AZAPE.ORG
Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

June 2022
https://azape.org/

Lock and Key

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It has been a great year so far and I am really looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the conference this year. I am very happy with the turn out this year and I believe that we have lined up a great group of guest speakers who will provide a lot of informative information. I want all of you to start thinking about next year's vote for the board of the association who will be sworn in at the conference in 2023. I will not be running for re-election as I am getting closer to my retirement. I believe that even though there is time before the next election, you might want to start thinking about the possibility of running for any of the positions. The only way for this association to survive and flourish is through the participation of its members. For the association to survive, we must have a board. I believe that new members to the board will bring new and fresh ideas which can only make the association that much stronger. If you would like to talk to me about the commitment that is needed, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the board members.

Sincerely,

C.J. Blackwell

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AAPE Annual Seminar

June 9th—10th
@ Prescott Resort
1500 E. Highway 69
Prescott, AZ 86302

Prescott Resort
and Conference Center

"SUCCESS IS THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF A PREDETERMINED GOAL!"

- JOHN MAXWELL

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The Most Popular questions over the last year. Below is a summary of collected questions and answers. Please refer to your Department policies and procedures.

VEHICLES:

Q: How are vehicle impound lots and storage set up?

A: Chain link fencing, Cinder block, or combination thereof—razor wire

Q: Security cameras in place?

A: Yes—Size of vehicle lot will depend on the number of security cameras and positions.

Q: What types of vehicles are stored and are those vehicles covered / uncovered ?

A: Any vehicle connected with a criminal investigation. Once investigation has been completed, case agent authorizes release.

Q: What to do with unclaimed vehicles?

A: Department applies for abandoned title, then auctioned or release to "on call" tow company who then applies for abandoned title.

Q: What do you do with vehicles that may have BIO Hazard associated with them?

A: Refer to tow company or a salvage yard to be crushed.

ADOT: https://azdot.gov/node/4915; Abandoned Vehicle Unit: 602-712-8406; MVD Tech Support for PD and Courts: 602-712-4900

FIREARMS:

Q: What do you do with the release of firearms based on a prohibited status of an individual or case disposition?

A: Firearms can be released to a third party so long as there is a notarized letter authorizing the release. If firearm is not claimed after 90 days it is considered abandoned / unclaimed and can be sold.

Q: What do you do with the release of firearms to NOK's due to suicide or death of individual?

A: Firearms can be released to NOK so long as OME report is provided and case agent signs off on the release.

Firearm may need to go through FFL dealer depending on status of case and release of property.

Public Fiduciary may need to be involved if there is no "last will and testament".

Q: What do you do with the release of unclaimed firearms?

A: All firearms are to be sold through an FFL dealer. Firearms can be traded for "credit" towards future purchases of ammunition, firearms or equipment for Department use.

All illegal firearms are to be destroyed

Reference: ARS 13-3101; ARE 13-3108 (F)

Federal Law 18 U.S.C. 922 [g] (1-9)

Title 18: Crimes & Criminal Procedure / Part I: Crimes / Chapter 44: Firearms

REFRIGERATORS / FREEZER MONITORING DEVICES:

Q: What are the types of monitors used for department refrigerators / freezers?

A: Temp Stick or Sensor Push

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Top ten questions continued...

EVIDENCE PROCESSING:

Q: Who processes Department evidence when bar-coding items?

A: Officers process evidence by packaging and bar-coding their own items associated with that case. Crime Scene Technician assist or package evidence associated with that case.

Q: Can item be packaged in bulk containers? (Example: Misc. tools from a search warrant)

A: Status of case will determine whether or not items can be packaged together. Refer to Department policies and best practices regarding packaging guidelines.

FOREIGN CURRENCY:

Q: What do Department s due with foreign currency?

A: Check with local bank used by Department. Have that institute verify foreign currency and deposit into City's general funds as unclaimed property. Other options available is to send to auction and treat as you would a collector's coins surplus. Damaged foreign currency may be destroyed.

STOLEN RECOVERED ITEMS FROM OUT OF STATE:

Q: Who pays for the shipment in returning items to an out of state owner?

A: Case by case review based on items presented and cost associated with shipping. Owner should pay if they want item back. May need to see if insurance claim was submitted, if so, insurance company may pay for the shipment or forfeit item altogether.

Firearms are paid for by department and to be sent to local police agency where report was taken.

