

Materials Analysis Update

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Glass Analysis Service to Relaunch

After more than five years of having placed the glass analysis service on hiatus, the WSP Crime Laboratory Division will soon be offering the service once again. The service of analysis and comparison of glass evidence will be available to all Washington State law enforcement agencies by early summer of 2016. The service will consist of analysis and comparison of glass samples to determine association of unknown glass fragments to known sources. Points of comparison between known and unknown glass samples include refractive index and trace elemental composition.

WSP scientists have been working hard to get the latest technologies, methods, and techniques in glass analysis up and running in our lab system. With assistance from the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division, we have validated and are near completion of train-



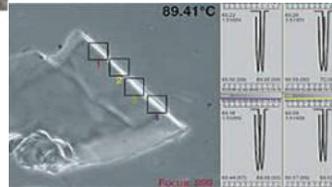
ing in all aspects of forensic glass analysis.

In addition to association of unknown glass fragments to a known source, glass services will include reconstruction of broken glass to aid in determination of direction of force, fired bullet sequence, and other glass-related services.

Glass evidence may be encountered in numerous types of investigations. Glass can be especially prevalent in vehicle collisions (hit and run), and crimes involving break-ins through windows, whether residential burgla-

ries, sexual assaults, or homicides.

Glass analysis service will be available in the Marysville, Tacoma, and Cheney Crime Lab Materials Analysis Units.



For questions about submitting glass evidence to the WSP Crime Laboratory, please contact any of your Materials Analysis supervisors, listed on the page 1 sidebar.

MATERIALS ANALYSIS CONTACTS

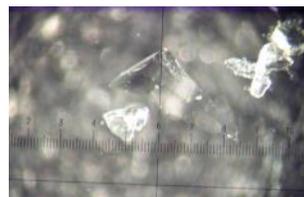
- *Cheney Crime Lab*
Ms. Jayne Wilhelm
509-625-5402
- *Kennewick Crime Lab*
Dr. Jason Stenzel
509-734-5821
- *Marysville Crime Lab*
Dr. David Northrop
360-654-1178
- *Seattle Crime Lab*
Dr. Ed Suzuki
206-262-6080
Mr. Jeff Jagmin
206-262-6109
- *Tacoma Crime Lab*
Ms. Jane Boysen
253-538-3246
- *Vancouver Crime Lab*
Mr. Bruce Siggins
360-993-3803

Collecting Glass Evidence

Glass evidence might be encountered in a variety of cases. For example, suspects may have broken glass on their clothing or in their hair after breaking a window to gain entry into a house. Or, hit and run victims may have windshield glass em-

bedded in their scalp, in their hair, or on their clothing.

If you suspect that glass fragments may be on clothing or other objects, do not attempt to remove the glass fragments.



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Case Acceptance Policy

Confused about what types of cases the WSP Crime Lab will accept? Have you been told that we won't accept property crimes? While it is true that cases submitted for DNA analysis are limited by a case acceptance policy, this policy does not apply to cases submitted for trace evidence analysis.

The Materials Analysis Unit accepts requests for all kinds of cases with no limitations based on severity of the crime. Whether a homicide, sexual assault, residential burglary, even prod-

uct tampering, or anything in between, we will accept submissions of evidence for trace evidence examinations.



Whatever the request is, searching an article of clothing left behind at a burglary scene for hairs and fibers, clothing collected from a suspect for traces of paint, glass fragments, fibers, or soil, or comparing shoe impressions from a bank robbery, the WSP

Crime Lab Materials Analysis scientists will work the case.

Check the [FLSB Forensic Service](#)

[Guide](#) for details about the services offered in the Materials Analysis Unit. Please feel free to contact any of the Materials Analysis supervisors listed on the Page 1 sidebar if you have any questions.



Collecting Glass Evidence (cont from page 1)

Rather, preserve the evidence by wrapping with butcher paper and sealing inside a paper bag.



If you suspect that there may be glass fragments in someone's hair, you can brush down the hair over butcher paper, then fold the paper carefully, and seal the folded paper inside a paper bag or envelope.

Collect loose glass fragments inside a rigid container. If loose glass fragments are found at a crime scene, such as a hit-and-run collision, collect as much of the glass as possible to represent what is at the scene. Be sure to collect sufficient glass reference material from the crime scene to allow the forensic scientist to

make meaningful comparisons to evidentiary glass. Keep in mind that a fracture match may be attempted prior to chemical and physical analysis.

Often, it is possible to piece together broken glass fragments from a larger original item, such as a broken window or broken head lamp glass. In this scenario, it is possible to say that the suspect fragment came from the larger original item, and that the two were once one piece. Be sure to collect as much of the broken parts from the scene, and separately package as much of the original item that the suspect item is thought to have come from.

