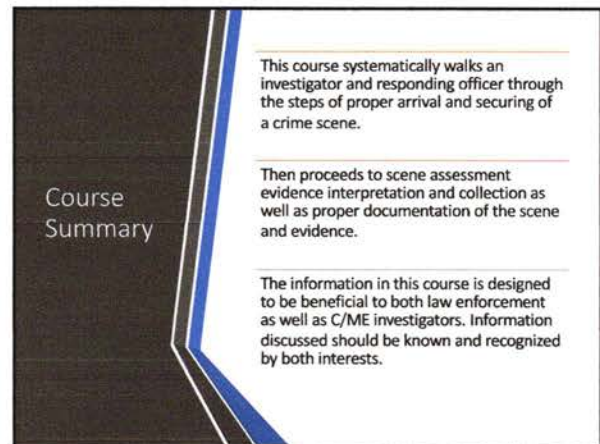
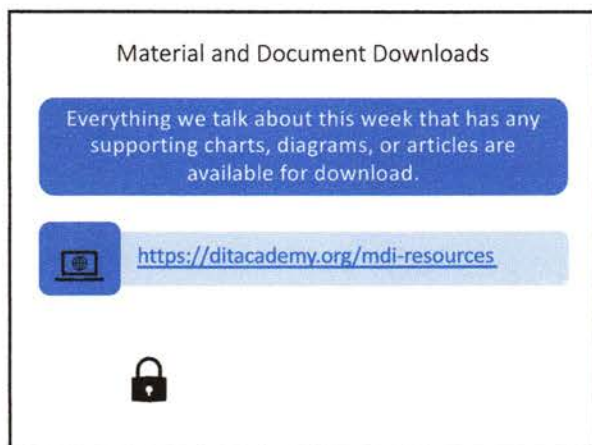


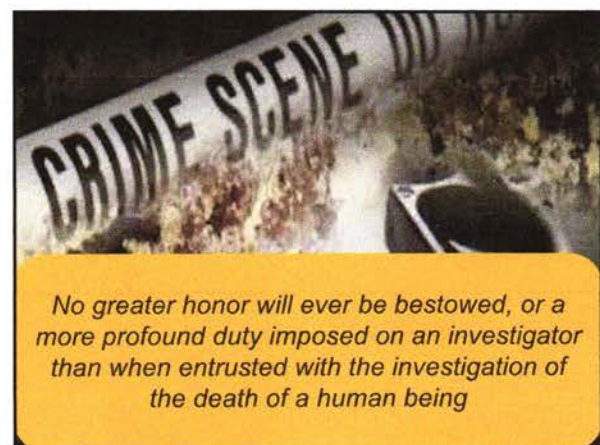
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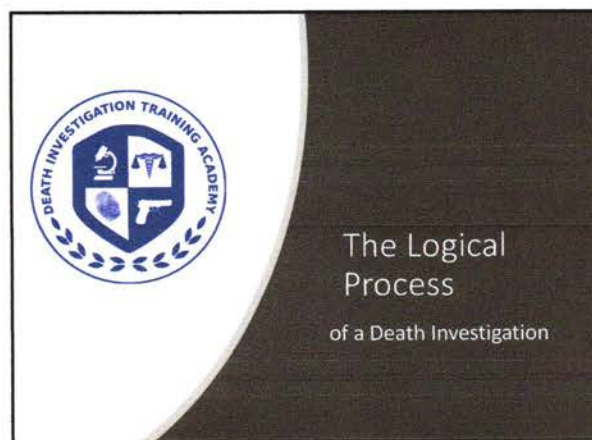
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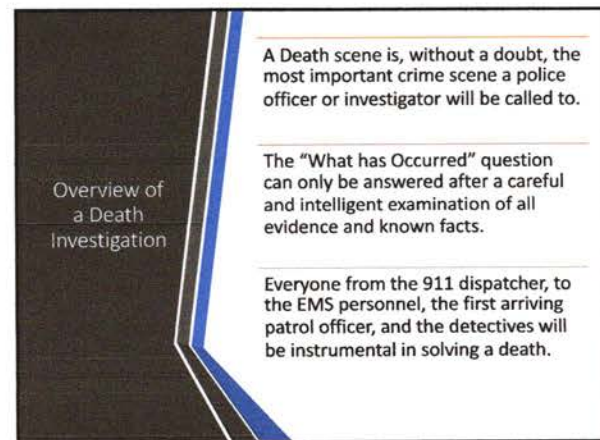
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6

*"You must understand what happened and how it occurred to know the who and the why."*



7


### Three Basic Principles of Starting an Effective Investigation

-  Rapid response to, and the security of, the homicide scene by patrol officers.
-  Anything and everything should be considered evidence. Whether physical or testimonial, it must be preserved and documented.
-  After scene is secured immediate and appropriate notification to investigators must be made.

