FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY
CUSTOMER NOTICE 2018-01
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REGARDING COLLECTION OF GUNSHOT PRIMER RESIDUE FROM VEHICLES

This guide is intended to direct investigators in the collection of potential gunshot primer residue from vehicles.

Vehicles from which it is suspected that a firearm has been discharged:
- Collect no more than four particle lifts per vehicle.
  - Typical areas can include, but are not limited to, the dashboard, the headliner, interior of doors, and the back of headrests.
  - The presence of gunshot primer residue in a particular area cannot definitively determine that a firearm was discharged from a particular area of the vehicle.
  - The presence of gunshot primer residue found in a vehicle can come from being in the vicinity to the discharge of a firearm or coming into contact with an item that has gunshot primer residue on it.
  - The time frame in which gunshot primer residue was deposited cannot be determined.

Vehicles from which it is suspected that a subject has transferred gunshot primer residue onto various areas of the vehicle:
- The collection of two particle lifts for secondary transfer is usually sufficient.
  - Typical areas for transfer from driver include, but are not limited to, the steering wheel and the gearshift.
  - Typical areas for transfer from a passenger include the interior door handle or seatbelt.
  - The time frame in which gunshot primer residue was deposited cannot be determined.

Samples collected from the exterior of a vehicle will not be routinely analyzed unless there are extenuating circumstances. For example, if a firearm is discharged across the hood or roof of the vehicle, these areas may be collected. Please contact Lt. Jennifer Nates of the Trace Evidence Department with questions (803-896-7265, jnates@sled.sc.gov).