

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Collecting Sharp-edged Evidence



10. VCRT Procedures

10.31 Collecting Sharp-Edged Evidence

10.31.1 Scope

Use extreme caution when handling sharp objects. If you receive an injury from handling a sharp object, report the incident to the VCRT Leader or to a Supervisor as soon as possible. Seek medical attention as needed.

This procedure provides general guidelines in the collection of sharp-edged items of evidence.

10.31.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.31.3 Chemicals and Reagents

None

10.31.4 Equipment and Supplies

Packaging materials
Camera

10.31.5 Procedure

All evidence shall be photographed before moving or handling. Refer to VCRT 2.5 Crime Scene Photography for additional information.

Carefully examine the item for trace evidence (i.e., hair, blood, fibers, etc.). Collect and protect fragile, latent prints, or trace evidence before transporting the item to the Laboratory.

Package the sharp-edged item in an appropriate container or packaging.

Label the packaging appropriately.

NOTE: A box is the most appropriate type of packaging to use when packaging sharp-edged items.