8




9



### 5 Components to an Effective Investigation

1. Teamwork
2. Documentation
3. Preservation
4. Common Sense
5. Flexibility

10



## victimology

the study of the victims of crime

11

### What is victimology

Victimology is the collection and assessment of any significant information as it pertains to the victim and his or her lifestyle.

It is imperative that investigators know the victim and that they complete a victimology study.

You cannot properly investigate a death without victimology.

12



Victimology

Failing to have a complete picture of the victim will preclude you from developing motives, suspects, and risk factors unique to the victim.

These risk factors are usually regarded as high, moderate, or low and based on lifestyle, living conditions, job skills, neighborhood, or anything specific to the victim.

13

Victimology

This information includes:

personality, employment, education, friends, habits, hobbies, marital status, relationships, dating history, sexuality, reputation, criminal record, drug and/or alcohol use, and physical condition as well as facts about the area they grew up in and if different, the one they resided in at the time of their death.

14

Victimology

Ultimately you need to find out, in detail, who the victim was and what was going on at the time of their death.

The best source of information will be friends, family, employers, and neighbors. Your goal is to get to know the victim even better than they knew themselves.

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Initial Information

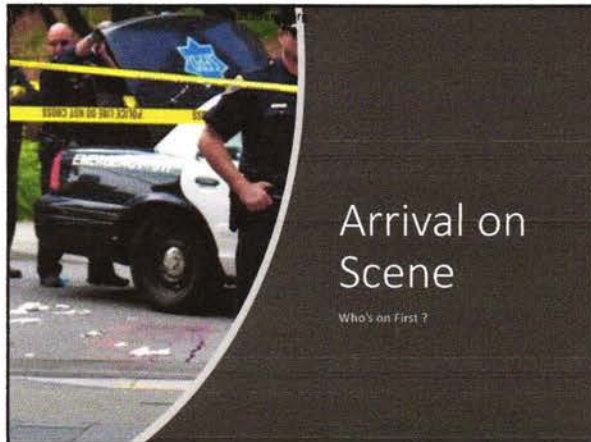
- Clearly understand what you are being sent to
- Is the scene safe
- Who or what agency will be your contact
- Be sure you know best access point/direction
- What Equipment might you need
- Do you need to obtain rarely used equipment
- Clothing – do you need boots, coat, rain gear, etc.
- Will you need extra or special assistance

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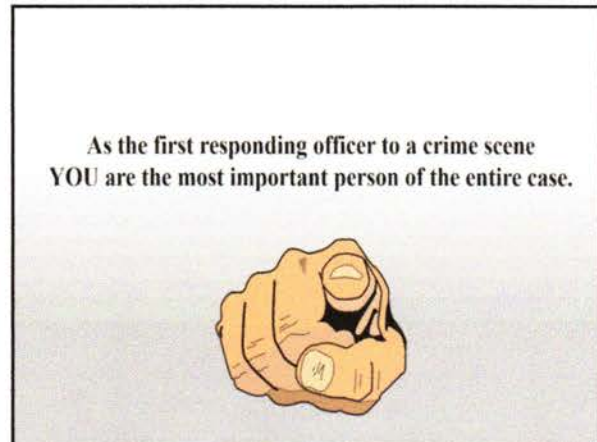
Upon Arrival

1. If Police
  - Do Police stuff – we will cover in next section
2. If Medicolegal Investigator C/ME
  - Park in safe place
  - Check in with person in charge of scene
  - Know scene entry path
  - Start scene assessment and equipment determination

18



19



20

**Upon Arrival**

- Secure Scene
- Check for sign of life (dying declarations)
- If dead - lock down the scene
- Start a scene log for everyone entering and leaving
- Separate witnesses
- Call for investigators or extra help
- Cordon off scene - make it bigger than you think

21

**Upon Arrival**

- Decide on one path - in / out
  - Avoid Shortest or Easiest Path
  - Choose path NOT to use
- What is best path to preserve the scene
- Take some quick overview photos
- Limit people in the scene and the path they take
- Evidence is lost and/or discredited

22

**By-standers and Press**

Have an area for the public and press. The bigger the scene profile the more "extras" you will have.

Shield scene and body from photographs

Consideration for the dead. Evidence only suspect may know. Information getting out to early

23

**Multi-Level Containment**

- ✓ Two perimeters provide three areas of access
- ✓ This keep support police out of actual scene, and others at a safe distance
- ✓ Provides working area, evidence holding area, and staging point for equipment

24



**CRIME SCENE DO NOT ENTER**

**Indoor Crime Scene**

1. Primary area defined by the physical size of the room.
2. Secondary area is all avenues leading from the room.

**Outdoor Crime Scene**

1. Primary area where crime occurred.
2. Secondary area is all avenues leading from the primary area.

**Motor Vehicle Crime Scene**

1. Primary area is the vehicle.
2. Secondary area is all avenues leading from the vehicle.

Each scene will have an inner and outer perimeter.

