

KERN REGIONAL CRIME LABORATORY
Laboratory Services Section, Evidence Control Unit



Information Bulletin on Services Provided by the Crime Scene Response Team

QT180512

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The Kern Regional Crime Laboratory Crime Scene Response Team (CSRT) responds to crime scenes within Kern County where the law enforcement agency determines that the services of a criminalist team are needed to assist in the assessment of the scene and/or the collection of forensic evidence. The Crime Scene Response Team may also assist law enforcement entities outside of Kern County at the direction of the District Attorney, communicated to the response team via the Laboratory Director.

The Kern Regional Crime Laboratory Crime Scene Response Team does not respond to clandestine laboratory scenes. The Kern Regional Crime Laboratory will respond to homicides, kidnapping, sexual assaults, robbery or other violent crime cases as needed, as well as to autopsies. The CSRT will also perform vehicle examinations, preferably at the laboratory (see the Policy on Submission of Motor Vehicles [QT3259](#)), or at remote sites as needed.

All criminalists within the laboratory are members of the Crime Scene Response Team. The following is a list of specific services/techniques that the CSRT is competent in and able to perform for requesting law enforcement agencies:

Sub Category (from Scope of Accreditation)	Service Type/Technique
Biological Field Tests	Field Screening tests for blood and semen
Bloodstain Enhancement and Photo Documentation	Enhancement of latent or faint bloody surfaces or impressions using Leuco Crystal Violet, Amido Black, or BlueStar®
	Bloodstain pattern identification and documentation/photography
Firearms and Bullet Trajectories	Field screening test for lead residue
	Bullet trajectory documentation
	Casting of toolmarks with silicone based casting material
Latent Prints	Fingerprint development and lifting with powders and small particle reagent
	Cyanoacrylate (superglue) fuming for

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	latent prints
Measurement	Measurement documentation using either baseline, rectangular coordinates, or triangulation methods
	Use of traditional measuring devices or the Leica Disto Laser distance meter
Shoe and Tire Impressions	Examination quality photography of shoe and tire impressions
	Casting of shoe and tire impressions
	Lifting of two dimensional shoe or tire impressions with gel lifters or electrostatic dust print lifter
	Measurement of track width and wheelbase of tire track impressions, if impressions are adequate
	Making known test tire impressions of suspect vehicle tires (generally completed at the laboratory)
Visual Exams/Search Methods	Visual search with an alternate light source for apparent semen stains or trace evidence
	Search for spent bullets or other small evidence items in walls or other hidden areas with a Whistler Inspection camera
	Search for spent cartridge cases, spent bullets or other metal evidence items with a metal detector

The criminalists responding to a scene will also:

- Be en route from their location when contacted within an hour of the time the agency contacted them. They will remain in communication with the requesting agency to let them know of their estimated time of arrival to the scene;
- Always take contemporaneous notes documenting their observations at the scene as well as all techniques used and any screening test results documented;

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- Make a rough hand-drawn sketch of the scene (will make a CAD type drawing at the laboratory upon request and in all officer involved shootings);
- Take crime scene photographs including overall scene photos, mid-range or evidence establishing photos, and close-ups of all evidence items;
- Collect and properly package and label all evidence items to be turned over to the requesting agency for booking into their property rooms; and
- Write a report of examination with the goal of completion being 30 days from the date of response (15 days for officer involved shootings).

Fingerprint Processing of Evidence Items Submitted to the Laboratory for Other Services

Fingerprint processing can be completed at the laboratory by a CSRT member on evidence items submitted to the laboratory for some additional service type, such as a firearm being submitted for firearms analysis, or drug packaging for evidence being submitted for drug analysis. The laboratory does not perform fingerprint processing on items submitted **ONLY** for this service. The criminalist performing the other testing service requested for the evidence item(s), such as firearms analysis or drug analysis, will complete the fingerprint processing request also.

Agency Responsibilities:

- Request the response;
- Obtain a search warrant (if necessary) and provide a copy to the responding squad (if possible);
- Provide a safe working environment for CSRT members;
- Preserve the integrity of the crime scene;
- Investigate the case;
- Receive the packaged evidence from the CSRT members and properly preserve, transport and store the evidence; and
- Using Portal, submit requests and evidence for any follow-up analyses needed at the KRCL.

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How to Request Assistance from the CSRT:

If you call the laboratory's main phone number during the day, you will be connected with a person who can connect you with the CSRT member on rotation. If you call the laboratory's main phone number after hours, the automated system will direct you and connect you with the phone for the CSRT member on rotation. You may also call Blue (M-F 8am to 5pm) and Red (after hours) Team's phones directly. If you are having any issues getting in contact with a CSRT member for response to a crime scene, please contact CSRT Supervisor Brenda Smith.

Phone Numbers

Laboratory main phone number: 661-868-5367

CSRT Supervisor Brenda Smith (CSRT Team Leader): 661-873-3945

Blue Team Cell Numbers (M-F 8am-5pm)	Red Team Cell Numbers (after hours)
Lab Cell 2: (661) 978-1609	Lab Cell 1: (661) 281-7706
	Lab Cell 3: (661) 978-1732

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