Mission of SWGTREAD

Scientific Working Group on Shoe and Tire Tread Evidence

Provide a professional forum where forensic shoeprint and tire tread examiners can share knowledge, evaluate practices, develop standards, identify research needs and disseminate information.
Current Members

Ramses Alvarez – FBI Laboratory
William Bodziak – Bodziak Forensics
Kerrie Cathcart – Huntington Police and Marshall University
Eric Gilkerson – FBI Laboratory
Mike Gorn – Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office
Lesley Hammer (Chair) – Hammer Forensics
Gary Hauptmann – Baltimore County Police Department
Cindy Homer – Maine State Police Crime Laboratory
Matt Johnson – Orange County Sheriff’s Department
Alan Kainuma – Honolulu Police Department
Brian McVicker (Co-chair) – FBI Laboratory
Mike Smith – FBI Laboratory
Brian Yamashita – Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Invited Guests and Speakers
SWGTREAD History

Formation was initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to standardize and advance the forensic analysis of shoeprint and tire tread evidence.

The first meeting took place in Quantico, VA in September 2004.

Bi-annual meetings continue – March and September

Currently SWGTREAD is managed by the FBI Laboratory and funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).
Major Accomplishments

• 15 Guides for Footwear/Tire
• Daubert Resource Kit
• NAS response
• website:  www.swgtread.org
Published Guides

- Scope of Work Related to Forensic Footwear and Tire Tread Evidence
- Preparation of Test Impressions
- Detection of Impressions in the Field
- Detection of Impressions in the Lab
- Collection of Impressions in the Field
- Collection of Impressions in the Lab
- Documentation and Photography
- Examination Guide
- Minimum Qualifications and Training
- Terminology Guide
- Standard Terminology for Conclusions
- Guide for Lifting
- Guide for Casting
- Guide for Chemical Enhancement
- Guide for Casework Documentation

All can be found at: www.SWGTREAD.org
Welcome to the Daubert Resource Kit for Footwear Evidence!

Version 0308

Daubert Resource Kit for Footwear Evidence

Produced by SWGTREAD

Contact Mike Smith at: michael.smith3@ic.fbi.gov or 703-632-7314
Daubert Resource Kit Outline

• INTRODUCTION
  Purpose of Kit

• BACKGROUND INFO
  Daubert History
  Frye v. United States (1923)
  Federal Rules of Evidence (FRE 702) (1975)
  Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals (1993)
  Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael (1999)

• COURT MATERIALS
  Federal Sites
  State Sites
  Motions
  Amicus Briefs
  Testimony Transcript
  United States v. Mahone Case ("A to Z")
  General Court Cases/Summaries

• REFERENCE MATERIALS
  Articles
  Journals
  Books
  Power Point Presentations
  Peer Review Forums
  Certification/Accreditation Programs

• MISCELLANEOUS
  Utilities
    Adobe Reader
    Power Point Viewer
  Contact Information
NAS Response

- Current Status of the Forensic Footwear and Tire Tread Examination Discipline

- Identification and Clarification of Inaccuracies in the NAS Report

- Suggestions for the Advancement of the Discipline of Forensic Footwear and Tire Tread Evidence

- SWGTREAD 2007 Input to the National Academy of Science
Website
Goals and Projects

Resource Committee
Cindy Homer (Chair)

- Website: continue to update
- Promote and encourage forum interaction
- Library of shoe/tire forensic articles
- Create a ‘frequently asked questions’
- Incorporate CAST website information
- Feasibility of impression searching/posting site
- Ideas for ways to discuss products/techniques
Goals and Projects

Research and Science Committee
Gary Hauptmann (Chair)

• Develop list of current research needs
• Continue assessing 3-D imaging options
• Conduct research project in shoe design frequency
• Conduct research on examiner conclusions
• Develop and maintain list of current relevant publications (articles)
Goals and Projects

Guidelines and Best Practices Committee

Matt Johnson (Chair)

• Guideline development and review
• update training guide with recommended 20 hours annual continuing education
• finish conclusions guide (including scale)
• amend the report writing guide
• begin chemical enhancement (of non-blood impressions)
Goals and Projects

• By-laws

• SWG chair meetings

• Keep posted on the future of SWG’s
Current/Upcoming Issues

• Assisting researchers to conduct viable and applicable studies
• Evolving guidelines into standards
• Standardization of discipline
  • Discipline has many part-time examiners
• Inclusion of barefoot evidence
• Concerns resulting from the NAS report
• How to disseminate information beyond forensic community (Judges, attorneys, academics)
• How to respond to the question of error rate?
SWGTREAD Contact

- www.swgtread.org

- Lesley Hammer
  hammer.forensics@gmail.com

- Brian McVicker
  Brian.Mcvicker@ic.fbi.gov