INTERNS / VOLUNTEERS:

Q: Are volunteers or interns allowed to work in the evidence warehouse?

A: Check with Department Supervisor. Ensure background check was conducted and provide limited access to sensitive items. Provide with tasks that are obtainable such as organizing, cleaning, and inventory.

TRAINING & PROCEDURE MANUALS:

Q: Is there a requirement to have a training and procedure manual?

A: Best practices in ensuring a well running Department should have one. Allows for guidance on how to run the Property & Evidence Department, resources, and procedures set by the City, State and Federal standards. A well documented packaging manual that is readily available is a must for all officers. Provide photos documenting the process of packaging items.

RELEASE OF HOMICIDE PHOTOS:

Q: Can photos from a homicide / suicide be released to the public?

A: Refer to case agent / Department policies. Redaction of photos to include nudity, gore (blood), faces, etc. may be necessary. All request should be sent to command staff as well as representing attorney.

INVENTORIES & AUDITS:

Q: How often should an audit / inventory be conducted? Who is responsible?

A: Inventory / audit as often as one can; at least every quarter guns, drugs, and currency. Annual inventories should be for the entire warehouse. Any time a change in command / supervisor. Ask for an out side representative to due an inventory / audit. This ensures guidelines are being followed and can provide with useful information for best practices.

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IS YOUR PROPERTY/EVIDENCE ROOM IN GOOD SHAPE?

Are you able to account for every item in your inventory??

When was the last time you had an audit of your property/evidence room? Have you EVER had an audit???

Perhaps it is time to consider having a third party audit of your property/evidence room.

Evidence Management Specialists LLC has performed objective, impartial third party audits of property/evidence rooms throughout Arizona for over 16 years.

If you are in need of an audit to meet CALEA or ALEAP accreditation requirements please contact Evidence Management Specialists at evidencemanagementspecialists@gmail.com or 480-383-3946 for information on how we can meet your audit needs.

Ghost Guns in the news:

Biden announces measures to crack down on 'ghost guns' (click on link to read full article)
The White House said there had been a tenfold increase in reports of 'unserialized, privately made firearms' since 2016.

….. Ghost guns are an increasing problem for US law enforcement. The critical component in building an untraceable gun is the lower receiver, a part typically made of metal or polymer. An unfinished receiver – sometimes referred to as an "80% receiver" – can be legally bought online with no serial numbers or other markings and no license required.

Continued on next page...

Ghost Guns

(link to stats)

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BY THE NUMBERS

26	2/3	2,500	30%
There is at least one seller in 26 states across the country who is selling the core building blocks for a ghost gun.	More than ⅔ of the 80 online firearms sellers identified started selling ghost gun building blocks only within the past 5 years.	More than 2,500 ghost guns were connected to criminal activity in 114 federal cases from 2010 to April 2020.	30 percent of guns recovered by ATF in California have no serial number on them, making it impossible for law enforcement to trace.
Stat	Stat	Stat	Stat

2021-11-29	AZ	Phoenix	A high school student sold a Polymer80 pistol to another student in school. The seller was hurt in the shooting.
Phoenix	AZ	"OX 10 Phoenix reported on the circulation of ghost guns in the area and spoke to authorities about their efforts to get these weapons off the streets. According to FOX 10, police said their agency seized 30 ghost guns in 2020 and collected 31 in the first six months of 2021. "	

Ghost guns: What you need to know about an untraceable, legal weapon that is becoming popular

By Stephanie Bennett and FOX 10 Staff
Published December 1, 2021 8:45PM
Updated 9:40PM
Crime and Public Safety
FOX 10 Phoenix

PHOENIX - In the aftermath of a shooting at Phoenix's Cesar Chavez High School that left one student injured, some are focusing their attention on so-called 'ghost guns.'
According to Phoenix Police officials, the shooting happened after a transaction involving a gun. "Through interviews and other means, our detectives learn that that 16-year-old brought a gun to school, with the purpose of selling it to the 15-year-old. That transaction took place in the bathroom of the high school. A sum of money was exchanged," said Sgt. Ann Justus. The gun was given to the 15-year-old, and the 16-year-old soon realized that the money he received from that gun was not real money. As soon as the 16-year-old realized that the money he received is not real, he confronted the 15-year-old. That's when the altercation occurred, and the 16-year-old was shot."
The gun at the center of the transaction was referred to by Sgt. Justice as a 'poly-type gun,' or a ghost gun. It is a gun that people can build. They can order the parts off the internet. There's different ways they can obtain those," said Sgt. Justus.

