

NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS OF FIREARM SHOT  
RESIDUES ON HUMAN SKIN<sup>\*)</sup>

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It is a known fact that the percussion powder in the primer of a firearm cartridge contains certain amount of Ba and Sb. The ratio of Ba and Sb is different for different ammunition brands, depending on a manufacturer and a year of production. Traces of percussion powder, among other residues, remain on the skin of a person who fired a shot. The hand, especially, is marked by the traces of Ba and Sb.

We have developed an easy and reliable method for sample taking. Samples are convenient for irradiations in a reactor and for gamma-ray measurements. It was shown that a hand which held a gun during a firing can be reliably detected and the ammunition used identified.

The method is ready for routine use in the criminalistic practice.

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