

CITY OF SALEM
POLICE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

00426

NATURE OF WORK

This is technical laboratory analysis and field investigation work in connection with the identification of criminals and investigation of crimes.

Work involves development, preservation, and presentation of evidence in conjunction with investigation activities; development and maintenance of fingerprint and photograph files and records. Collects and preserves evidence at crime scenes as necessary. Work is performed with technical independence under the general supervision of a Section Supervisor. May provide limited work direction to others or train others, but this is not a full supervisory classification.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

(Any single position of a class will not usually involve all of the essential duties listed and many positions will involve essential duties which are not listed.)

Analyzes evidence and determines what chemical and comparison tests to apply.

Obtains, preserves, and compares latent fingerprints with known fingerprints to establish identity. Classifies, indexes, and files fingerprint cards.

Assists in evidence collection and preservation during field investigations. Searches for latent fingerprints, photographs scenes, and obtains drawings of crime scene.

Prepares physical evidence for transmittal to other agencies for further analysis. Develops specific instructions of the tests to be performed. Maintains log of evidence transmittals and monitors their return.

Prepares exhibits for court presentations, testifies as Police Department witness.

Performs a wide variety of fingerprinting and photographic assignments.

Works with a variety of law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys in the course of performing the duties listed above.

Performs related work as required.

WORK QUALIFICATIONS

Considerable experience in a police laboratory or latent evidence or fingerprint preservation and identification work; graduation from high school and two years of college with major course work in criminalistics, chemistry, physics, pharmacy, biology, or a related discipline; and completion of approved fingerprint training course; or equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the following knowledges, skills, and abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the principles, procedures, techniques, and trends in general chemistry, toxicology, and microchemistry.

Thorough knowledge of criminal court procedures and the rules of evidence in criminal law.

Considerable knowledge of modern methods and techniques of criminal investigation and identification.

Considerable knowledge of the principles, methods, and techniques for taking, developing, and printing photographs.

Skill in the effective use and maintenance of microscopes and other scientific analytical instruments, cameras, and firearms.

Ability to work independently and make rational decisions in laboratory and field situations.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing and explain scientific matters in an understandable manner.

Ability to organize, analyze, and present data with scientific accuracy and testify effectively in court. Ability to use modern office equipment to maintain a variety of records and files.

Ability to obtain, classify, and compare fingerprints.

Ability to analyze situations effectively and take effective action.

Ability to maintain favorable relationships with the public, district attorneys, and law enforcement agencies.

Must be able to pass a police background check.

Possession of a valid Oregon Drivers' license or Class C Drivers' license and ability to meet City driving standards.

Possession of a Latent Print Certification from the International Association for Identification is desirable. Bi-lingual language skill is also desirable.

Work involves both field and laboratory settings. Field work involves responding to a variety of criminal or accident scenes, maneuvering with sufficient dexterity to obtain fingerprints, visual acuity sufficient to view scene conditions and select appropriate sites to photograph or transmit prints. Laboratory work involves considerable mental concentration in order to view and identify distinguishing features of fingerprints and photographs, and mark and record findings. Work involves considerable interruptions, telephone communications, maintenance of a variety of records, prints, and photographs, and deadlines. Work also involves occasional appearances in a court or at depositions.

POLICE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (Cont.)

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Personnel Director