Evidence Item	Collection Technique	Preservation Packaging	Investigative Value
Arson (liquid)	Leave in original container if it's airtight -or- Transfer to airtight container. Process original container for prints	Seal container to avoid evaporation. Pack to avoid breaking.	Identification of accelerant. Comparison to residue from fires point of origin.
Arson (non-liquid) i.e. ashes and debris	Collect with clean disposable gloves from fires point of origin	Collect as soon as possible after fire. Seal in airtight container to avoid evaporation.	Identification of accelerant. Comparison to suspected accelerant.
Blood (dried)	Collect item if possible. Moisten swab and collect blood in tip of swab. Collect surface control and H2O control.	Allow swabs to air dry. Package individually in paper (envelopes or bags)	Determination as to human or animal source. Source identification through DNA.
Blood (wet)	Collect item if possible. Absorb into dry swab. Collect surface control.	Allow to air dry. Package individually in paper (envelopes or bags)	Determination as to human or animal source. Source identification through DNA.
Clothing / fabrics	Wear clean disposable gloves. Avoid shaking to protect trace evidence.	Package individually in paper bags. If wet, air dry. Do not cut or fold through stains.	Trace evidence, DNA, fiber comparison

Evidence Item	Collection Technique	Preservation Packaging	Investigative Value
Documents	Handle with clean disposable gloves.	Do not fold. Protect torn edges. Package in paper or plastic.	Fingerprints, DNA, handwriting comparison, mechanical printing device comparison, ink formulation, alteration, erasure, forgery
Fibers	Handle with clean disposable gloves or clean disposable tweezers, vacuum filter, adhesive lint roller.	Paper bindle, plastic bag, glass vial.	Source determination – animal, vegetable, synthetic. Coloring. Comparison to known standards.
Firearms and ammunition	Handle with clean disposable gloves by textured portions of grip/slide. Process textured areas for contact DNA. Process smooth portions for fingerprints.	Package unloaded. Secure slide/ bolt/cylinder open with nylon tie. Secure in a cardboard box with nylon ties.	Compare: - fired bullets to rifling -breach face marks on casing -striations on bullet -firing pin impression Research ownership history through serial #

Evidence Item	Collection Technique	Preservation Packaging	Investigative Value
Glass (broken)	Handle with clean disposable gloves or tweezers. Process for fingerprints.	Small fragments in a paper bindle. Larger fragments in soft paper and a box to prevent further breaking.	Fracture line matching. Fragments matched to a source. Direction of breaking force.
Gun shot residue	GSR collection kit	Seal kit and package in paper bag	Determination if primer residue is present, suggesting discharge, handling, or presence of a firearm.
Hair	Handle with clean disposable gloves or clean disposable tweezers, vacuum filter, adhesive lint roller.	Paper bindle, plastic bag, glass vial.	Source determination – animal, human. Hair color. Race. Pulled or cut. Comparison to known standards
Impression Evidence	Photograph / cast / dust lifters	Casting: package in paper or cardboard box. Dust lifter: package in manila folder and paper bag	Possible make and model determination. Comparison to known standards

Evidence Item	Collection Technique	Preservation Packaging	Investigative Value
Latent prints Non-porous surface	Use black or bi-chromatic powder, develop, lift and place on white backing card	Mark all pertinent info on back of card. Package in paper or plastic	Comparisons to known individuals, database searches
Latent print Porous surface	Handle with clean disposable gloves in areas not likely to have been touched by suspect	Package in paper of plastic	Chemical fingerprint development techniques in lab
Liquids	Collect in original container or collect a sample in a clean air-tight container	Protect against evaporation, breaking and leaks	Determination of liquids composition
Narcotics / drugs	Handle with clean disposable gloves. Leave in original packaging. Protect for fingerprints. Obtain weight or pill count with a witness.	Package plant material in paper, others may go in plastic.	Identification of specific drug.
Paint (dried)	Handle with clean disposable gloves. Scrape area with razor blade into paper bindle (at least the size of a quarter coin).	Package bindle in paper bag or envelope.	Hit & run. Determination of paint color, texture, and content
Plant material	Handle with clean, dry tools or clean disposable gloves.	Package in paper	Comparison to unknown samples from suspect clothing, vehicle, etc.

Evidence Item	Collection Technique	Preservation Packaging	Investigative Value
Tools	Handle with clean disposable gloves. Do not place against suspect's impressions. Protect working surface from damage and for trace evidence. Process textured surfaces for contact DNA. Process smooth surfaces for fingerprints	Package in paper or cardboard box. If the item is too large, apply a string tag after processing.	Comparison to tool marks from scene and trace evidence on working surface of tool.
Soil	Handle with clean, dry tools or clean disposable gloves. Collect only surface sample that may have been in contact with shoe/tire etc.	Glass or plastic container.	Composition of soil compared to soil on suspect shoe, tire, vehicle, etc.