

IM SOP-5 Lifting

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

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Purpose: To recover imprints in dust or residue from suspect items.

Responsibility: Forensic Science Examiners assigned to the Imprint Unit are responsible to follow the guidance of this procedure.

Safety: All proper personal protection equipment will be used as appropriate. Precautions should be taken when using the Electrostatic Lifting Device and the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus due to the potential for electrical shock. The examiner should avoid touching the metal electrical contacts on the Electrostatic Lifting Device and the corona wire on the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus when the devices are in use.

Procedure:

Materials:

1. Electrostatic lifting device
2. Grounding material
3. Lifting film
4. Oblique lighting source
5. Large transparent adhesive lifters
6. Large white backed adhesive lifters
7. Large black backed adhesive lifters
8. Large transparent gelatin lifters
9. Large white backed gelatin lifters
10. Large black backed gelatin lifters
11. Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA)

Procedures:

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services

Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

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1. Examine area using an oblique light source to identify location(s) of any visible dust or residue imprint(s).
2. Determine which area(s) are to be processed with an electrostatic lifting device or adhesive/gel lifters.
3. Photograph area(s) where lifts are to be conducted.
4. When using the electrostatic lifting device, place lifting film – black side down – on top of surface where imprint(s) are to be lifted, set up appropriate ground device, and continue with electrostatic lift procedure(s) following the instructions in the manual.
5. When using adhesive or gel lifters, remove the cover from the lifter, place the lifter over the imprint, use your hands or a roller to ensure that the lifter contacts the entire imprint, and remove lifter. After photographing the lift place the cover back over the imprint.
6. When using the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA) follow the SOP for the Questioned Documents Unit regarding the proper use of the ESDA.
7. Photograph lifted images.
8. Secure lifts in proper container.
9. Mark container with appropriate identification markings.
10. Sub-itemize the lift in JusticeTrax and place a barcode on the evidence container. Lifts will be returned to the submitting agency.

Results:

Permanent record of dust or residue imprint(s).

Sources of Error: N/A

Quality Assurance: N/A

References: See bibliography.