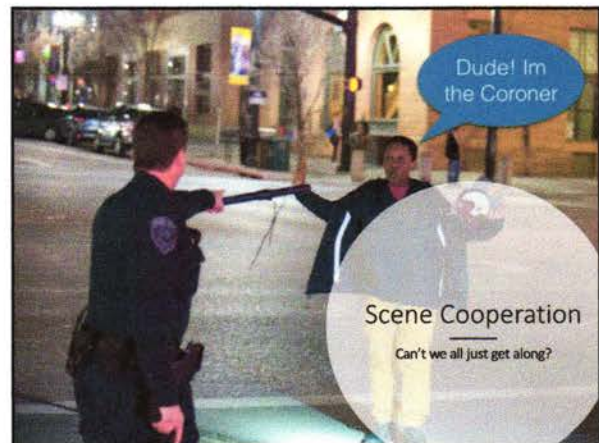
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**Scene Cooperation**



- Fire Departments  
*If its on fire they are in charge!*
- EMS
- Law Enforcement
- Coroners

29

**Scene Cooperation**

As with any crime scene, cooperation is key among differing agencies. But with a death scene this cooperation is ever more important and ever more strained.

Due to the increased severity of the scene, the spotlight, and egos, these scenes can become a disaster quickly.

30

## Scene Cooperation

### Fire Departments

During an active fire- the fire command, in most cases, is and should be in control of the scene until safety can be assured for everyone.

### Law Enforcement should

Secure the scene  
Identify and secure witness information  
Preserve evidence as possible

### EMS

Life saving activity only

31

## Scene Cooperation

### Other Law Enforcement Agencies

The scene of a death will bring multiple agencies together in one location pretty fast. Sometimes it is necessary, and sometimes it is not. The agency of jurisdiction has and continues to have precedence until otherwise determined.

These scene need to be secured and EVERYONE not actively involved in the investigation needs to stay outside the barricade line.

It is best to have predetermined guidelines as to who will handle these cases. Example: Small town might always turn scene over to county or county may turn to state. But not agency can randomly just take over.

32

## Scene Cooperation

### Coroners / Medical Examiner

The best way to understand this is: The C/ME is the Medicolegal Investigator and is in charge of the body and the determination and cause of death. Law Enforcement is in charge of the scene. Evidence can be interpreted as belonging to both.

However, neither agency can properly, nor legally, complete the investigation according to the law without mutual respect and cooperation of a scene

33

## Scene Assessment

What do you see – Don't see

34

## Scene Assessment



Likely one of the most important parts of any investigation. This step is missed too often by police and medicolegal investigators.



Slow Down



You only get one chance at the first chance. Everything after this point is a new scene with new contamination.



Do not be intimidated. You are there to do your job! Not to let someone else get home for dinner....

35




Stop – Look – Listen

1. What is the apparent or most likely cause of death?
2. Is what you're being told match what you are seeing?

36



Stop – Look –  
Listen



Stop for a moment and observe the scene
 

- stop everyone from being in the scene
- what is right in the scene
- what is wrong in the scene
- what is your “gut” telling you
- Search with a flashlight

37

Do NOT rush these scene

There is no reason to rush a death scene. Investigators get charged up and the high energy causes a “rushing” attitude.

These should take a long time

You only get one chance at the first chance. Once you leave, or there is a break in the investigation, it can muddy up your case in court.

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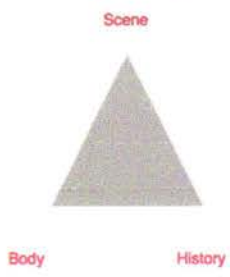
Investigative Triangle

Must consider all angles

No-one side is independent

If not considered as a whole scenes will be ruled incorrectly and suspects can go free or get charged wrongly

Investigative Triangle



39

Scene Questions to Start Answering

Signs of struggle?

overturned furniture

disrupted scene

defense wounds

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Scene Questions to Start Answering

Does it appear that another scene location may exist?

is this a dump site

does the area match the wounds

does it look wrong

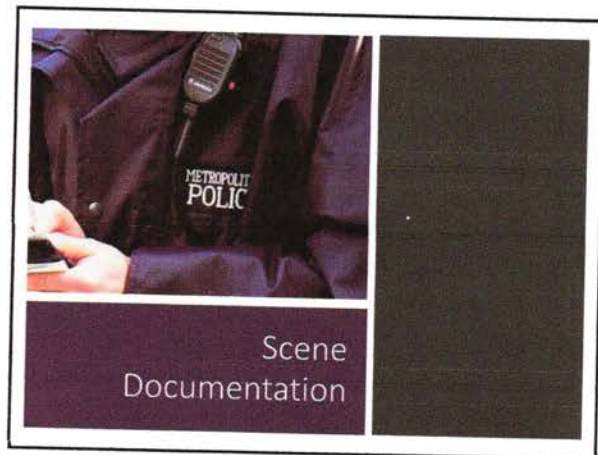
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Scene Alterations

