

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory

Arson & Explosives Unit Information Paper



To provide general guidelines
for submitting agencies on the
submission of Arson and
Explosives related evidence to
the Massachusetts State Police
Crime Laboratory

Evidence Control Unit

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
59 Horse Pond Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone: 508-358-3155
Fax: 508-358-3222

Excellence in Service Through Quality Forensic Science

Evidence submitted by external agencies for analysis by the Arson & Explosives Unit will only be accepted by the Evidence Unit at 59 Horse Pond Rd. in Sudbury

Contact Information

For Scene Response

GHQ

508-820-2121

Technical Questions

Arson & Explosives Unit

508-358-3110

Or

508-358-3100

Evidence Submission Appointments

508-358-3155

Packaging Requirements

Fire Debris

- Clean metal cans, free of rust and dents, all sealed airtight and labeled at scene. Cans should be taped over the edges in a criss-cross fashion to ensure the integrity of the sample. Tape should be placed over the lid and "V" groove. The tape is to be initialed and dated by the investigator.
- Liquid evidence should be packaged in a small glass bottle (clean and unused) and sealed with a hardened plastic cover. These can be obtained from the laboratory if necessary. These should also be sealed using tape over the cap. The tape is to be initialed and dated by the investigator.

- Containers must be labeled with location, to include the address of the scene, time and date of recovery, name of person who collected the sample(s), and sample identifying number (e.g. sample #1, sample #2).
- **Submit comparison samples, when available**

Explosive Debris

- Clean manila envelopes, static free bags, paper bags and/or clean metal cans, sealed and labeled at the scene. The packaging should be sealed, initialed and dated to ensure the integrity of the sample.
- Control samples (i.e., soil and debris recovered away from the blast site) should be packaged separately from debris, using the same method.
- Chemical Reaction Bombs (CRB'S) are to be individually packaged in heat sealed plastic bags and listed on the ESF as separate items.
- **Submit comparison samples, when available**



Example of bottles and cans that can be used to submit Arson Evidence

Number of Samples

- **Limit number of samples.**
- Raw Liquids must be limited to one ounce sample or smaller.

Gun Shot Residue

- Adhesive stubs taken from a sealed GSR Kit (example, Gunshot Residue Trace Evidence Kit from Tri-Tech) must have the questionnaire form filled out completely and sealed inside the kit.
- Several stubs taken from the same item should be packaged together.
- Stubs taken from separate items should be packaged separately.
- One stub for each hand is preferred.
- Sampling of hands must be completed within 4 hours of the incident.
- Sampling on Suicides will only be examined with prior approval from the Trace/Arson and Explosives Section Supervisor or Forensic Biology Section Manager.

- Clothing may be recovered at the scene and packaged in paper bags for further examination by a Criminalist at the laboratory.

Explosives Devices

ALL Explosive Devices / IED's must be rendered safe by a Bomb Squad prior to submission to the Evidence Control Unit.

