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Modern Forensic Toxicology Methods

Goyal Ananya*

Department of Forensic Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, India

Abstract

Fingerprint evidence recovery from gunshot casings presents considerable challenges for forensic researchers. While both fired and unfired casings are frequently discovered at the scene of violent crimes, recovering fingermarks and establishing a link between the perpetrator and the gun has consistently proven to be difficult due to the states that the projectile housings can reach during shooting and the techniques used to create and capture the fingermarks.

Keywords: Forensic science • Techniques • Toxicology

Introduction

Researchers have developed a new method that gives greater subtlety and precision than traditional forensic techniques for retrieving high resolution images of fingermarks from bent objects like bullet casings.

Professors from the Biomedical Forensic Sciences programme at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) discuss test preparation procedures and provide information on common sample types that may be used in legal toxicology cases in a paper published in WIRES Forensic Science.

Description

When a bullet is shot, the packaging at the casing point is exposed to extremely high temperatures, pressures, and erosive forces inside the barrel of the firearm. The deposits of charge and powder that are used to produce the reaction that propels the bullet out of the chamber might also cover them. The more unexpected components of fingermark development, such as water, amino acids, and low sub-atomic weight organics like lipids, are frequently expelled, dispersed, or corrupted as a result of these combined effects, along with a possible smudging or clouding of the imprint. These factors can make it challenging for common fingermark recovery procedures, such as fluorescent staining and cyanoacrylate smouldering, to do their tasks.

The same way that instrumentation has improved over time, sample arranging tools have too. The unwanted components in the organic sample can be kept on a solid surface formed of common materials like silica or diatomaceous earth using solid phase and, more recently, supported liquid extraction. These extraction tools can produce pure concentrates containing the targeted drugs and help in the recovery of a wide range of drugs, enhancing research facility efficiency when handling poly-drug cases [1-5].

Conclusion

Pictures made with ToF-SIMS were shown to demonstrate grating edge and sweat pore level detail on instances where fingermarks were not obvious when made using a conventional technique using cyanoacrylate and the colour Basic Yellow 40. Seven months of testing were done to see how fingermarks left on the Webley MkII pistol's outer layer changed over time. Additionally, the ToF-SIMS approach is not terrible, and tests that were repeatedly run under UHV settings showed no evidence of image degradation during this time.

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***Address for correspondence:** Goyal Ananya, Department of Forensic Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, India, E-mail: ananya_g9@gmail.com*

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