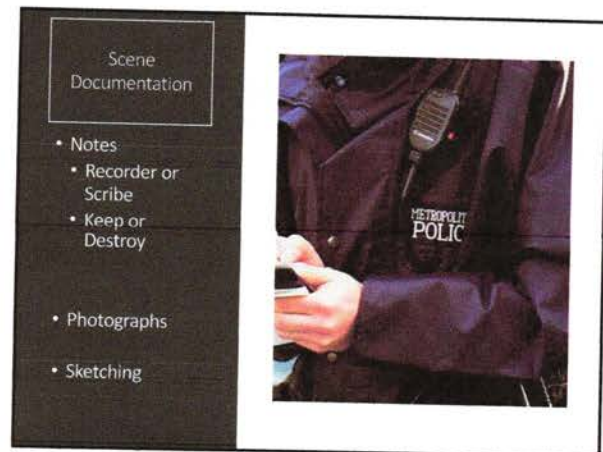
Look for signs of an altered scene

- What doesn't look right – trust your gut
- Are clothes or shoes on wrong
- Ligature marks but no ligature
- Has body been moved – lividity and rigor
- Has face been wiped off
- Gaps in witness statement about event or discovery

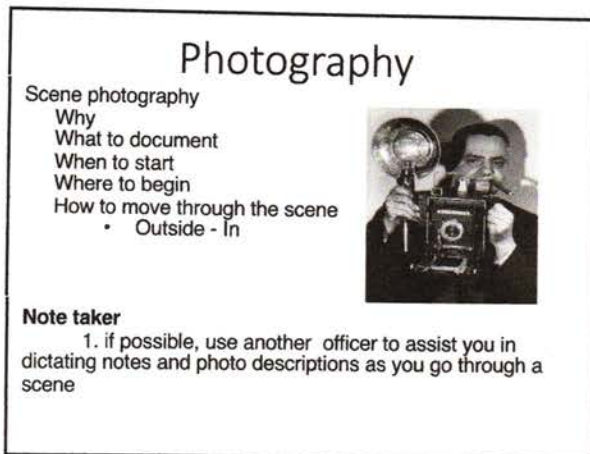
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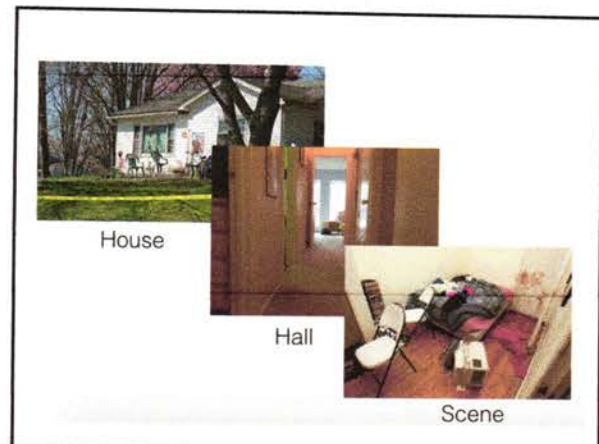
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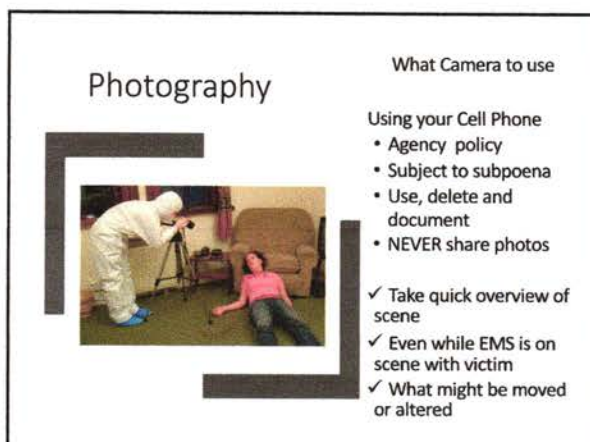
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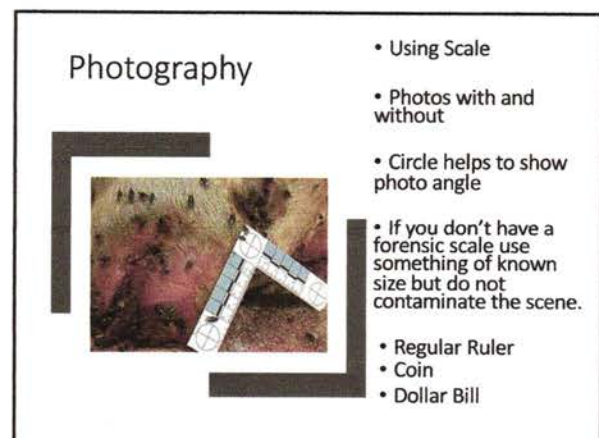
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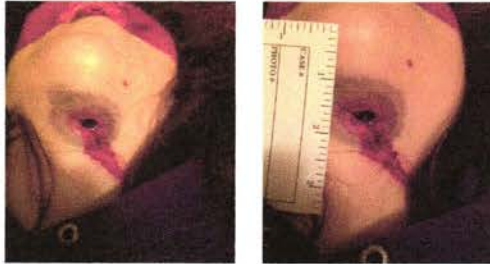
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Without Scale then With Scale



