



## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE**

### **EVIDENCE HANDLING & LABORATORY CAPABILITIES GUIDE**

#### **TRACE EVIDENCE: EXPLOSIVES**

#### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions concerning the Trace Evidence laboratory examination capabilities or evidence handling procedures, please call the Training Section or the Trace Evidence Section at the Forensic Laboratory that services your area.

<b><u>Laboratory</u></b>	<b><u>Section Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>Josh Kruger</b>	<b>(804) 588-4009</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Brenda Christy</b>	<b>(757) 355-5979</b>
<b>Western</b>	<b>Anthony Brown</b>	<b>(540) 283-5936</b>

## **EXPLOSIVES OVERVIEW**

Chemical and physical reaction devices (e.g., bottle bombs) are constructed by confining expanding gases in a capped bottle such as a soda or water bottle. The bottle is typically plastic but devices constructed using glass bottles have been encountered.

### **CAPABILITIES AND SERVICES**

#### **Analysis of Chemical and Physical Reaction Devices**

[Click here for the most current guidance on the capabilities of the Trace Evidence Section.](#)

### **COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

#### **ITEM – Chemical and/or Physical Reaction Devices**

**METHOD** - If possible, separate any liquid and foil present from the bottle. Package all separately in plastic, such as unused E-Z Mix<sup>®</sup> E-Z View<sup>™</sup> plastic cans. **DO NOT USE METAL.** Glass containers may be used instead of plastic; however, the lid must have no metal.

**DISCUSSION** - These materials continue to react when exposed to metal, so metal should never be used in packaging.

### **SUBMISSION REMINDERS**

**NEVER** submit live devices. Any intact device must be rendered safe by qualified personnel prior to submission.

#### **DO NOT USE METAL.**

Provide as much information related to the incident on the RFLE as possible: What was the target? Can witnesses describe seeing or hearing anything? If anyone was injured, what were their injuries?