Ghost gun owner talks

For a few hundred dollars, tools, and a lot of time, people can make their very own gun from the comfort of their home.
"A ghost gun is going to be very similar to what you see here. It's going to be essentially a piece of plastic that is starting to take this shape of a firearm, but it's not. It's not complete," said Ammo AZ LLC owner Veerachart Murphy.

While it is illegal to buy a completely assembled ghost gun, it is legal to buy all the parts needed to make one, and the parts can be obtained pretty easily: online, 3D print, or even purchase in stores like Murphy's.
"It's fairly easy to buy it, yes. It's very difficult to make it, and I should say make it correctly," said Murphy.
If someone decides to sell a handmade ghost gun, they have to mark it with a serial number. In addition, most places won't sell ghost gun parts to people under the age of 18.

There are no serial numbers on ghost guns
Murphy says a ghost gun does not have a serial number, because it comes in parts. Therefore, the government cannot trace it, which is appealing to some people.
"I think the allure with ghost guns is you don't have that government oversight," said Murphy. "Uncle Sam doesn't know you have this, and that's absolutely legal to own and make, so long as you keep it and don't try to resell it."

Law enforcement officials worried
Law enforcement consider these homemade guns a threat, and the gun's popularity is rising. In 2020, Phoenix Police impounded 30 ghost guns. In the first six months of 2021, that number was already at 31, but those numbers are much less compared to other guns. "So, what's concerning about these types of firearms to us is that there really is no quality control when they're being made. So, the safety. Also the fact that we don't know how many of them are out there. That's probably the most of concerning," said Sgt. Justus.

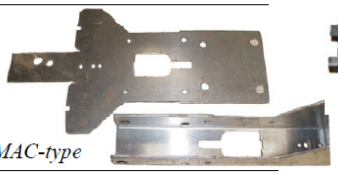
Commonly Used Terms

Privately Made Firearm (PMF)	A firearm, including a frame or receiver, completed, assembled, or otherwise produced by a person not licensed to engage in the business of manufacturing firearms, and without a serial number placed on the frame or receiver by a licensed manufacturer or importer. These firearms may not have any markings at all.
Unfinished/ Non-Serialized Frames and Receivers	A partially completed frame/receiver body made from forging, casting, extruding, molding, or machining that, while completed to the point it can be recognized as a "receiver-blank," has not yet reached a stage of manufacture that it can be classified as a "frame" or "receiver." Non-serialized machined bodies (i.e., frames/receivers) typically have not been finished to the point of being classified as a "firearm" under the GCA or NFA. These frames and receivers are often referred to by the firearms industry as "80%" frames/receivers.
Serialized Component	Serialized slides, barrels, upper assemblies, or other firearms parts used to complete a privately made firearm.
Flat	A stamped or cut receiver body formed from sheet metal (usually steel or aluminum) that generally must still be bent into its final shape.

Unfinished polymer pistol frame

Unfinished AR-type receiver

Serialized component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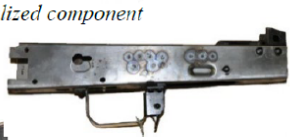
AK-type receiver made from a flat

What you should do:
Ensure your agency traces ALL firearms that are recovered, including PMFs.
Be sure to enter the Crime Gun information, if missing it will result in an incomplete firearm trace.
Remember if a firearm trace is "unsuccessful", a firearm trace still provides significant and important information.

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

27TH ANNUAL SEMINAR

Property and Evidence Training Seminar
June 9 – 10 , 2022
Prescott Resort and Conference Center
1500 East Highway 69
Prescott, Arizona 86302

June 9th
0800 – 1200 FBI Property and Evidence
1200 – 1300 Lunch
1300 – 1500 Stress Management
1500 – 1700 Round Robin Discussion

June 10th
0800 – 1000 DPS Lab
1000 – 1030 Break to allow members to check out of rooms
1030 – 1200 Lunch
1230 – 1430 State Archives (Tentative)
1430 – 1600 Business Meeting
1600 – 1700 Networking

Seminar Cost

$215 AAPE Members

$265 Non-Members

Includes:

Lunch Thursday & Friday
Hosted Reception Thursday

Rooms are available at the Prescott Resort at a special $96/night rate, if made by May 1st, 2022. When calling for reservations let hotel know you are with the Arizona Association for Property and Evidence Group
For reservations, call 1-888-657-7855.

