

# CSI

## Crime Scene Investigation

### Crime Scene

- Is a location at which a suspected criminal offense has occurred. Processing the crime scene is one of the most important phases of the investigation. It is here that the investigator focuses in the search for physical evidence. All crime scenes contain physical evidence. Physical evidence comprises all objects and materials found in connection with an investigation that are instrumental in discovering the facts.

### Contamination of a Crime Scene

- The longer a crime scene stays unprotected the greater chance there is for contamination.
- Only evidence free from contamination will be able to be entered into evidence for trial.
- The primary duty of the first officer on scene is to protect the scene.
- A perimeter should be set w/ police line tape and an officer who records persons who are coming and going from the crime scene.
- Bigger is always better! You can always reduce your crime scene but you can never enlarge it.

### Searching the Crime Scene

- Control and teamwork are at the heart of every search.
- The entire operation must be under the control of one person. This officer directs the searching activities by assign tasks to other officers.
- Before the actual search begins all must be restrained in their tendency to rush into the area. In their haste evidence may be destroyed. The experienced officer always pauses and surveys before physically moving in.

### Search Patterns

- Strip method - the searcher starts at one end of the scene and walks directly across until the opposite end is reached. The searcher then turns around and walks back to the original end, not searching the **same** ground previously covered.
- Spiral method - used for both outdoor and indoor. Begins from the outer perimeter of the scene, moving inward in a constricting circular fashion. This is good for 3 small indoor scene.

### Search Methods cont;

The sector method - used for outdoor scenes and very spacious rooms. Divided the scene into equal sectors, one searcher is then assigned to each zone.

The grid method - large areas that must be searched for small items. The whole area is crisscrossed so that the areas area actually covered several times.

### Physical Evidence

- Although the crime scene has already been photographed it may be necessary to photograph newly found items. **Items should never be handled immediately!**

### Physical Evidence cont;

- The ultimate purpose of recovering physical evidence is to aid in the solution of the offense by
  1. Identifying the suspect

- 2 Establishing the suspects MO
- 3 Proving or disproving alibi
- 4 Connecting or eliminating suspects
- 5 Identify stolen property, contraband, and other illegal property.
- 6 Identify victims, if their identities are unknown
- 7 Providing investigative leads
- 8 Providing a statutory element of the offense

## 9 Chain of Custody

- Being able to account for the location and possession of evidence is known as maintaining the chain of custody.
- If a break in the chain occurs the item can not be entered.

## 10 Photographing the Crime Scene

- One of the most important ways in which the crime scene is processed.
- The photographs provide a permanent record of how the scene appeared after the offense was discovered.

## 11 Photographic Distortion

- Photographs must not misrepresent the scene, person, or object that is purports to depict.
- Note the differences in the crime scene photos at the left.

## 12 Coordinated Series

- Very general pictures are taken first, with more specific ones to follow.  
For example, the first photograph of a gas station armed robbery are long-range pictures of the entire building. These are followed by views of the room in which the robbery took place. The final photos are close-up views of single items of physical evidence located in the room.
- In photographing small items found at the crime scene, a measurement marker should be used. A ruler or an easily recognized small object such as a coin, can be placed next to the evidence in the photograph, so that true size of the evidence becomes apparent.

## 13 Identification data

1. Data to identify the subject of the photograph.
  - 2 The identifying location of the photograph. (State, City, street address, and detailed location of the room within the building that the items are frequently listed.
  - 3 Data to identify the photographer.
  - 4 The case number.
  - 5 The time and date the photograph was taken.
- The data should be recorded in the investigator's field notes .

## 14 Crime Scene Sketch

- After the room has been photographed and searched a crime scene sketch is made.
- A crime scene sketch is a measured drawing of a scene showing the location of all the important items, particularly evidence.

## is [ Three basic methods of locating objects

- The rectangular method - two right angles being drawn from the item being measured to the next permanent item.

- The straight line method - usually used to show the location of the items against a wall.
- Triangulation - commonly used in outdoor crime scenes. Two fixed points, such as corners of a room, or a telephone pole and the corner of a building are selected as points of reference. Measurements are then taken from the evidence object to each point forming a triangle.

## 16 Data for the Sketch

- Name or ID of the investigator
- Detailed location of the scene; state, city, address, and location of the room within the building.
- Date and time sketch was made.
- The evidence listing, showing the location of important physical evidence by letter or number
- The case number
- Compass heading
- "not drawn to scale"

## i? Evidence Collection

- Collection is a two-step procedure.
- First the investigator searches and collects the most obvious larger items.
- Following this initial collection, the smaller items of physical evidence are collected.

## 8 Methods of Collecting Evidence

- All items of solid form should be handled w/ great care. This is due to the possibility of obliterating fingerprints that may be on the object.
- Each officer should wear gloves that are clean light weight material.
- Each piece of evidence should be "bagged and tagged."

## 9 Packaging Evidence

- Evidence is packaged to be sent to a crime lab
- Should be packaged in separate containers, strong sealing material should be used, if evidence is found at the scene in a container it should be left in the container, a letter of transmittal stating what needs to be done, should always be sent registered mail, with a receipt secured.

## 20 Crime Scene Tools

Camera and adequate film  
 Lighting equipment  
 Tape measurers and rulers  
 Gloves  
 Tweezers  
**Scissors**  
 Filter paper, or sterile swabs used to collect liquid evidence  
 Marking instruments  
 Evidence containers of varying types  
 Evidence tape w/ which to seal containers  
 Casting materials for the preparation and taking of molds and casts; also rubber containers for the mix  
 A magnifying device  
 Disposable gloves