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Drug Chemistry (CHEM)

Technical Leader: Jennifer Watson, watsonj@mcoho.org, 937-496-7037

Overview:

Drug Chemistry performs analyses for the presence of suspected controlled substances and general chemical testing. Unless a specific request is made, evidence submitted to the chemistry section will be analyzed for the presence of controlled substances. General chemical testing for substances such as bank dye, harmful intoxicants, and poisons do not fall under the scope of accreditation for the laboratory but can be analyzed if requested.

Reports:

Reports are authored to include the identification, weight, and schedule of a controlled substance. A percent THC determination will be provided when necessary.

Required Information to Perform Analysis and Complete a Report:

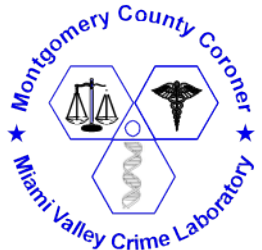
Drug paraphernalia will not be tested unless indicated by a particular charge. Misdemeanor amounts of cannabis will not be tested if the item is less than 300 milligrams or if other items are present that result in a higher statutory charge. The percent THC determination also will not be completed for misdemeanor amounts of THC edibles if other items are present that result in a higher statutory charge or if the item is less than 150 milligrams.

Additional Information:

Specific requests for general chemical testing include bank dye analysis, harmful intoxicants and poisonings. It should be noted that substances submitted for poison testing require a known standard. If the suspected poison is a controlled substance, no standard is required.

Rush Requests or Report Inquiries:

Rush requests or report inquiries can be made by emailing drugrushes@mcoho.org. Please include the requested due date and other pertinent case information.

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Firearms (FA)

Technical Leader: Patrick McLaughlin, mclaughlinp@mcoho.org, 937-496-7298

Overview:

Any firearm submitted to the laboratory will be test fired and, if eligible, entered into the NIBIN system. Cartridge cases submitted to the lab will be screened for NIBIN entry and, if eligible, a representative sample will be entered. Microscopic analysis will be performed on requests where a specific request for comparison has been made. However, all homicide related evidence will be examined. All other evidence will be screened and entered into NIBIN.

Fired bullets not associated with other firearm evidence will not be examined unless specifically requested.

If a firearm has an obliterated serial number, a specific request for restoration must be made. Upon request, firearms suspected to have barrels shorter than legal length will be measured and the results reported.


Muzzle to Target Distance Determination will be conducted upon request. However, this examination is not part of the lab's scope of accreditation.

The firearms section does not perform the following analysis: Tool Mark Comparison, Trigger Pull Analysis, and Sound Suppressor Examination.

Reports:

Reports are authored to include the results of microscopic analysis of the firearm evidence submitted.

The Firearms Operability/NIBIN Report Worksheet will serve as a simplified report to be disseminated to the appropriate agency. It will communicate to the customer if the firearm was operable and if any items were entered into NIBIN.

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Required Information to Perform Analysis and Complete Report:

Notes should be made for analyses that require specific requests as stated in the Overview section above.

**Officer Involved Shootings will be treated as priority cases. Please notify the Firearms section when an Officer Involved Shooting is submitted.*

Additional Information:

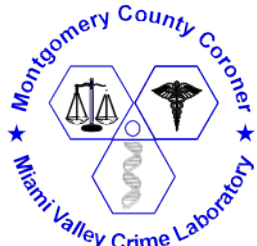
If a firearm cannot be unloaded prior to submitting to the laboratory, then an individual from the Firearms section must be notified to retrieve the firearm immediately.

Due to safety concerns, the Firearms section will not provide witness to test firing of firearms that have not been previously accepted into the laboratory and undergone a thorough safety inspection.

If suspected bloodstains are found on any firearms submission to MVRCL, the Firearms section can preserve the stain and return the swab; this will not be done when there is an inferred source of the potential stain (e.g., items from a suicide).

Rush Requests or Report Inquiries:

Rush requests or report inquiries can be made by emailing firearmrushes@mcoho.org. Please include the requested due date and other pertinent case information.

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Latent Prints (LP)

Technical Leader: Jennifer Yoak, yoakj@mcoho.org , 937-496-7056

Overview:

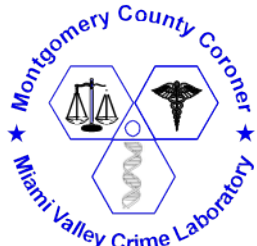
The Latent Print Section accepts items of physical evidence, latent print cards with lifted prints, and photographs/digital images of latent prints developed at a scene for the purpose of identifying who touched a particular item or surface. For physical evidence, the appropriate method of physical or chemical processing is selected at the laboratory. Latent print cards and photographs/digital images are analyzed to determine if any latent prints of value are present.