How Much Rest Do You Really Need?

Unwinding after a full day is a challenge for many, but because experts recommend getting at least 7 hours of restful sleep each night, it is something that need to be prioritized. Getting sufficient amounts of resful sleep is essential for good health. Most adults need between 7 and 9 hours of sleep each day. It is estimated that as many as one-third of the people get less than 7 hours of sleep each night. Millions of people are plagued with chronic sleep disorders, which can alter immune functions and metabolism.

Here are some signs that you may not be getting enough sleep:

You cannot think clearly. Problem solving and critical thinking activities are significantly muted when you are sleep deprived.

You doze off or feel tired throughout the day. Excessive sleepiness during waking housrs is another indicator that you could be sleep deficient.

You are irritable. Irritability and increased vulnerability to stress could also indicate that you need more rest.

You have gained weight. While there are many factors that contribute to weight gain, a significant amount of research points to sleep insufficiency as being a big one. Hormone levels that regulate hunger and fullness shift during states of sleeplessness, and that can hinder your ability to regulate your appetite and your weight.

If you are not getting enough sleep, consider starting a sleep journal to see if you can identify any patterns that might be contributing to your sleeplessness. Then, if you still struggle to get enough rest, talk with your doctor to see what other treatment options are available.

Scam Alert— Fake QR Codes

QR codes have become increasingly popular in recent years, especially due to social distancing efforts and a need for contactless services. They are commonly used to access restaurant menus, discount codes, and to make payments. Unfortunately, cybercriminals have taken advantage of this tool, creating fake QR codes that trick you into providing your personal information.

Since custom QR codes are easy to generate, cybercriminals can easily create fake codes for various malicious purposes. For example, cybercriminals could place a fake code in a coffee shop, encouraging you to connect to free Wi-Fi. Or, they could place the fake code on a parking meter, enticing you to make a quick and easy payment. However, if you scan these fake QR codes, the cybercriminals may steal your payment information or redirect you to a malicious website.

Follow these tips to stay safe from QR code scams:

- Cybercriminals use the convenience of QR codes to trick you into acting impulsively. Always think before you scan.
- Be cautious of QR codes without labels, or codes that promise outrageous deals. Remember that if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!
- Don't share payment information or personal details via QR codes. Instead, navigate directly to a safe website to make the payment or share the details.

Stop, Look, and Think. Don't be fooled.

CROSS POLICELINE - DO NOT CROSS POLICELINE - DO NOT CROSS POLICE

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR DOOR PRIZES FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A FREE SEAT TO NEXT YEARS SEMMINAR.

Like to "Welcome" to the association:

Joseph Sacco—University of Arizona Police Department

Rebecca Thatcher—Thatcher Police Department

Jeffrey Walter — Camp Verde Marshal's Office

Karen Lopez—Chandler Police Department

Amy Fontes—Mesa Police Department

Eddie Siller—Prescott Police Department

House Bill 2709–

H2709 (Chapter 100): VICTIMS RIGHTS TO PRIVACY; EXCEPTION

The requirement for a law enforcement agency or prosecution agency to redact a victim's identifying information from records pertaining to the criminal case does not apply to the victim's address if the address appears in any body-worn camera footage, photographs, or other visual or audio depictions and there is evidence that the defendant knows the victim's address because of any of a list of specified relationships. A court is authorized to order the victim's identifying and locating information to be disclosed in a specific case if it is necessary to protect the defendant's constitutional rights or when the information is not reasonably able to be redacted because of undue burden or expense.

House Bill 2604–

Be sure to check out the new House Bill 2604 (link below). This will change the way we store our property associated with Order of Protections.

PHOENIX—Legislation has been signed that extend the length of time orders of protection will remain effective before they expire.
After passing through both chambers of the Arizona Legislature, House Bill 2604 was signed into law this week (April 22, 2022) by Gov. Doug Ducey.
The bill extends the effective duration of an emergency protection order to seven calendar days after being issued by a judge. Regular orders of protection can now remain effective for two years, rather than one, from the time they're served to the defendant.

