

**CRIMINALIST**

FLSA Status: Covered  
Union Representation: Portland Police Association

**Class Summary:**

This is highly specialized and technical criminal investigation work. Employees occupying positions of this class are responsible for the development and maintenance of fingerprint and photograph files and records; clearance of fingerprint and photograph information and the development, preservation, and presentation of physical evidence relating to criminal activities. This class is distinguished from Police Officer, Detective, and lower level criminal identification classes, by the degree of technical specialization of duties as well as the greater responsibility for the precise collection, preservation, and examination of physical evidence and the presentation of that evidence in courts of law. Specific assignments to particular cases and instructions relating to bureau policy and procedure are made by an immediate technical supervisor, but regular technical work is carried out with considerable independence.

**Examples of Work:**

Investigates scene of crime for latent finger, palm, and foot prints. Lifts and preserves prints from a wide variety of surfaces, utilizing dusting, photographing, and ninhydrin techniques.

Takes photographs of crime scenes and searches for, collects, preserves, and identifies the physical evidence discovered.

Makes plaster or latex casts of impressions such as footprints and tool marks.

Takes gunshot residue swabs from the hands of suspects and victims; takes fingernail scrapings from fingers of suspects and victims.

Takes, classifies, and searches fingerprints through master files to make positive identifications.

Provides expert testimony in courts of law regarding print identification.

Operates a variety of photographic and photo processing equipment and surveillance equipment.

Takes fingerprints from and photographs of cadavers in varying degrees of decomposition, desiccation and maceration, utilizing various techniques appropriate for the condition of the cadaver.

**Not all the work performed is specifically described. Not all tasks are done at all work locations.**

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:** (At time of appointment)

Considerable knowledge of criminal investigation theories, techniques, procedures, and practices dealing with the collection, preservation, and identification of physical evidence and the use of such evidence in establishing guilt.

Considerable knowledge of basic police investigation techniques.

Considerable knowledge of police objectives, regulations, and procedures.

Considerable knowledge of state and municipal laws and ordinances and Police Bureau policies and procedures.

Some knowledge of standard fingerprint classification methods, practices, records, and equipment.

Some knowledge of operating principles, techniques, processes, and materials used in photography photo processing, and related production work.

Skill in taking, classifying, and identifying fingerprints and searching for, preserving, and interpreting physical evidence and identification data.

Skill in using and operating photographic equipment and reproducing materials.

Skill in maintaining clerical records and preparing reports.

Skill in analyzing situations accurately, applying selected knowledge, and reaching sound decisions.

Skill in observing, assimilating, remembering, and accurately recalling facts and details.

Skill in comprehending, evaluating, and interpreting written materials at the level of laws, ordinances, general and special orders, training bulletins, and technical manuals.

Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with other employees and the general public.

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**Class History:**

Adopted: 01-20-76

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 5175 to 30000307, due to system change.