49

Without Scale then With Scale



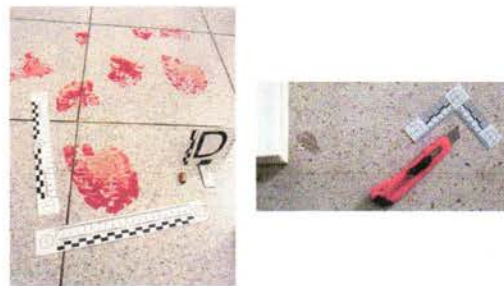
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Without Scale then With Scale



51

With Scale

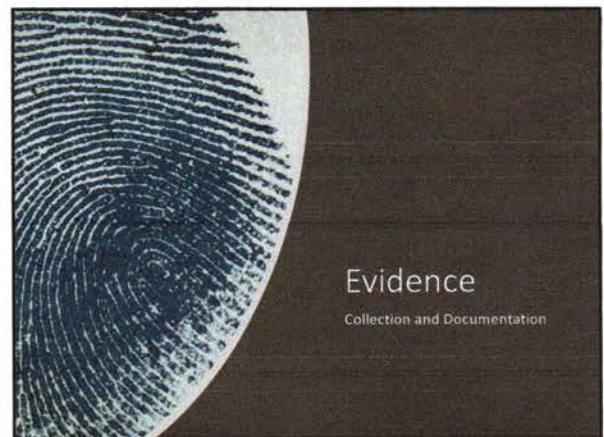


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Video ?

- When should you video
- What purpose is a video
- How to video
- Start – Stop video
- Avoid walking around or moving to much or fast
- Audio on or off
- Are you showing the scene or narrating the scene

53



54

## Evidence Collection

Evidence collection in and around a death scene is conducted in much the same manner as any crime scene. We are going to look at some scene search methods, evidence collection techniques, and scene interpretation

What do you see?



55

If you don't  
look you will  
never see



56

## Personal Property v. Evidence

Personal Property



Is property on or near the body that belongs to the body (or decedent) and can be returned to next-of-kin.



Evidence

Is any material that may contribute to the cause and manner of death and is considered important in supporting facts of the case.

What is determined evidence depends on the type and manner of death being investigated.

57

Collecting  
Evidence

Photograph - EVERYTHING FIRST!

Be sure that you have photographed and documented in your notes, anything you might be taking as evidence. Its placement will become critical in your final report.

If the items had been moved by police, EMS, or family document the place you found it and note the move is you know it

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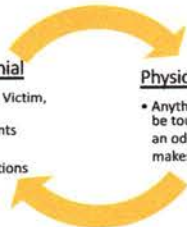
Crime Scene  
Evidence

Testimonial

- Witness, Victim, Suspect Statements
- Visual Observations

Physical

- Anything that can be touched, has an odor, or makes a sound



59

**Physical Evidence Example**

- Concrete Block
- Blood Spatter

**Testimonial Evidence Example**

- Body position
- Blood flow



60



### ROLE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE

- Information on Corpus Delicti
  - *Proof a crime was committed*
- Information on Modus Operandi
  - *A characteristic way of committing the crime*



61

### ROLE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE

- Linking a person to the crime
  - *Fingerprints, DNA, trace, footwear, etc.*
- Linking a suspect to the victim
  - *Trace, blood patterns, fingerprints, etc.*



62

### ROLE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE

- Disproving or supporting witness testimony
  - *Is it consistent with the crime?*
- Identification of the suspect
  - *Positive proof*



63

### ROLE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE

- Providing investigative leads
  - *The analysis of the evidence can provide proof*
- Demonstrative evidence for court
  - *Show and tell for court*



64

### Collecting Evidence

The key factors in collecting evidence are these :

Chain of Custody

Proper packaging – don't let things spoil (any further)

Proper documentation in your report.

### Chain of Custody

Every item secured from the scene, whether it is personal property or evidence to be processed – must be accounted for at every moment while in the custody of the investigative agency. Until such time that it is returned to family or destroyed following court order when the evidence is no longer needed.

Use a property log and ensure that every person handling or receiving the item(s) signs for it and can testify as to its integrity or secured storage.

65

66

### Identifying Evidence

The most important piece of evidence at any death is:

The BODY

67

## Evidence Collection

Every item and material of evidence collected; must be identified, collect, and stored using proper methods. Different evidence has different containers and why it is important to store and transport correctly. Not doing so can cause evidence to become contaminated, chain of custody to be broken, or samples to be degraded beyond use.

