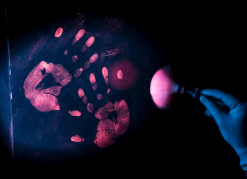King County Regional AFIS made its first hit in April 1988 on an Auburn rape case. The suspect was convicted in Superior Court. Since then, numerous other crimes have been solved through the use of AFIS...

Palmprint AFIS Identifies Rapist

Examiners responded to a rape callout of a 12-year old girl in her Shoreline home. At the scene, an examiner lifted a palmprint from a glass-topped dresser in the girl's bedroom. Using AFIS, the examiner electronically searched and matched the palmprint from the scene. The examiner provided the detective with a suspect name and the King County Sheriff's Office and Shoreline Police Department quickly arrested the suspect within a few days of the crime. He was charged with First Degree Rape and First Degree Burglary with Sexual Motivation.
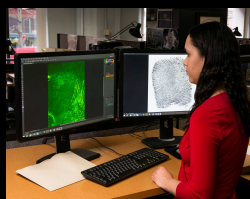
Homicide Case Solved

A Kent woman was found murdered in her home. An examiner recovered prints from a dresser believed to contain the victim's prescription medication and money. A search of these prints allowed the examiner to provide the detective with a new name for the investigation. The suspect was arrested, confessed to the crime, and provided the names of two other suspects. He was charged with Murder First Degree.

Challenging Identification of Deceased

A badly decomposed body was found at a SeaTac apartment complex. Latent Print Examiners assisted the King County Medical Examiner in recovering prints. An identification was made and verified to a woman from Utah. Had it not been for the fingerprint identification, the woman may not have been identified for some time since she was from out of the area. Although greatly saddened, her family was comforted by finally knowing what happened to their missing loved one.

And there are many more success stories !

AFIS Program Overview

The King County Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Program provides enhanced criminal identification services. It is funded through a property tax levy and serves all 39 cities and unincorporated areas in King County. This regional approach promotes greater public safety through information sharing, at a minimal cost to the individual taxpayer. Since its inception in 1988, AFIS has proven to be an invaluable tool, assisting in the apprehension of criminals.

The AFIS Program provides the technology and resources to solve crimes by collecting, storing, and identifying fingerprints and palmprints. Criminal justice agencies, citizens, and businesses rely on AFIS data to identify criminal history information for:

- Criminal and background investigations
- Warrant checks
- Sentencing considerations
- Hiring determinations (e.g. occupations working with children, handicapped, or the elderly)

The King County Regional AFIS Advisory Committee provides oversight on the operation and funding of services. Membership includes representatives from suburban jurisdictions, City of Seattle, and King County.
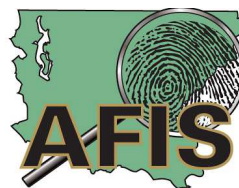
With sustained funding, the AFIS Program will continue providing advancements in AFIS, Livescan, and related technology to provide the fastest and most accurate identification services possible for your local police agencies.

King County

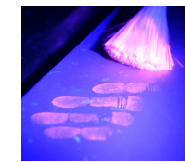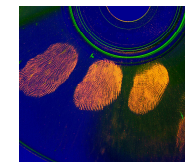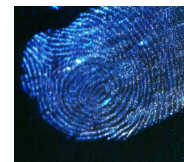**For more information please contact:**
afis@kingcounty.gov

Or visit us on the Web!
www.kingcounty.gov/afis

Available in Alternative Formats

KING COUNTY REGIONAL AFIS PROGRAM

Automated Fingerprint Identification System

PROGRAM MISSION

The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing fingerprint identification services and technology to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.
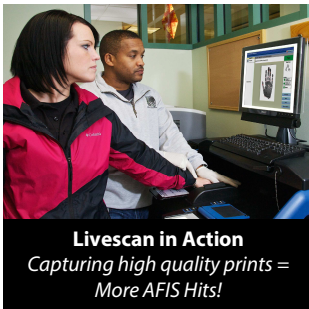
King County AFIS

Arrest Identification Services

At King County correctional facilities and police agencies, Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is reported to the arresting officer or

Livescan in Action
Capturing high quality prints = More AFIS Hits!

detention facility immediately. This process ensures that inmates are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from evading warrants and hiding criminal records, or being held wrongfully under other's warrants.

