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CANADIAN POLICE RESEARCH CENTRE



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## TM-24-95 KEVLAR UNDERGLOVES

By: Brian Yamashita

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by  
RCMP Forensic identification  
Research & Review Section

June, 1995

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A member of the RCMP Forensic Ident Section in British Columbia advised that they were experiencing good success using cut-resistant kevlar undergloves under rubber gloves when handling things like broken glass or jagged articles.

The RCMP Forensic Identification Research & Review Section conducted an evaluation of two different types of kevlar undergloves. These gloves were evaluated by Forensic Identification Specialists across Canada.

A major complaint with these gloves was the difficulty in pulling some of the thinner latex gloves over them without tearing, but overall, members seemed to appreciate the extra security afforded while handling hazardous material. The gloves also provided added warmth at outdoor scenes, while causing less sweating than rubber or latex gloves alone.

It should be noted that these gloves are **cut-resistant**, not **cut-proof** so caution should be exercised at all times.

## SOMMAIRE

Un membre de la Section de l'identité judiciaire de la GRC en Colombie-Britannique a signalé que les sous-gants en kevlar résistants aux coupures se portaient bien sous des gants en caoutchouc pour manipuler des éclats de verre ou d'autres objets coupants.

La Section des recherches et des études en identité judiciaire de la GRC a donc fait éprouver deux sortes de sous-gants en kevlar par des spécialistes en identité judiciaire du pays entier.

Parmi les plaintes qui revenaient le plus souvent, citons le fait qu'il est difficile de mettre des gants minces en latex par-dessus ces sous-gants sans les déchirer. Cela dit, en général, les membres semblent apprécier la protection accrue que leur offrent ces sous-gants pour la manipulation de matériaux dangereux. De plus, les sous-gants se portent bien à l'extérieur, puisqu'ils sont plus chauds que les gants en caoutchouc ou en latex, tout en faisant moins transpirer.

Il est à noter que ces sous-gants sont **résistants aux coupures** et non à **l'épreuve des coupures**, et qu'il faut donc toujours prendre les précautions qui s'imposent lorsqu'on les porte.

## KEVLAR UNDERGLOVES

Sgt. Whyte of the RCMP Coquitlam Municipal Forensic Ident Section, in British Columbia wrote to the Officer in Charge, Forensic Identification Research and Review Section to inform us that they were having good success using cut-resistant kevlar undergloves under rubber gloves to handle sharp or jagged articles at crime scenes. Wearing these under regular gloves when handling things like broken glass can afford the member added protection from cuts. It was suggested that we test this material.

Two pairs of MedArmor kevlar undergloves were received from the distributor, IC Systems Ltd., and two pairs of Whizard kevlar undergloves were purchased from Kimrik Safety Equipment. These were sent to Coquitlam, British Columbia, Brandon, Manitoba, Truro, Nova Scotia and Grand Falls, New Brunswick Forensic Ident Sections for field testing. Of the four, one Section felt that this product should not be recommended.

One of the major complaints with these gloves is the difficulty in pulling some of the thinner latex gloves over them without tearing. If the underglove itself tears, the cut has a tendency to “run”. As well, some members felt that plain cotton photographer’s gloves would provide just as much cut-resistance at a much lower cost, although perhaps with the discomfort of more sweating.

The gloves can be a bit awkward at first, but once the user gets used to them, dexterity is not compromised. Members seemed to appreciate the extra security of the cut-resistance when handling hazardous material. As well as the cut-resistant feature, they also provide added warmth at outdoor scenes, while causing less sweating than rubber or latex gloves alone. The undergloves are washable.

Only Coquitlam had access to both products. They found that although both promised cut-resistance, the Whizard undergloves were much bulkier and harder to use. Since then, we have been informed that another product has now come onto the market. This underglove most resembles the MedArmor

product, and is expected to perform as adequately. Pricing quoted by IC Systems is as follows:

<b><u>MEDTECH</u></b>		<b><u>Cost per Pair</u></b>
PTPBFI	ProTech II (CR)	<b>\$35.52</b>
SBFI	The Searcher II (CR and PR)	<b>\$39.34</b>

**MEDARMOR**

PM 1900	Frisker (CR)	\$37.78
PR2000	The Frisker (CR and PR) 100-5000 prs.	\$46.47
PR3000L	The Frisker Plus (CR, PR, Leather palm) 100-5000 prs.	\$65.06

CR - Cut Resistant

PR - Puncture Resistant

The company's address is:

IC Systems Ltd.,  
Attn: Cameron Murphy  
6917 A Russell Avenue  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5J 4R8  
(604) 43 1-9722

As noted, some members felt that cotton gloves would provide as much protection at much less expense. As well, Forensic Ident Specialists should be reminded that ***THESE UNDERGLOVES ARE NOT CUT-PROOF, SO DUE CAUTION SHOULD ALWAYS BE EXERCISED.***