this article can serve as a start.

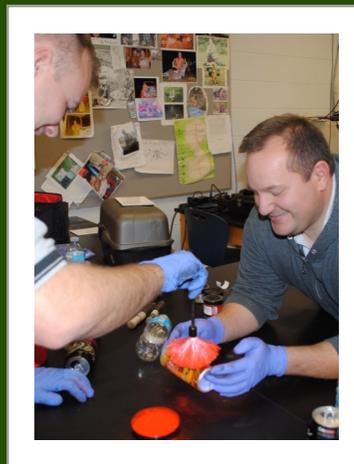
If you have any questions that I, or any member of the Latent Print Section, can answer for you regarding super glue fuming, or any other aspect of latent print processing, please give me a call at 304-746-2185 or contact me by email at stephen.c.king@wvsp.gov.

The Crime Lab Road Show

The West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory is providing training opportunities for law enforcement, attorneys, and judges! To help us do this we need volunteer agencies to host a one day training opportunity. If you are an interested party please contact Blake N. Reta. (contact information below)

- One day training opportunity for any law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and judges.
- Maximum of 30 attendees.
- Training may feature 1 to 2 sections of the forensic laboratory for lecture and hands on experience with evidence collection.
- The sections that will be providing training will be agreed upon by the forensic laboratory and the volunteer host.

Note: Law enforcement officers are eligible to obtain in-service hours for attending this training.



The training provided will be free to the attendees!

What we are asking of the host agency:

- Provide an area (local school, department complex, etc) for training to occur
- Provide material needed for the training

West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory

Blake N. Reta
Email: blake.n.reta@wvsp.gov
Phone: 304-746-2171

Sections of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory that can provide lecture / training include:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| - Biochemistry | - Drug Identification | - Evidence Processing |
| - Firearm/Toolmark | - Footwear/Tire Track | - Latent Prints |
| - Toxicology | - Trace Evidence | |

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Toxicology: toxicology@wvsp.gov
Trace Evidence: trace@wvsp.gov

FEEDBACK

We always welcome feedback for the upcoming newsletter!

Have comments or suggestion?

Want to know how we do something?

Need to know how we recommend to collect a specific type of evidence?

Feel free to contact the editors and suggest topics and provide us with any comments or feedback.

Your Editors,

Blake N. Reta — blake.n.reta@wvsp.gov
Stephen C. King — stephen.c.king@wvsp.gov



Laboratory Mission and Goal

Mission:

It is the mission of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory to provide accurate and impartial scientific support services to all criminal justice agencies operating in the State of West Virginia.

Goal:

The goal of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory is to generate accurate, impartial, and timely scientific examinations and opinions for the criminal justice system of the State in the interest of public safety. Establish and maintain a database of convicted felons, sex offenders, case work profiles, and missing persons.

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