



Encountering Crime Guns While on Patrol



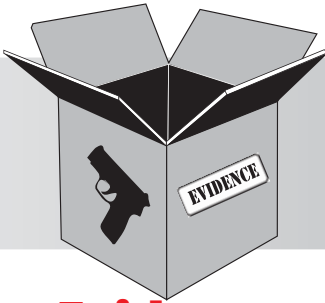
Treat Every Gun Like a Murder Weapon

It's important to remember that OFFICER & PUBLIC SAFETY trumps any evidence handling techniques.

1



Recovered/ Found Weapon



Collect Evidence

- If unfamiliar, seek assistance
- Render firearm safe
- Store evidence in proper packaging

7



Computer Queries

- Law Enforcement Criminal Intelligence Systems
- NCIC
- eTrace
- Records Management Systems

2



ID & Document

- All persons & evidence involved
- Photograph, if possible
- **DO NOT USE** personal cell phones
- Photograph (in place), note location & orientation

5



Interview

- If possible, obtain a recorded statement from suspect(s), victim(s) & witness(es)
- Ask & note where weapon was obtained

8



Initiate Crime Gun Processing Protocol

- DNA/Fingerprints/Forensic Photography
- NIBIN
- GUNOPS

3



Preservation

- Glove up
- Mask up
- Minimally handle firearm evidence

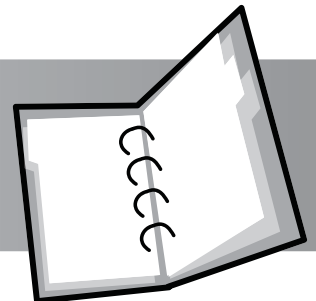
6



Prepare to Submit

- Prelog evidence
- Be specific: include pertinent case information (names, etc.)

9



Complete Reports

- Be thorough and include all supplemental reports
- Complete reports in a timely manner

Safety First!

It's important to remember that officer safety trumps any evidence handling techniques.

Gloves

- Carry extra latex gloves in patrol bag.
- Wear gloves at all times while collecting firearms/firearms evidence.
- Change gloves with every separate piece of evidence collected.

Semiautomatic

- Remove the source of ammunition (magazine) from the firearm, handling the floor plate only.
- Open action and visually inspect the chamber and remove any live or fired cartridges/shells and package them separately from the firearm and/or magazine.
- If magazine is found in a firearm, it should be packaged in the same package as the firearm.
- If the magazine and firearm are found separate, they go in separate packages.

Revolver

- If revolver is cocked, safely decock.
- Open or remove cylinder to remove any live or fired cartridges/shells (label the cylinder with a marker indicating where it was previously loaded) and package them separately from the firearm.

Shotguns and Rifles

- Remove the source of ammunition (magazine). If fixed source of ammunition (tube, fixed magazine), make sure all live cartridges are removed.
- Open action and visually inspect the chamber and remove any live or fired cartridges/shells and package them separately from the firearm.
- If magazine is found in a firearm, it should be packaged in the same package as the firearm.
- If the magazine and firearm are found separate, they go in separate packages.

Evidence Preservation

- If there is blood visible on the weapon, make sure to not touch or wipe it off.
- While handling the firearm with possible DNA evidence, handle the firearm in the least intrusive way possible. Do not handle firearm more than practical.
- If you determine it is a controlled crime scene, when possible and safe, wait for Crime Scene Unit to arrive and process evidence. In the event of an unsafe scene (large crowd), ensure the firearm is unloaded and secure in the trunk of the Patrol Car.



Questions? Contact the NIBIN Coordinator:
609-584-5051 x5815 • NIBIN@gw.njsp.org

