



A187 The Bad Breath Rapist

Beth A. Saucier, BS, BS, Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, 124 Acton Street, Maynard, MA 01754*

After attending this presentation, attendees will obtain knowledge about the unusual circumstances in a home invasion and sexual assault case. The initial investigation was based on the victim's statements and what she smelled at the time of the attack. The Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory assisted the local police department during their investigation using the Criminalistics and DNA examinations.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by presenting actual case information and discussion on the challenges encountered during the Criminalistics Department's processing of evidence in this case. It also will provide information on how evidence should flow through an examination process. Interesting case facts will also be discussed and questions will be addressed.

On February 3, 2005, at approximately 12:30 a.m., an armed home invasion and sexual assault occurred on Elm Avenue, a residential neighborhood, in Quincy, MA. The victim was grabbed from behind after coming out of the bathroom after freshening up after a long day of work. A knife, which was smaller than a sushi knife, was put to her throat by her attacker and she was then thrown to the floor. A struggle ensued. Her mouth was duct taped and she was tied to the bed with plastic zip ties and duct tape. She was then sexually assaulted and the suspect left the premises with money taken from her purse. Her boyfriend came home to find her still tied to the bed in a prone position. The police were called and the investigation began. During the investigation, the victim was asked if she could identify her assailant. Due to the fact that he wore a ski mask and was completely dressed in black, she stated that she could not identify his face but she could identify his smell. He was breathing very heavy and she recognized his bad breath – it smelled very familiar!

The Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab was contacted and immediately responded to the scene of the crime to collect any biological and trace materials that were present. Samples were collected from the scene - clothing and duct tape, among other items, and the victim herself through the means of a Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit. The items collected were processed in the Criminalistics and DNA units. Processing of items, challenges encountered and results of analyses will be discussed. The results of the analyses completed in this case helped solidify the investigation by the Police Department. The case did go to trial in the Norfolk County Superior Court in Dedham, MA, testimony was provided and an outcome was determined.

Home Invasion, Sexual Assault, Case Study