

## **TOOLS AND TOOL MARKS**

- **TOOL**

- An object used to gain a mechanical advantage
  - Ex) Screwdriver, hammer, pliers, bolt cutters, pry bar, etc.

- **TOOL MARK**

- Area of damage on an object as a result of a tool

- **POSSIBLE EXAMINATIONS**

- Comparison of toolmark and test impressions created with known tool

- **TOOL MARK COLLECTION**

- Photograph the tool mark 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 including the tool mark
  - Ex) If a lock was cut, submit the entire lock
- 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 with tool mark, cast of tool mark, or cut area with tool mark, in a box of appropriate size
  - 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
  - Do NOT package unknown tool marks in the same box as the tool
  - Tape Seal, Initial and Date the tape seal, and Label the packaging with contents
    - Ex) One (1) door hinge with tool mark taken from Jane Doe's front door
- **TOOL COLLECTION**
  - Photograph the tool prior to handling. Note:
    - Location found
    - Condition
  - Submit entire tool
    - Be mindful of DNA or Latent Print evidence
- **PACKAGING AND LABELING**
  - Place the tool in a box of appropriate size
    - If ends are sharp, do NOT place in paper bag
  - Use cable ties to secure the tool to the box
    - Keep cable tie knot inside of the box. Do not cut cable tie
  - Do NOT package unknown tool marks in the same box as the tool
  - Tape Seal, Initial and Date the tape seal, and Label the packaging with contents
    - Ex) One (1) screwdriver with black handle taken from John Doe