



# Fairview Police

A POLICE CHIEF's PERSPECTIVE...

Evidence Integrity Assured with EvidenceOnQ.

## Achieved goals and more...

- Aided with accreditation.
- Improved Department Efficiencies.
- Improved Evidence Integrity
- Reduced Liability
- Reliable and Secure Chain of Custody
- Retrieve Statistics at Anytime.
- Ability to Move, Locate and Track Evidence Easily and Securely.
- Improved Audit and Purging Capabilities.

THE EVIDENCE ROOM OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT is the single biggest item that can get police chiefs in deep trouble, or fired. That's the opinion of Ken Johnson of Fairview, Oregon, Police Department, which is why improving evidence management was a top priority when he came aboard as the new chief. Chief Johnson supervised an ineffective evidence room while working in a Washington state police department. Therefore, upon joining

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Fairview PD, the chief was convinced that barcoding and computerized evidence tracking was essential for protecting the integrity of the department's entire property and evidence storage operations. Consequently, Chief Johnson decided to convert to an automated solution from what was only a spreadsheet to track evidence.

### Software Gives Efficiencies, Liability Protection

When he joined Fairview, the chief found an evidence room in disarray. “We simply did not have a handle on what we had in our property

and evidence room,” Chief Johnson said. After careful research of software solutions, he chose the EvidenceOnQ program, and has been online with it since August 2010. “I felt it was the best solution for liability protection and evidence control,” the chief noted. Since installing the software, Fairview PD has enjoyed several key efficiencies. One of these is EvidenceOnQ's single-page screen, where a unique barcode can instantly be assigned and labels easily generated for each evidence item. Duplicate



information such as the crime scene locations, victim's name, etc., only needs to be entered once, eliminating repetitive work. Another efficiency is the software's powerful searching capability. For example, if a person wants a specific piece of evidence, yet there is no case number, EvidenceOnQ can find the item by searching any field or combination of fields.

## Chain of Custody Bolstered

The automated evidence management solution has eliminated confusion over evidence identification, which also has strengthened chain of custody. When any Fairview PD

officer works with EvidenceOnQ, he must type into it information on an evidence item, after which a barcode is assigned. "That eliminates a lot of problems with handwriting and other issues that were challenges for us before," Chief Johnson said. What's more, when the

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prior spreadsheet method was used, "They would have chain of custody notes written all over the update sheet," reveals Kathy Miller, Fairview PD's evidence technician. "Cases would get lost, so you couldn't really have a

true chain of command on some of the property." EvidenceOnQ has now made chain of custody secure. Once data is entered into the software, a permanent unalterable record of every action taken on that item is maintained for its entire lifecycle. Says Miller: "If I make an error, I can go into the software and explain the error, but the software will track that I went in there and made that notation."



## Aids in Accreditation

Fairview PD is one of few accredited police departments in Oregon. EvidenceOnQ has helped the department with the accreditation process and with audits. The Oregon Accreditation Alliance strives to improve the quality of public safety agencies. Although membership is voluntary, it assures a community that all agencies who are accredited will follow best practices, and that they are protected from liability. "There are standards as part of accreditation that require specific information about our chain of custody," Chief Johnson said. "With the EvidenceOnQ, I was immediately able to get a printout of the chain of custody on our evidence, whereas in the past it would have taken me hours to research that information. The software shows proof of what evidence standards required for accreditation we have put in place and documented."

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## Custom Reports Easily Handled

Another coveted advantage of EvidenceOnQ is its ability to produce nearly any kind of report desired. Chief Johnson can produce reports on evidence room audits, inventory, quantities of drugs, and the latest purging backlog status. For instance, Chief Johnson notes that he can use the software to generate a report asking for every evidence item more than 90 days old. Previously, this task required hand-searching every paper file. Now, the software produces this report instantly, saving hours of work.



Fairview PD's ability to manage evidence purging has been dramatically improved using EvidenceOnQ. In 1973, when the police department began, nothing was done with evidence once it was obtained. It just sat in the property room. "We had a tremendous backlog," Chief Johnson said. "There was no purging system. So, now the ability to inventory evidence, put it in EvidenceOnQ, and generate reports is a godsend to us."

If Chief Johnson had to summarize in one word what EvidenceOnQ has given to his department's evidence management, it would be "integrity". Linked to integrity is the accuracy of information that EvidenceOnQ handles. "The barcoding transfers the data for you and brings it up on your screen," Chief Johnson said. "It reduces the human error factor."

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## About the FileOnQ Inc. (Developers of EvidenceOnQ)

*Formed in May 1996 as Integrated Software Solutions, we have specialized—from the beginning—in the development of products focused on lifecycle records management for the corporate, departmental, and workgroup user. For the past nine years, we have dedicated ourselves to powerful and customizable solutions for Law Enforcement to track and manage their property and evidence from the crime scene to the court room. Police and sheriff departments, district attorneys, and prosecutors value the ability to access, view, manage, and track evidence and associated documents, media instantly using a web browser. Allowing them to communicate and work together on cases and evidence like never before.*

*Agencies at the local, state, and federal level have successfully implemented our system to not only [manage evidence](#) but also [officer equipment](#), [assets](#), [critical incident scenes](#), [fleet vehicles](#), [case management](#), and more. Agencies have discovered that what we offer is much more than a software system. It is a powerful platform with the tools needed to increase efficiencies throughout their entire jurisdiction.*

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