

## **FIREARM AND TOOL MARK SECTION**

### **PHYSICAL MATCH**

- **POSSIBLE EXAMINATIONS**

- Determine if two or more objects were, at one time, physically connected or one piece

- **COLLECTION**

- Photograph the items with a scale prior to handling. Note:
  - Location found (include orientation within scene)
- Be mindful of DNA of Latent Print evidence
- When possible, submit the entire object
  - Ex) Broken glass bottle, plastic car parts, catalytic converter, headlight, etc.
- If the item containing the tool mark is too large, or unable to remove from scene:
  - Cast the tool mark
    - Casting materials, such as Mikrosil or Accutrans
      - Brown in color
    - Cover the area with the tool mark
    - Label casting material, include orientation within the scene
  - Cut area with tool mark
    - Cut with a large area around the tool marks, so as not to interfere
    - Clearly indicate which tool marks were created with the suspected tool, and which cuts were made by the officer
      - Color with black sharpie, arrow indicating which tool mark to be compared, etc.
    - Include orientation within scene
    - Take a sample of surrounding material and submit to the laboratory (to be used as testing material)
  - If the item is able to fray (i.e. rope or wire):
    - Tape the item just below the cut edge to prevent fraying
  - Notify Crime Laboratory

- **PACKAGING AND LABELING**

- Place the entire object, cast of the object, or cut area, in a box of appropriate size
  - Items collected from the same scene may be packaged together.
  - Items collected from the same suspect may be packaged together.
- Do NOT package evidence items from the scene and suspect in the same container.
- If ends are sharp, do NOT place in paper bag
- Use cable ties to secure item if necessary
  - Keep cable tie knot inside of the box. Do not cut cable tie
- Tape Seal, Initial and Date the tape seal, and label the packaging with contents
  - Ex) One (1) broken key taken from Jane Doe's front door lock