

Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory

Inside this issue:

Salvia Update 2

Field Questions 2

Evidence Collected
by Coroner's Of-
fice 3

Autopsy Observa-
tion 3

Laboratory
Holidays 4

Issue: 7

March 2009

Ohio Identification Officers' Association Fall Training

The Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory will be hosting the **Fall Training Conference of the "Ohio Identification Officers' Association" (OIOA)**.

The Ohio Identification Officers' Association mission is to be a professional association for those engaged in investigation, forensic identification and scientific examination of physical evidence.

The OIOA is the Ohio Division of the International Association for Identification.

This year's conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Dayton Mall on October 14-16, 2009. The conference is structured to include several guest speakers and break out sessions dealing with various training topics.

The conference fee is \$125.00 for OIO members / \$135.00 non members.

The price includes a dinner banquet on October 15th. Investigator Bob Hunkeler of the Montgomery County Coroner's staff will be the dinner speaker for the evening. Local entertainment will also be provided.

Please take a look at the OIOA web site <http://www.oioa.org/> for the conference agenda. There is also a link for registration. A conference brochure will be available at the front counter with more information.

This is a great local training opportunity for agencies and officers in the Miami Valley area and a great opportunity to meet other professionals in the Ohio area.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the laboratory.

Danny L. Harness, LPE
937-225-4990 (Ext #2190)
harnessd@mcoho.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE (Reminder)

As of February 1, 2009, latent print cards need to be submitted in sealed and marked envelopes. If multiple cards are collected in the same incident, they may be submitted in one envelope to be given the same case number.

If more information is required contact Ron Huston, Fingerprint Supervisor at 225-4990

Salvia Update

On January 7, 2009 Gov. Ted Strickland signed the bill that will make *Salvia divinorum* a Schedule I controlled substance. This will go into effect 90 days after signing (April 7, 2009).

Salvia divinorum is a perennial herb that is in the mint family. Like marijuana, this plant has a hallucinogenic effect on the body. This herb can be chewed or smoked to produce the "high". Unlike marijuana, the herb does not have unique enough botanical features for the laboratory to identify the plant. Therefore, the laboratory will report the active ingredient *salvinorin A* (also called Divinorin A) on reports generated on any salvia evidence received for analysis. Both the plant, *Salvia divinorum*, and the active ingredient, *salvinorin A*, will be listed as Schedule I controlled substances.

Currently salvia can be purchased legally in head shops, and possessed legally. Ohio is one of at least nine states to ban the possession/sale of this herb. *Salvia divinorum* is not currently scheduled federally, but is listed as a "drug of concern" by the DEA.

To date, the laboratory has not received information regarding a bulk amount for the plant, or sentencing for possession, trafficking, etc. A follow-up article will appear in the newsletter once this information becomes available.



by: Julie A. Bowling

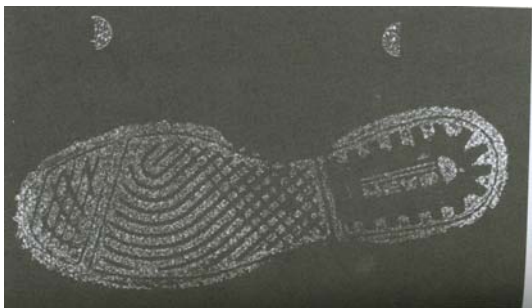


Field Questions

Q: I have collected footwear impressions on pieces of paper at a B&E. How do I package these? I was thinking of taping over them.