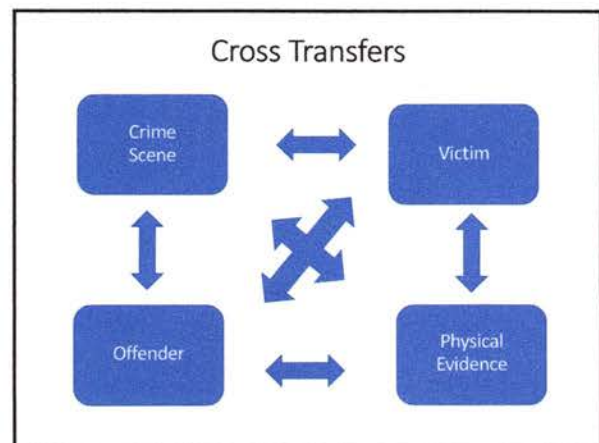
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### Locard Exchange Principle

"Every contact leaves a trace."

This includes YOU !

69



70

### Using PPE or Protective Clothing

- Bio-Hazard
- Exchange Principal
- Gloves and Shoe Coverings

71

## Evidence Triangle

The evidence triangle, through physical evidence, establishes a link between the various facets of the **crime scene, the victim, and the suspect.** All of these components must be connected for a successful resolution of the case.

*An Extension to the Investigative Triangle*

72



## Purpose of Evidence



**Identification** has, as its purpose, the determination of the physical or chemical identity of a substance with at least near absolute certainty as existing analytical techniques will permit.



**Comparison** is an analysis that subject's specimen (unknown) and a control specimen (known) to the same tests and examinations for the ultimate purpose of determining whether or not they have a common origin. Control and unknown specimens.

73

## Specialists

It is sometimes necessary to bring in expertise from outside an agency. The field of forensic science is so broad today no agency will have every form of specialty service available from among its ranks.

### Examples of specialty assistance to be considered:

Medical Examiner/Coroner  
Odontologist  
Anthropologist  
Entomologist  
Blood Pattern Analyst  
Computer Investigative Specialist  
Geologist  
Surveyor  
Engineer  
Bomb Technician  
Crime Laboratory Examiner

74

## Collection and Packaging

- Packaging Wet & Dry
- Firearms, knives, needles
- Bullets and Shell casings
- Fingerprint and Footprint dusting
- Dirt & Ash
- Clothing Blood and Dry
- Blood and Body fluids
- Walls and Furniture

75

## Types of Packing Material

- Bags paper or plastic
- Cans
- Tubes
- Boxes
- Special consideration for computer and parts

76



## Scene Search

If you don't find it,  
you can't use it

77

## Scene Search

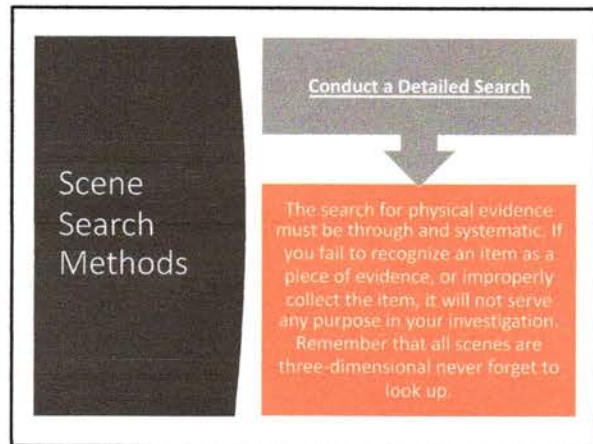


With out proper scene search methods evidence can be missed and/or miss identified.

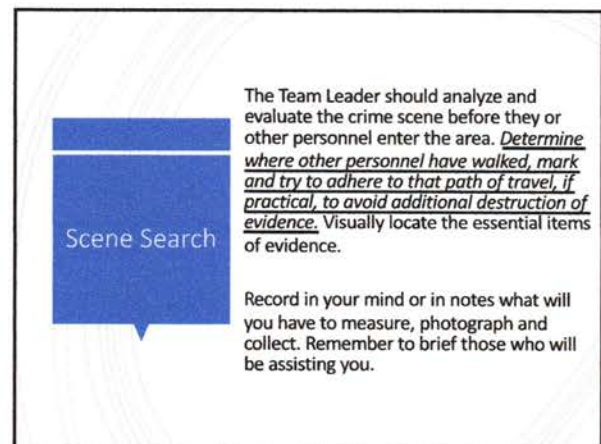


Several methods exist but some are more common than others.

