Tool Mark Analysis

Slipped Impression
: series of striations parallel to each other, resulting from a tool being slid across a surface

Molded Impression
: three-dimensional mold of a tool which had direct contact to a surface with no lateral movement

Indentation Mark
: negative imprint of a tool created when a tool is pressed onto a softer surface

Abrasion Mark
: created when a tool is slid across a surface

Cutting Mark
: created along the edge of a surface which has been cut by a tool

Stryker Saw
: oscillating saw used for cutting bones or plaster casts

Hack Saw
: narrow, fine-toothed blade within a frame used for cutting metal

Chainsaw
: mechanically powered saw which has teeth on a chain which revolves around the edge of a blade

Compression Tools
: constrict by pressure or impact

Flat Action Tools
: used parallel to the working surface

Gripping Tools
: grasp objects with jaws

Shearing Tools
: cuts through objects with two blades which are adjacent to each other

Slicing Tools
: cuts object in any direction with a single, sharp blade

Mikrosil™
: casting material used for creating impressions of tool marks

STUDENT VOCABULARY HANDOUT

Death Investigations

Trace Evidence
: materials which can be transferred during a crime

Comparison Microscope
: primary instrument used in forensic science to compare tool marks