



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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### **FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY CUSTOMER NOTICE 2018-01 February 12, 2018**

#### **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](mailto:jnates@sled.sc.gov)).



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