NIJ

Electronic Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for First Responders, Second Edition

Chapter 2. Investigative Tools and Equipment

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In most cases, items or devices containing digital evidence can be collected using standard seizure tools and materials. First responders must use caution when collecting, packaging, or storing digital devices to avoid altering, damaging, or destroying the digital evidence. Avoid using any tools or materials that may produce or emit static electricity or a magnetic field as these may damage or destroy the evidence.

Should the complexity of an electronic crime scene exceed the expertise of a first responder, the first responder should request assistance from personnel with advanced equipment and training in digital evidence collection. The technical resource list at www.ecpi-us.org/Technicalresources.html provides additional information for these situations.

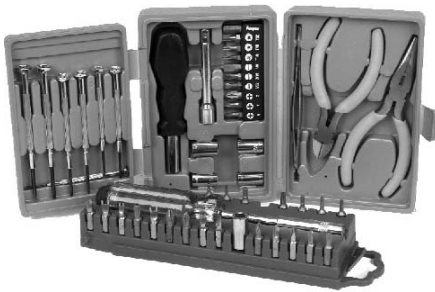## Tools and Materials for Collecting Digital Evidence

In addition to tools for processing crime scenes in general, first responders should have the following items in their digital evidence collection toolkit:

- Cameras (photo and video).

- Cardboard boxes.

- Notepads.

- Gloves.

- Evidence inventory logs.

- Evidence tape.

- Paper evidence bags.

- Evidence stickers, labels, or tags.

- Crime scene tape.

- Antistatic bags.

- Permanent markers.

- Nonmagnetic tools.

First responders should also have radio frequency-shielding material such as faraday isolation bags or aluminum foil to wrap cell phones, smart phones, and other mobile communication devices after they have been seized. Wrapping the phones in radio frequency-shielding material prevents the phones from receiving a call, text message, or other communications signal that may alter the evidence.

Collection Tools

Toolkit

Antistatic Bag