

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Tire Tread and Tire Track Evidence: Recovery and Forensic Examination**

REFERENCE: Bodziak WJ. Tire tread and tire track evidence: recovery and forensic examination. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2008, 342 pp.

Arguably and with some regret, tire track evidence at many crime scenes is all too often not looked for, inappropriately dismissed, or just plain not considered until well after the fact. This work by Mr. Bodziak, written from a very practical and experienced perspective, is a substantial and learned effort to alert investigators to this shortcoming. It certainly and fairly represents the crucial role that tire track evidence can play in investigations, if investigators are only to look for them and ensure that, when present, tire tracks are consistently and sufficiently documented in investigations for comparison purposes.

As few and far between are solid, current references that address the potential importance of tire tread and tire track evidence, this book both beckons and educates not only forensic impression examiners but also serious investigators, crime scene analysts, attorneys, and other interested parties as to the probative and powerful potential that tire track evidence can lend in the determination of the truth. Also, as many criminal events occur where there may be scant physical evidence (such as those cases without DNA or latent

print evidence), and because the examination of tire track evidence can result in definitive conclusions, the importance of this type of evidence cannot be overemphasized.

The book is well organized and is comprised of the history of tire design and production, tire manufacturer information, specifics of track evidence, documentation and recovery of tire impression evidence, the process of making known tire impression exemplars, tire wear and individual characteristics, examination and comparison methodologies, court presentation of tire tread evidence, additional resources and databases, as well as some case studies. It also contains excellent demonstrative photographs, illustrations and diagrams; a good glossary of terms; a substantial bibliography; and an index. Appropriately, Bodziak also cautions the practitioner about potential pitfalls, such as inadequacies or overstatements that can result from poorly conceived tire track evidence comparisons or testimony, all of which should be taken to heart by objective and conscientious examiners.

This edition, as a well-written and well-presented source, is recommended to anyone working in the field of crime scenes or tire track evidence and to those likely to encounter tire track evidence within the bailiwick of the justice system.

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*Review and opinion of the reviewer do not necessarily reflect the position of the Michigan State Police.