Forensic Sciences

First Stage

First semester

5th Lecture

Crime Scene & Crime Scene Management

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Crime Scene

A crime scene is the place where a crime happened, or part of it. This includes any area, object, or thing connected to the crime.

Importance of the Crime Scene:

1. **Source of Evidence:** It's where crime evidence is left, whether physical, digital, biological, or other types.
2. **Reconstructing the Scene:** Analyzing evidence helps us understand the order of events and how the crime happened.
3. **Identifying the Perpetrator:** Often, we can identify the criminal or suspect through crime scene evidence.
4. **Identifying the Victim:** Sometimes, we can identify the victim using evidence from the scene.
5. **Criminal Justice:** The crime scene is the base for the evidence used in court to achieve justice.

Types of Crime Scenes:

Crime Scenes Classified by Location:

1. **Indoor Crime Scene:** Like houses, offices, and shops.
2. **Outdoor Crime Scene:** Like streets, parks, forests, and open areas



Outdoor crime scene



Indoor crime scene

Classifying Crime Scenes by Nature:

1. **Fixed Crime Scene:** Cannot be moved, like a building or a wall.
2. **Mobile Crime Scene:** Can be moved, like a car, bicycle, or boat.

Classifying Crime Scenes by Crime Type:

1. Homicide Crime Scene
2. Robbery Crime Scene
3. Fraud Crime Scene

The Impact of Crime Scene Types on Evidence Collection: The type of crime scene affects what evidence you expect to find and how you handle the scene. For example, a homicide scene will likely have different types of evidence (blood, weapons) and require a different approach than a fraud scene (documents, financial records).



Fraud Crime Scene



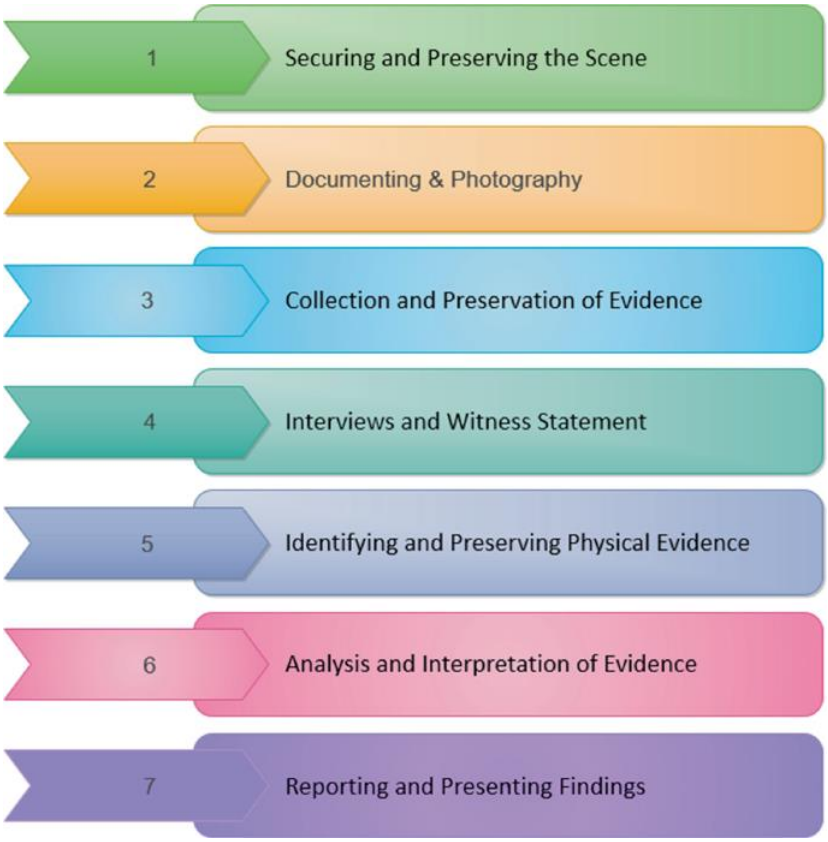
Robbery Crime Scene



Homicide Crime Scene

Basic Principles in Handling a Crime Scene:

1. **Preserve the Integrity of the Crime Scene:** Don't touch or move anything unless absolutely necessary. Avoid disturbing the evidence.
2. **Define and Secure the Crime Scene:** Clearly mark and protect the area to prevent tampering or contamination.
3. **Document Everything:** Take photos and videos, create sketches, and write detailed notes.
4. **Maintain Chain of Custody:** Keep a record of everyone who handles the evidence and when.
5. **Professional and Ethical Conduct:** Maintaining professional conduct and ethical standards at the crime scene is crucial.



Equipment for Forensic Experts and Field Workers:

Proper equipment is the first line of defense in protecting experts and preserving evidence at a crime scene.

Experts' Clothing:

1. **Protective Suit (Tyvek Suit):** A non-porous suit covering the entire body. It protects against contaminants and hazardous materials.
2. **Gloves (Nitrile Gloves):** Standard disposable nitrile gloves. They protect hands and prevent contamination.
3. **Face Protection (Mask):** Covers the mouth and nose to protect the respiratory system from airborne contaminants. Different types exist, including surgical masks and N95 masks.
4. **Shoe Covers:** Plastic or non-woven covers to prevent tracking and the transfer of contaminants from shoes.
5. **Safety Glasses:** Protect the eyes from splashes and chemical materials.

The main goal of all this equipment is not only to protect the forensic expert but also to prevent the crime scene from being contaminated by the expert themselves – for example, preventing the expert's hair from falling, or contaminants being transferred from their clothes or shoes.



Tools for Experts:

1. **Lighting Tools (Flashlights):** Various types, including handheld and headlamps. Importance: Providing adequate lighting for crime scene examination.
2. **Recording Tools (Cameras, Voice Recorder):** Various types including photographic cameras, video cameras, and voice recorders. Importance: Documenting the crime scene with photos, videos, and audio.
3. **Measuring Tools:** Various types, including rulers and measuring tapes. Importance: Measuring distances and dimensions at the crime scene.
4. **Evidence Collection Tools:** Various types, including tweezers, swabs, bags, and containers. Importance: Collecting and properly preserving evidence.
5. **Other Tools:** First-aid kit, drawing supplies (pens, rulers, paper), and adhesive materials for securing evidence.





Entering and Exiting a Crime Scene:

Essential Steps for Entry:

- Properly put on protective clothing and equipment.
- Enter cautiously, avoiding damage to any evidence.
- Determine a path to follow to avoid contaminating the crime scene.

Essential Steps for Exit:

- Properly remove protective clothing and equipment.
- Dispose of used clothing and equipment safely.
- Clean and sanitize used tools.

Importance of Adhering to Procedures: Strictly following these procedures is crucial to protect both the investigators and the evidence.