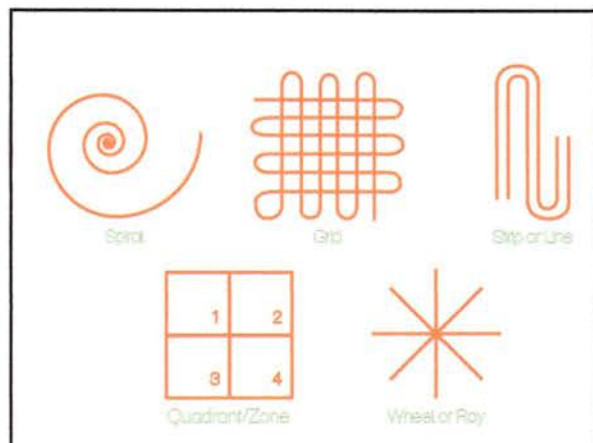
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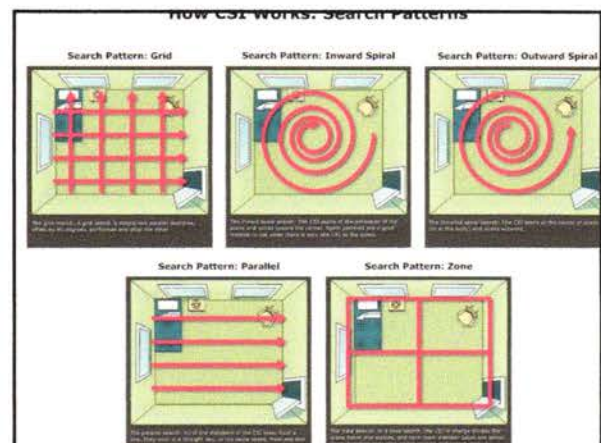
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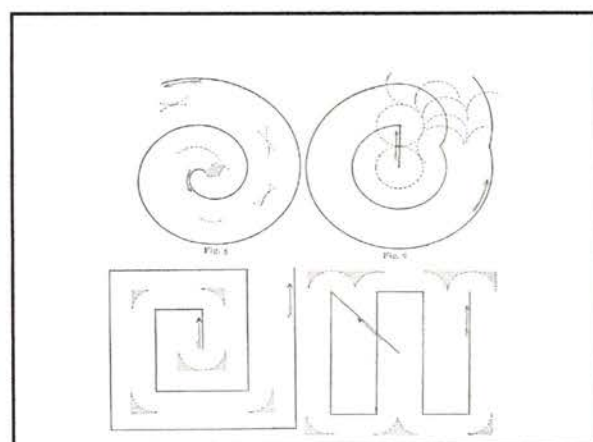
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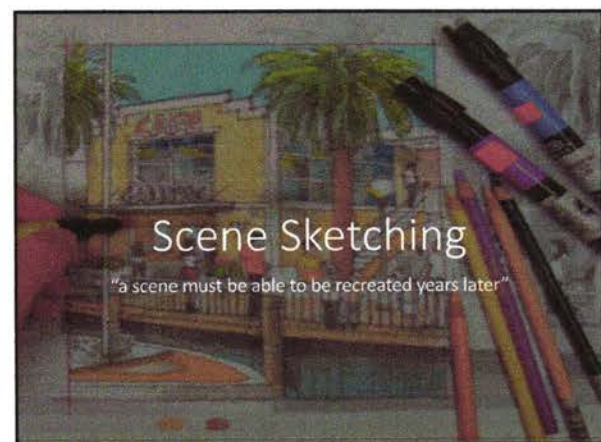
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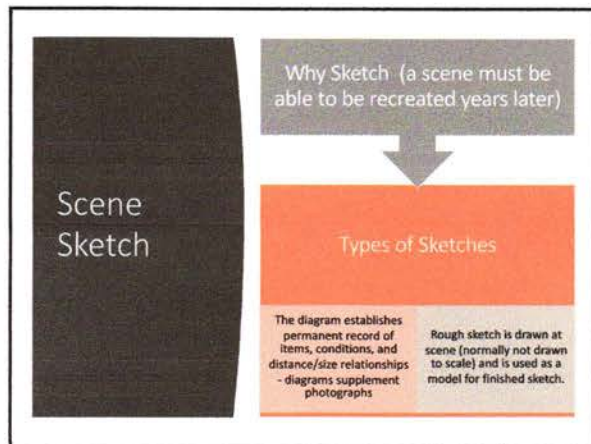


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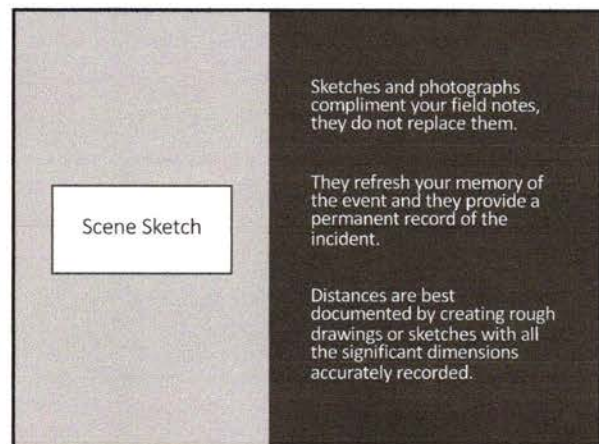


