

CRIME SCENE DO NOT ENTER

The Crime Scene

Module 2

Part 2: The Crime Scene Investigator and Processing the Crime Scene

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FSC-101

Forensic Science in Criminal Investigation

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Objectives of Crime Scene Investigation

- To reconstruct the Incident.
- To ascertain the sequence of Events.
- To determine the mode of operation.
- To determine the motive.
- To determine what property was stolen.
- To find out all the criminal may have done.
- To recover physical evidence of the crime.

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Crime Scene Investigator-

A specialist whose principal job is to identify, collect, and retrieve physical evidence from the crime scene.

or

A detective or investigating officer who has the collateral duty of collecting and preserving physical evidence.

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The Crime Scene Investigator -

Is personally responsible for his or her mistakes and, therefore, has the right to determine personal actions at the scene.

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The Crime Scene Investigator -

Calm, deliberate adaptable, and flexible.

Basic Qualities:

- *Intuition & “eye” for what needs to be done.*
- *Thorough knowledge of methods for locating & preserving physical evidence.*

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Crime Scene

Processing the Crime Scene

- **Systematic**
- **Legally**
- **Scientifically**

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Processing the Crime Scene

- Formulate a Systematic Plan:

- Geometry of Search
 - Segmented (Quadrant/Zone)
 - Grid Method.
 - Spiral Method.
 - Strip or Line Search.

Note: Search areas must include all probable points of entry and exit used by the criminals.

- Location of Photographs
- Possible source of clues, etc.

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The Crime Scene

2. Recognition of Evidence.

Overview (Preliminary Exam).

Take your time!

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The Crime Scene

3. Record the Scene.

Photography

Sketch

Notes

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Investigation of Crime Scene

Functions*:

1. Overall Photographs.
2. Assessment of Crime Scene
3. Sketching.
4. Notetaking.
5. Forensic Photographs.

**Order must be decided on case by case basis.*

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The Crime Scene

4. Systematic Search for Evidence.

Segmented

Grid Method

Spiral Method

Strip or Line Search

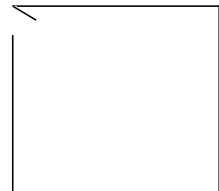
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Examples of Crime Scene Search Patterns



Spiral Search



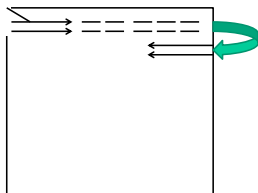
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Examples of Crime Scene Search Patterns



Spiral Search

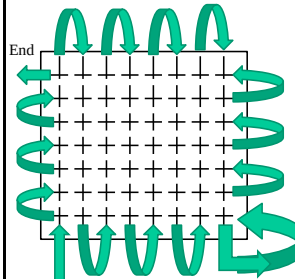


Strip or Line Search

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Examples of Crime Scene Search Patterns

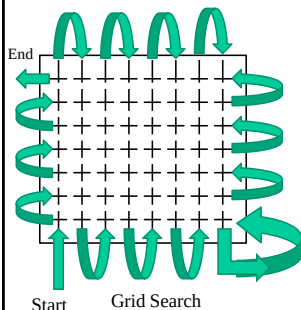


Start Grid Search

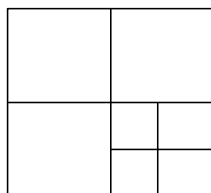
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Examples of Crime Scene Search Patterns



Start Grid Search



Segmented Search
(Quadrant/Zone)

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Crime Scene Investigation

Success is Characterized by:

TEAMWORK

and

Organization

Thoroughness

Caution

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Identification (ID) Officers:

Photograph the crime scene and search for latent fingerprints.

(Experts in fingerprint comparisons.)

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Forensic Surveyor:

A person who produces an accurate pictorial rendition of the crime scene.

i.e. an architectural drawing.

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Specialized Personnel at the Crime Scene:

- Crime Scene Investigator
- ID Officer
- Forensic Surveyor
- Forensic Photographer
- Forensic Scientist (Criminalist)

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Specialized Personnel at the Crime Scene:

- Medical Examiner
- Emergency Medical Personnel
- District Attorney
- Forensic Odontologist
- Forensic Anthropologist

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Specialized Personnel at the Crime Scene:

- Forensic Psychologist
- Forensic Engineer
- Forensic Audio Specialist
- Forensic Toxicologist
- Firearms Specialist

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Crime Scene Search

General Rule:

Evidence and information of a fragile nature should be collected before material that is less likely to be lost or destroyed.

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Photographs:

- Clearly and accurately depict scene.
- Show point of entry.
- Show exit.
- Escape route.
- Properly labeled for ID of point of origin of photograph.

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Purposes of Photographs:

- Refresh memories of witnesses & investigators.
- Relationship of evidence.
- Convey crime scene to jury & court.

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Photographs:

- Location photographs.
- Witness photographs.
- Evidence photographs.
- Close-up photographs.
 - “Naked item”
 - Item with scale (grayscale & measurement)

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- [illegible]

Photography of Unknown Bodies

Always:

1. Full-face.
2. Right profile.

If Necessary:

1. Whole view.
2. Left profile.
3. Detail Pictures.
4. UV Photography

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Photo Log:

- Case Number.
- Date.
- Photographer's name.
- Type of camera, lens, film, etc.
- List of photographs with location taken.

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[illegible]

Purposes of Sketching the Crime Scene:

- Help investigators recall details of scene.
- Permanent record of scene.
- Supplement photographs.
 - Help clarify scene.
- Record of conditions not recorded by other means.

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Crime Scene Sketching Checklist

- Legend information – correct?
- Evidence numbering - consistent in all sketches?
- Adequate notes taken on rough sketch?
- Measurements – accurate?
- Proper proportion maintained?
- Lettering neat?
- Maximum sketch size

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Notes:

- Date & Time crime first reported.
- Type of Crime.
- Location of Crime.
- Brief description of Crime.
- Name of person who ordered the Crime Scene Investigation.

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Notes:

- Names of all personnel at crime scene.
- Names of persons who did what.
- Weather and lighting conditions.
- Description of location of the scene.
- Description of interior & exterior of scene.

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Notes:

- Description of the primary crime scene.
- Location of any evidence and accompanying information.
- Date and time crime scene investigation ended.

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Recovery of Evidence

- Chain of Custody
 - Evidence Log
- Proper packaging and seals.
- Request for Examination
- Proper Documentation
 - Notes/Sketch/Photographs

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