~telephone question from an ECrew

A: **NEVER** tape over a footwear impression!!! This will prevent any processing or photography at the Laboratory. The rule of thumb with all impression packaging is to prevent damage or abrasion to the impression. Impressions on paper can be packaged in several ways: in general, for any impression on paper - place it in a file folder, then in an envelope; however, if the impression looks very fragile (all dust), you can tape it in the bottom of a box; or if it looks very stable (soaked or ground in), it can be placed directly in an envelope.
(Laura Kiddon, Trace Evidence Examiner)



Remember: Email Questions to
duerrt@mcohoio.org

Evidence Collected by the Coroner's Office

By: Jeff DeLorme

Many coroners' offices throughout Ohio contract with the Montgomery County Coroner's Office to perform complete autopsies and forensic services in regard to undetermined, traumatic and violent deaths. In 2008 alone, the Coroner's office completed over 1400 autopsies of which 750 contractual autopsies. With these numbers it becomes clear evidence collection, processing and handling creates it own unique challenges. The Montgomery County Coroner's Office has established specific policies and procedures for evidence collection and processing.

Due to the multiple police and investigative jurisdictions involved in these cases, contact will be made with the contracting coroner for the immediate pick up of this property and evidence. If this case is being investigated by your agency, we encourage you to contact this office for immediate pick up. The Montgomery County Coroner's Office will maintain custody of all evidence collected for a period of three (3) months. After a three (3) month period all evidence, except for evidence collected in homicide cases will be marked for destruction. All homicide evidence will be turned over to the investigative agency. In cases where the investigative agency refuses to accept homicide evidence, a "certified" letter will be mailed to the agency after the case has been "closed" by this office informing the agency that all evidence held will be marked for destruction after 10 business days.

Any questions regarding the evidence processing procedures for the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, Officers are encouraged to contact the Morgue Supervisor, Jeff DeLorme, directly at 225-4156.

Procedure for Autopsy Observation

By: Jeff DeLorme

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office has a strict policy that the attendance at post mortem examinations will be limited to employees of the Coroner's Office that are assigned to assist in the examination and/or law enforcement personnel who have a direct interest in the case. Non-employees in attendance will be required to dress in surgical/ protective clothing. No photographs will be permitted by non-employees of the Coroner's Office. The detective assigned to the case may request a copy of the autopsy photographs as an investigative tool.

If the body being examined is potentially infectious, attendance in the autopsy suite will be strictly limited to those persons who are directly involved in the autopsy. In the event you or a representative from your department will be attending an autopsy case your agency is investigating, please contact the morgue/pathology staff to inform them. The morgue supervisor will be able to coordinate with you an approximate time the autopsy will begin.



Status/Results of a Case

When calling for results or status of a case, please ask the front office. Many times analysts are actively working on cases and unable to take phone calls. Also, front office personnel are the only ones that can provide you with the copies of reports whether faxed or mailed.

Laboratory Holidays (Laboratory Closed)

Monday	May 25th	Memorial Day
Friday	July 3rd	Independence Day (Observed)
Monday	Sept. 7th	Labor Day
Monday	Oct. 12th	Columbus Day
Wednesday	Nov. 11th	Veteran's Day
Thursday	Nov. 26th	Thanksgiving
Friday	Nov. 27th	Day after Thanksgiving
Friday	Dec. 25th	Christmas

THE MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL CRIME LABORATORY

361 W. Third St
Dayton, OH 45402

Phone: 937-225-4990
Fax: 937-496-7916
E-mail: duerrt@mchio.org

Fingerprinting Services

The Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab provides two types of fingerprinting services: Web Check and Live Scan (fingerprint cards). The laboratory cannot fingerprint for Florida gun permits or any other requests that require a police officer's signature.

Fingerprinting Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The fees are as follows:
\$10.00 for each fingerprint card
\$40.00 for the state Web Check
\$40.00 for the FBI Web Check
\$70.00 for both the state and the FBI Web Check

Payments must be made by cash, money order or business check. The person being fingerprinted must provide a valid photo ID and the name and address of

where they need the results to be mailed.

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

If you have any questions, you may contact Sue Hay at 225-4990.

Crime Laboratory Web Site

www.mchio.org/government/mvrcl

Montgomery County Coroner's Web Site

www.mchio.org/government/coroner

Feed back on the newsletter can be sent to duerrt@mchio.org