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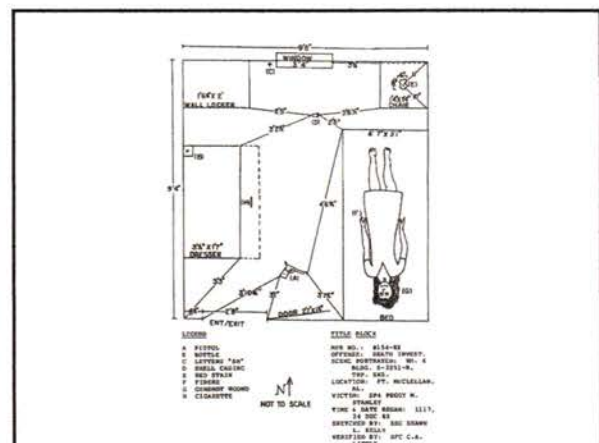


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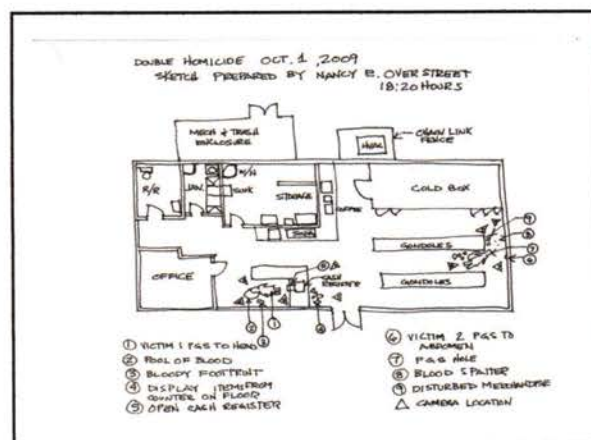
- Typical information on rough sketch:

- Specific location
- Date
- Time
- Case identifier
- Preparer
- Weather conditions
- Lighting conditions
- Scale or scale disclaimer
- Compass orientation
- Evidence
- Measurements
- Key or legend

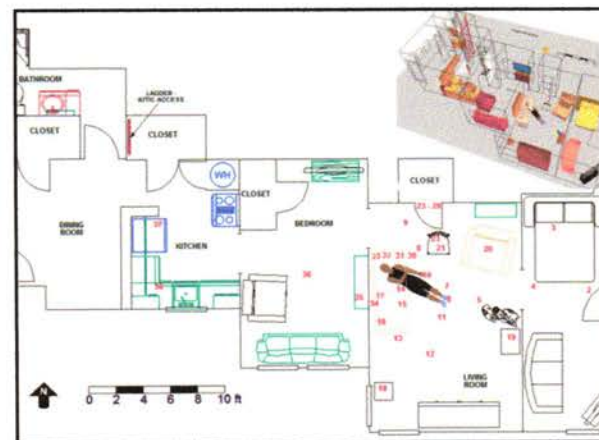
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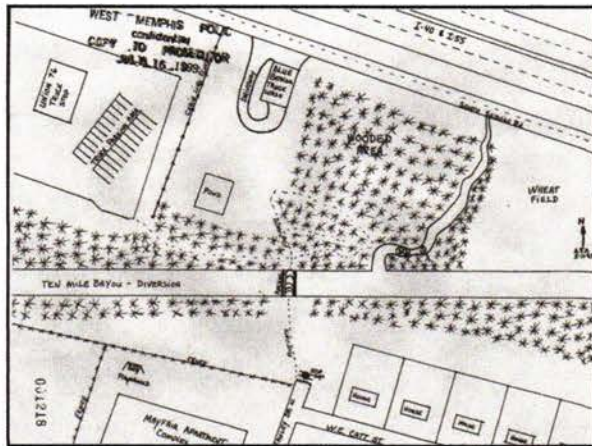
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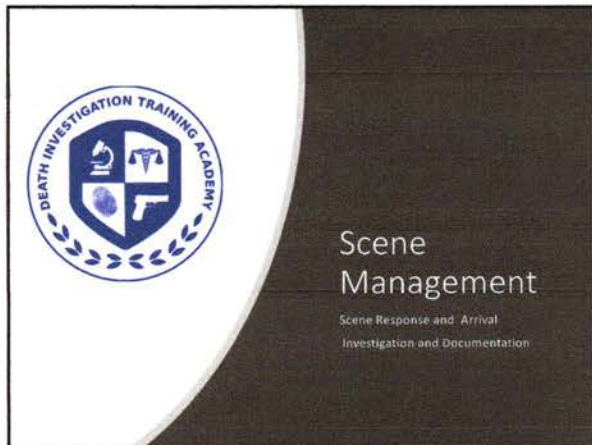
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