

**TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
*Forensic Services Division*

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

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**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.