You may want to know the direction of force that was applied to cause a window to break. For example, it may be important to corroborate witness or suspect statements. Was the breaking force coming from outside or inside? In this scenario, it is

important to mark which side is inside versus outside when removing pieces from the window frame. Collect as much of the glass as you can recover from around the scene so that we can reconstruct the window pane.

If fracture match is not possible, the forensic scientist will do a physical and chemical comparison of evidentiary and reference glass samples.

Points of comparison can include color, thickness, refractive indices, and elemental composition. When all compared properties are the same, a report will be issued stating the association between unknown and known glass fragments.

Always remember that forensic science starts with collection of the evidence.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of your Materials Analysis supervisors listed on the Page 1 sidebar.

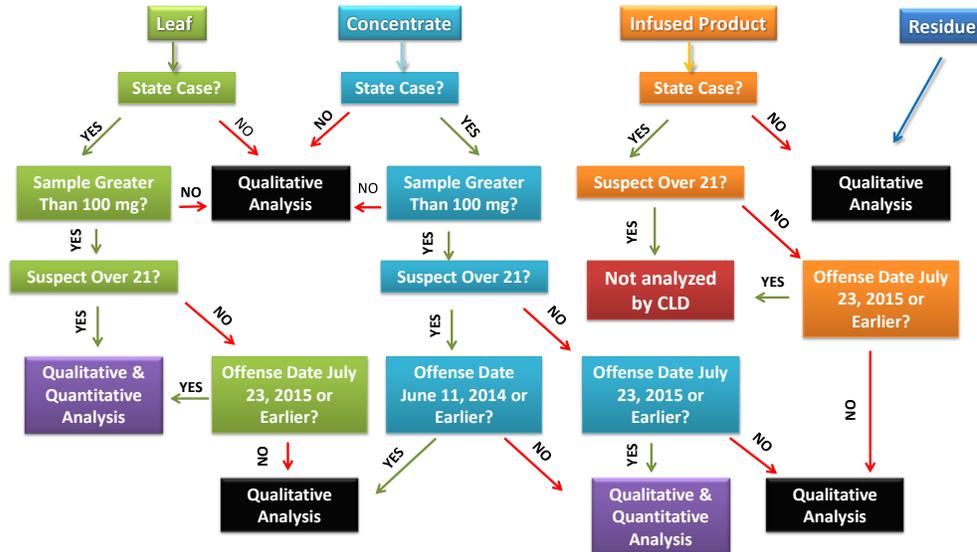


Marijuana Update

Several new developments on the marijuana front have allowed the WSP Crime Lab to streamline the marijuana analysis process. Under new rules, marijuana seized from a minor under 21 years of age after July 23, 2015 will no longer need to be quantitated. The rules regarding THC concentrates and infused products are more complicated, but the following flow chart summarizes how these cases will be handled by the WSP Crime Lab.



MARIJUANA CASE APPROACH



WSP CRIME LAB DIVISION

2203 Airport Way S
Bldg A Suite 250
Seattle, WA 98134-2028

2700 116th Street NE Ste P
Tulalip, WA 98271

2502 112th St E
Tacoma, WA 98445

1401 Kauffman Ave
Vancouver, WA 98660-2752

580 W 7th St
Cheney, WA 99004

143302 E Law Ln
Kennewick, WA 99337

For More Information
Phone: 360-654-1201
E-mail: gene.lawrence@wsp.wa.gov



Service With Humility

Visit us online at

<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/crimlabs.htm>



The Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division provides forensic science services and training for Washington's criminal justice agencies. The Crime Lab Division is committed to providing the highest quality forensic services which ultimately enhances public safety for the citizens of Washington.

Be On The Look-Out

The Materials Analysis Update newsletter will be produced periodically to provide updates to Materials Analysis services, instructions for collecting, preserving, and submitting trace evidence, and in-depth articles pertaining to specific services so that you can be better informed of what evidence to look for, how to find it, and how to collect it for analysis. We will also provide information regarding Crime Lab reporting, interpretation, and what it all means to you, the law enforcement officer. Whether working homicides or traffic collision investigations, there will be plenty of useful information in future editions of the Materials Analysis Update Newsletter.

In addition, we will not only strive to provide the best services in chemical and trace evidence analysis, but we will also work diligently



to serve our law enforcement partners and the community at large by providing up-to-date training and education on techniques and best practices for evidence collection and preservation. Training opportunities will be published in this newsletter, so BOLO for future editions and training opportunities.