AFIS Technology
Liars don't stand a chance!

AFIS staff provide arrest information to update state and federal records, or rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly and accurately so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies hav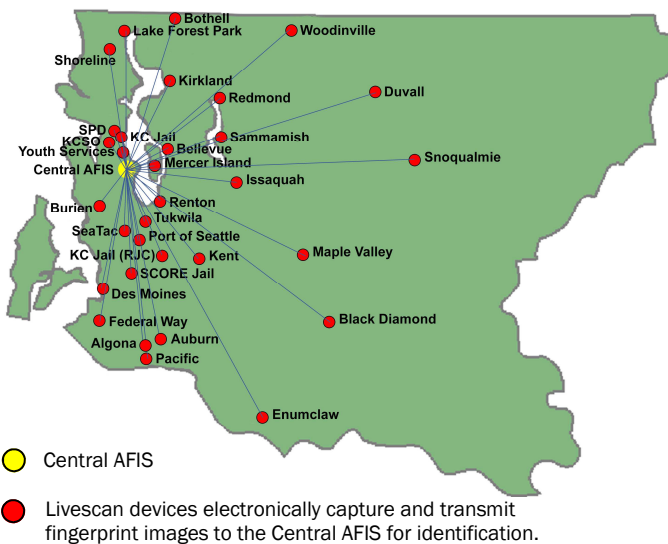e access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal investigations, warrant and background checks, and sentencing determinations.

AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages ("line-ups"), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects.

Additional services provided by AFIS staff include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.

Program Technology

Livescan in your Area

○ Central AFIS

● Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the Central AFIS for identification.
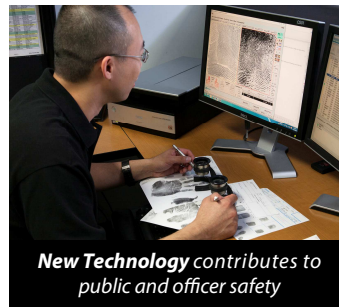
The AFIS Program supports 48 Livescans, located throughout the county at various police agencies and correctional facilities.

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

AFIS is a computer system that stores and compares minutiae found in fingerprints from known individuals and from crime scenes ("latent prints"). A list of candidates is produced by AFIS, then a fingerprint examiner visually compares any potential 'hits'. The AFIS database contains hundreds of thousands of fingerprints and palmprints.

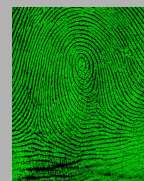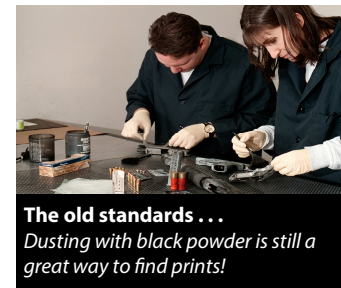***New Technology*** *contributes to public and officer safety*

Crime Scene Identification Services

Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. When there are no known suspects, latent prints are searched against millions of prints in the AFIS database. AFIS produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. Examiners then compare the latent prints to prints on file to determine who left the impressions.. Examiners commonly testify in court regarding the conclusions they reach.

The old standards . . .
Dusting with black powder is still a great way to find prints!

Program staff train deputies and officers in the recovery and handling of latent prints. They also assist detectives in processing major crime scenes for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

. . . Combined with advances of technology!
Using an Alternate Light Source to visualize prints.

Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, case file retention and dissemination, statistical data tracking, and providing reports to law enforcement.

You can find more AFIS Program information on YouTube by searching **King County AFIS**