

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2002-01
GUNSHOT RESIDUE TESTING
JANUARY 2002

Many changes have been implemented at the GBI-Division of Forensic Sciences (DOFS) over the last three years in an effort to improve the level of service that the laboratory provides to the law enforcement and criminal justice community across the state. As the scientific testing in the various disciplines of the laboratory continues to evolve, so must DOFS procedures in order to continue to meet the requirements of the legal system.

Effective March 1, 2002, the GBI Division of Forensic Sciences will be initiating a secondary phase to gunshot residue testing in cases where initial testing indicates the presence of elements contained in gunshot residue. The new procedure provides more conclusive data that the materials submitted for testing contained gunshot residue. This is an important and crucial move for the laboratory if the gunshot residue service is to be continued. In order to conduct the supplemental testing, however, agencies must submit their gunshot residue evidence using a new collection kit containing both swabs and adhesive stubs that will be used in the new procedure. The combined kits are available from:

Tri-Tech Inc
4019 Executive Park Blvd
S.E., Southport, NC 28461
Toll Free: 800-438-7884
approximately \$112/case of 10 kits each

Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories, Inc.
100 Hunter Place
Youngsville, NC 27596
Toll Free 800-356-7311
approximately \$25 per kit

Cases submitted using kits containing only swabs that have been received prior to March 1, 2002 will be tested using only the first stage of the new procedure. The report generated in such cases will be less definitive than that obtained using the combined kit. No testing will be conducted on gunshot residue kits containing only swabs after March 1, 2002.

While this change still doesn't provide conclusive evidence that the individual from whom the samples were collected actually fired a weapon in the commission of a crime, it does produce more conclusive evidence that gunshot residue particles were present on the evidence.

We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to enhance the forensic services we provide to the criminal justice community of Georgia. If you have any questions, please contact the Deputy Director's office at 404-244-2787.