The quality of the latent prints of value dictates which other examinations can be performed. Latent prints may be of no value for further examination, of value for comparison only, or may be suitable for comparison and to search in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

Latent prints of value are compared to listed suspects for whom known prints can be located or to submitted known prints. Any AFIS quality latent prints remaining after such comparisons, or if no suspects or known prints are provided, will be entered into AFIS. Search capabilities include the fingerprint and palmprint databases of MVRCL, Ohio BCI and the FBI. Searches of the FBI's databases are typically reserved for crimes against persons cases (homicide, rape, robbery or assault), cases with a described out-of-state connection, or when specifically requested. If a potential candidate/s is located through these searches, the latent print/s of value in the case will be compared to that individual/s. If the search results in "no hit", the latent print/s can be registered to the unsolved latent database in MVRCL's AFIS system for a continuous search of all new tenprint and palmprint entries. All unsolved latent prints are registered unless specifically noted on the report.

Reports:

Reports are authored to include the analysis of the latent print evidence. If applicable, the report will include processing method/s used, comparisons to listed individual/s, and any database searches conducted and subsequent results.

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Results of comparisons will be reported as identified, excluded or inconclusive to a specific individual. If the result is inconclusive, additional known standards may be necessary to complete the analysis. The report will indicate which area/s of the fingers, palms or feet should be recorded and submitted for further comparison.

Latent Print reports include a “Terms and Definitions” page that explains terminology, reported conclusions, and their significance.

Required Information to Perform Analysis and Complete a Report:

A scale should be present in any submitted photographs/digital images of latent prints.

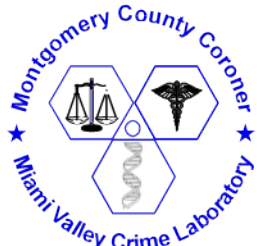
Please include the name and demographic information of any suspect in the case so that a direct comparison can be performed. An AFIS search will occasionally “miss” the correct candidate, even if the individual has known prints on file.

Please include if a search of the FBI’s criminal fingerprint database is requested for cases that are not crimes against persons (burglary, theft, weapons charge, etc.).

Additional Information:

Examinations are performed automatically based on the suitability of the latent prints of value. For non-member agencies, comparisons and AFIS searches incur additional costs. Please see the current fee schedule for non-member examinations. If you do not want one of these examinations conducted, or if you would like to provide authorization before an additional examination is performed, please indicate that on your request.

While most items or surfaces can be processed for latent prints, the following are examples of unsuitable items that will not routinely be processed: cloth, gel capsules, small pieces of broken glass, and syringes. Please contact the Latent Print Section if you have questions about the suitability of a particular item. The investigating agency is responsible for swabbing items for DNA prior to submitting for Latent Print processing. If potential bloodstains are located on an item after submission to MVRCL, the Latent Print section can preserve the stain and return the swab; this will not be done when there is an inferred source of the potential stain (e.g., firearm used in a suicide).

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Toxicology (TOX)

Technical Leader: Heather Antonides, antonidesh@mcoho.org , 937-225-5058

Overview:

The toxicology section analyzes biological samples for the presence of alcohol, prescription/over the counter medications, and drugs of abuse for the purpose of OVI, drug-facilitated crime, or probation/parole violations. Toxicology also analyzes alcoholic beverages to determine alcohol content. The unit will accept blood, urine, serum, plasma, or suspected alcoholic beverages.

Reports:

Reports are authored concluding the result of the analysis. Reports will contain the identification of substances detected and may contain the concentration of each substance. Measurement uncertainty will be reported when a drug with a specification limit (defined legal limit) is detected and will be available upon request for all other analytes.

Required Information:


Please include case history, field sobriety testing results when performed, DRE reports if available, and a list of any drugs suspected in the case.

Additional Information:

For cases with limited sample volume received, the amount of testing performed may be limited and the specimen may be consumed. The preferred specimen for blood analysis is a grey top tube. The minimum recommended sample volume is 10 milliliters. When submitting samples for drug facilitated crimes both blood and urine are recommended.

OVI

Cases are analyzed for both alcohol and drugs.

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Drug Facilitated Crimes

Cases will be analyzed for alcohol and drugs. The drug testing will include targeted analysis for low concentrations of drugs capable of rendering a victim unable to stop a crime, such as benzodiazepines and GHB.

Probation/Parole

Targeted confirmation of the drug requested will be performed.

Oral Fluid

Please contact the laboratory to discuss oral fluid testing for drugs of abuse in non-postmortem samples.

Miscellaneous

Contact: Front Office at crimelabrecords@mcoho.org or 937-225-4990

DNA/Trace

For member agencies, we conduct routine evidence transport to BCI, provided the evidence has already been submitted through BCI's online portal.

Ignitable Liquid Evidence

Suspected Ignitable Liquid evidence cases are transported by the MVRCL to the State Fire Marshal Laboratory for analysis.

Reports:

Reports are authored concluding the result of the analysis.

Packaging:

Ignitable Liquid evidence packaging guidelines can be found on the State Fire Marshal website at <https://com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/state-fire-marshal/forensic-lab/evidence-packaging-and-sealing-instructions>. The MVRCL will not accept packaging that does not meet these requirements.