

RE: Suggested IABPA Terminology List

The following list is the final product of the Terminology Committee for a Suggested IABPA Terminology List. It is based on previous work done by the committee, past terminology lists, and an enormous amount of work by the committee members. The committee's goal was to comprise a list of basic terms that are used and taught by the majority of bloodstain analyst in the field. It is offered only as guidelines, and is not designed to be all encompassing.

It is strongly recommended by this committee that Bloodstain Analysts be able to individually define terms as it pertains to their own use. If this is readily available to the reader or reviewer, then there should be no question as to the particular or unique use of a term.

I hope this document will be of value to the members of the association and all people working in the bloodstain field.

Suggested  
IABPA TERMINOLOGY LIST

**ANGLE OF IMPACT** - The acute angle formed between the direction of a blood drop and the plane of the surface it strikes.

**ARTERIAL SPURTING (OR GUSHING) PATTERN** - Bloodstain pattern(s) resulting from blood exiting the body under pressure from a breached artery.

**BACK SPATTER** - Blood directed back towards the source of energy or force that caused the spatter.

**BLOODSTAIN** - Evidence that liquid blood has come into contact with a surface.

**BUBBLE RINGS** - Rings in blood that result when blood containing air bubbles dries and retains the bubble's circular configuration as a dried outline.

**CAST-OFF PATTERN** - A bloodstain pattern created when blood is released or thrown from a blood-bearing object in motion.

**DIRECTIONALITY** - The directionality of a bloodstain or pattern which indicates the direction the blood was traveling when it impacted the target surface. Directionality of a blood drop's flight can usually be established from the geometric shape of its bloodstain.

**DIRECTIONALITY ANGLE** - The angle between the long axis of a bloodstain and a predetermined line on the plane of the target surface which represents 0 degrees.

**DIRECTION OF FLIGHT** - The trajectory of a blood drop which can be established by its angle of impact and directionality angle.

**DRAW-BACK EFFECT** - Blood in the barrel of a firearm that has been drawn backward into the muzzle.

**DRIP PATTERN** - A bloodstain pattern which results from blood dripping into blood.

**EXPIRATED BLOOD** - Blood that is blown out of the nose, mouth, or a wound as a result of air pressure and/or air flow which is the propelling force.

**FLIGHT PATH** - The path of the blood drop, as it moves through space, from the impact site to the target.

**FLOW PATTERN** - A change in the shape and direction of a bloodstain due to the influence of gravity or movement of the object.

**FORWARD SPATTER** - Blood which travels in the same direction as the source of energy or force which caused the spatter.

**HIGH VELOCITY IMPACT SPATTER (HVIS)** - A bloodstain pattern caused by a high velocity impact/force to a blood source such as that produced by gunshot or high speed machinery.

**IMPACT PATTERN** - Bloodstain pattern created when blood receives a blow or force resulting in the random dispersion of smaller drops of blood.

**IMPACT SITE** - That point where force encounters a source of blood.

**LOW VELOCITY IMPACT SPATTER (LVIS)** - A bloodstain pattern that is caused by a low velocity impact/force to a blood source.

**MEDIUM VELOCITY IMPACT SPATTER (MVIS)** - A bloodstain pattern caused by a medium velocity impact/force to a blood source. A beating typically causes this type of spatter.

**MISTING** - Blood which has been reduced to a fine spray, as a result of the energy or force applied to it.

**PARENT DROP** - A drop of blood from which a wave, cast-off, or satellite spatter originates.

**PASSIVE DROP(BLEEDING)** - Bloodstain drop(s) created or formed by the force of gravity acting alone.

**POINT (AREA) OF CONVERGENCE** - The common point (area), on a two dimensional surface, over which the directionality of several blood drops can be retraced.

**POINT (AREA) OF ORIGIN** - The common point (area) in three dimensional space to which the trajectories of several blood drops can be retraced.

**PROJECTED BLOOD PATTERN** - A bloodstain pattern that is produced by blood released under pressure as opposed to an impact, such as arterial spurting.

**RICOCHET** - The deflection of blood after impact with a target surface that results in staining of a second target surface.

**SATELLITE SPATTER** - Small droplets of blood that are distributed around a drop or pool of blood as a result of the blood impacting the target surface.

**PERIMETER STAIN** - A bloodstain that consists of only its outer periphery, the central area having been removed by wiping or flaking after liquid blood has partially or completely dried.

**SPATTER** - That blood which has been dispersed as a result of force applied to a source of blood. Patterns produced are often characteristic of the nature of the forces which created them.

**SPINE** - The pointed or elongated stains which radiate away from the central area of a bloodstain.

**SWIPE PATTERN** - The transfer of blood from a moving source onto a unstained surface. Direction of travel may be determined by the feathered edge.

**TARGET** - A surface upon which blood has been deposited.

**TRANSFER/CONTACT PATTERN** - A bloodstain pattern created when a wet, bloody surface comes in contact with a second surface. A recognizable image of all or a portion of the original surface may be observed in the pattern.

**VOID** - An absence of stains in an otherwise continuous bloodstain pattern.

**WAVE CAST-OFF** - A small blood drop that originates from a parent drop of blood due to the wave-like action of the liquid in conjunction with striking a surface.

**WIPE PATTERN** - A bloodstain pattern created when an object moves through an existing stain, removing and/or altering its appearance.