Click on photos for links

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Situational Awareness Bulletin

First Amendment Auditors

A “First Amendment Audit” is an event where a photographer or videographer purposely places themselves on public property near a sensitive facility as anexercise of their first amendment rights. Audits can be mistaken for surveillance and / or pre-operations planning or suspicious activity, which could lead to a perceived negative interaction with law enforcement. Filming personnel is legal, and most audits end without incident. However, individual auditors may deliberately attempt to bait personnel into escalating a contact into a violent confrontation or to provike violation of their constitutional rights that can be filmed or livestreamed onto the internet, generating increased public viewing.

Common First Amendment Audit Tactics

* Auditors may be argumentative, uncooperative, or may not speak or comply with personnel’s questions or commands.
* Auditors may attempt to goad personnel into overly aggressive responses.
* Auditors insistently demand the names and badge numbers of responding personnel.
* The responding officer (s) reaction is captured on video and posted on social media as an example of a violation of first amendment rights.
* After contact, some of these auditors may file Freedom of Information Act / Public Records Requests to obtain information about the personnel involved.

Although filming is legal, attempts to lure personnel into confrontations while filming, presents a concern for safety. If approached by a First Amendment auditor, personnel should:

* Notify a supervisor and / or building security.
* Personnel should always be aware of their legal standing before acting and remain professional and courteous during First Amendment Audit contacts.
* Personnel should not try to prevent being filmed and should not allow themselves to respond in a manner that could be construed as inappropriate or as a violation of constitutional freedoms.

The ability for individuals to post the videos online and claim personnel infringed upon their rights, or committed wrongdoing—whether true, or not– can further damage the public trust, which also jeopardizes officer safety.

Funnies

Have an interesting story or unusual item that was brought in to your warehouse? Don't hold back... Share it...

Send your ideas, comments, photos, and interesting articles to: jmichaelx2@gmail.com

UH!!! Hello??? Let's think about this...

Two men were arrested in Santa Rosa County, FL, Saturday after law enforcement officers said they found illegal drugs in a bag labeled "Bag Full of Drugs." The men were pulled over by a state trooper for allegedly speeding 25 miles over the limit.

"Santa Rosa (County Sheriff's Office) K-9 Deputies recently assisted FHP on a traffic stop on I-10 where a large amount of narcotics was discovered. Note to self- do not traffic your illegal narcotics in bags labeled "Bag Full Of Drugs". Our K-9's can read," a Facebook post from the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office said.

The narcotics and other contraband found reportedly included: 75 grams of methamphetamine, 1.36 kilograms of GHB, 1 gram of cocaine, 3.6 grams of fentanyl, 15 MDMA tablets and drug paraphernalia, according to CNN.

https://www.policemag.com/541560/troopers-arrest-men-after-finding-drugs-in-bag-marked-bag-full-of-drugs

Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

The mission of the Arizona Association for Property and Evidence (AAPE) is to provide ways for property and evidence professionals in the State of Arizona to communicate with each other about common issues that affect the safety of property/evidence personnel and the security and integrity of the evidence they manage by promoting professionalism and exchanging information and ideas.

Executive Board Officers

President: C.J. Blackwell
Tel: (928) 777-7425
carey.blackwell@yavapai.us

1st Vice President: Lane Darling
Tel: (480) 383-3946
ems.inaz@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President: Roy Casto
Tel: (480) 635-7081
roy.casto@gilbertaz.gov

Secretary: Deanna Manuel
Tel: (520) 610-2030
deanna.manuel@gric.nsn.us

Treasurer: Maureen Marquez
Tel: (623) 773-7086
maureen.marquez@peoriaaz.gov

SGT at Arms: Sarah Welch
Tel: (623) 222-4315
sarah.welch@surpriseaz.gov

Did You Know???

Teeth are trustworthy

What piece of crime scene data is responsible for identifying over 93% of remains? Dental records. Because bones are among the sturdiest parts of the body, they are often the best-preserved area in remains. Combine this with the fact that every individual has a unique dental imprint, and you have the recipe for an extremely reliable form of identification.

Identification by dental records is especially useful in cases where the victim was left unrecognizable. Crimes that involve mutilation, burning, or any other form of disfigurement may still leave the teeth relatively intact. Samples procured from teeth can be matched to existing dental records to help identify the body.

Figure 2. Dental records, such as old models, can also be excellent tools for comparing the suspected victim with the unidentified remains.