DEFINITION OF CRIME SCENE

A **crime scene** is a location where a [crime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime) took [place](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene) (or another location where evidence of the crime may be found), and comprises the area from which most of the [physical evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_identification) is retrieved by [law enforcement personnel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police), [crime scene investigators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene_investigator) (CSIs) or in rare circumstanc smallermediumlarger

**Definition of Crime scene investigation**

**Crime scene investigation:** The use of physical evidence at the scene of the crime and the use of deductive and inductive reasoning to gain knowledge of the events surrounding the crime. Crime scene investigation is multidisciplinary and involves a systematic search of the crime scene; meticulous observation and documentation of the scene; photography and sketching of the scene; the identification, processing and collection of physical evidence such as fingerprints, footwear impressions, hair, fibers, biological fluids, and materials for DNA analysis; and. perhaps most important, the application of careful reasoning to the facts.

**Definition of crime scene investigator**

**Definition:**A crime scene investigator collects and analyzes physical evidence of crimes.

See [**Forensic Scientist: Career Information**](http://careerplanning.about.com/cs/occupations/p/forensic_tech.htm) for information about becoming a crime scene investigator.

**Also Known As:**forensic scientist

**Examples:**

The crime scene investigator collected tissue samples from the street where the man was shot.

## Types of Crime Scene

There are three types of crime scene:

**1. The Outdoor Crime Scene**

The outdoor crime scene is the most vulnerable to loss, contamination, and deleterious [change](http://www.all-about-forensic-science.com/types-of-crime-scene.html) of physical evidence in a relatively short period of time. Individuals with access to the scene can potentially alter, destroy or contaminate evidence.

The risk is greatest when crime scene investigators fail to secure the crime scene properly. Destruction or deterioration of evidence due to environmental conditions such as heat, cold, rain, snow and wind are problems associated with outdoor scenes. Evidence that cannot be protected [under](http://www.all-about-forensic-science.com/types-of-crime-scene.html) these conditions should be collected expeditiously without compromising its integrity. Investigators who encounter a combination of an indoor and outdoor scene should give priority to processing the outdoor component.

Nighttime outdoor crime scenes are particularly problematic. Regardless of the quality of the light source used to illuminate the scenes, the lack of sunlight can lead to investigators inadvertantly missing or destroying evidence. Whenever possible, outdoor crime scenes should be held and secured until daylight for processing.

**2. The Indoor Types of Crime Scene**

Evidence at an indoor scene is generally less susceptible to loss, contamination and deleterious change. Indoor crime scenes are usually easier to secure and protect, and securing a scene can be as simple as closing a door. The methods used by forensic laboratories have evolved so that very small amounts of biological material can produce a usable DNA profile. This, however, means that the potential for detecting DNA traces deposited by contamination at crime scenes becomes a factor.

Contamination of any crime scene can easily occur if proper precautions, such as limiting the number of [people](http://www.all-about-forensic-science.com/types-of-crime-scene.html) inside the scene, are not taken. For example, first responders, emergency medical personnel, patrol supervisors, crime scene investigators, and medical examiners are all potential sources of contamination and/or loss of evidence.

**3. The Conveyance Crime Scene**

Conveyance is defined as "something that serves as a means of transportation." Types of crimes committed in conveyances include, but are not limited to:

 Vehicle Burglary

 Grand Theft

 Car Jacking

 Sexual Battery

 Homicide

It is important that the crime scene investigator recognize that physical evidence recovered from these scenes may extend well beyond the conveyance itself. The flight path of the perpetrator may reveal evidence important to the investigation. For example, impression evidence, such as shoe or footprints in soil, may be found leading away from the scene, and property removed from the conveyance may be deposited or dropped as the perpetrator flees the scene.

Cigarette butts are sometimes found in and around the conveyance. The nature of the crime may give the investigator an idea of the [type](http://www.all-about-forensic-science.com/types-of-crime-scene.html) of evidence present. To protect the scene against inclement weather and other factors that may contribute to evidence loss and/or destruction, a conveyance such as a vehicle may be transported to the laboratory after proper documentation has been completed.

# Types of Crime Scenes

##### [**Home**](http://projects.nfstc.org/property_crimes/index.htm)**>**[**2. Crime Scenes**](http://projects.nfstc.org/property_crimes/module02/pro_m02.htm)**> Types of Crime Scenes**

There are three types of crime scenes:

* Outdoor.
* Indoor.
* Conveyance.

Be aware that the flight path of the perpetrator may reveal evidence [**important**](http://projects.nfstc.org/property_crimes/module02/pro_m02_t01.htm) to the investigation. Property removed from the scene or conveyance may be deposited or dropped as the perpetrator flees the scene. Cigarette butts, beverage containers or any evidence capable of the transfer of biological evidence are sometimes found in and around the scene

## Significance/reconstruction of crime scene

# Crime reconstruction

From Wikipedia, the [free](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) encyclopedia

**Crime reconstruction** or **crime scene reconstruction** is the forensic science discipline in which one gains "explicit knowledge of the series of events that surround the commission of a crime using deductive and inductive reasoning, physical evidence, scientific methods, and their interrelationships."[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-0) Gardner and Bevel explain that crime scene reconstruction "involves evaluating the context of a scene and the physical evidence found there in an effort to identify what occurred and in what [order](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) it occurred."[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-1) Chisum and Turvey explain that "[h]olistic crime reconstruction is the development of actions and circumstances based on the [system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) of evidence discovered and examined in relation to a particular crime. In this philosophy, all elements of evidence that come to light in a given case are treated as interdependent; the significance of each piece, each action, and each event falls and rises on the backs of the others."[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-2)

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| Contents  [[hide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction)] * [1 Methods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#Methods)
* [2 Expertise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#Expertise)
* [3 Professional Associations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#Professional_Associations)
* [4 Certification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#Certification)
* [5 See also](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#See_also)
* [6 References](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#References)
* [7 External links](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#External_links)
 |

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_reconstruction&action=edit&section=1)]Methods

Crime scene reconstruction has been described as putting together a jigsaw puzzle but doing so without access to the box top; the analyst does not know what the picture is supposed to look like. Furthermore, not all of the pieces are likely to be present, so there will be holes in the picture. However, if enough pieces of a puzzle are assembled in the correct order, the picture may become [clear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) enough that the viewer is able to recognize the image and answer critical questions about it.

In forensic science, there are three areas of importance in finding the answers and determining the components of a crime scene: (1) specific incident reconstruction, (2) event reconstruction, and (3) [physical evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_evidence) reconstruction. Specific incident reconstruction deals with [road traffic accidents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Road_traffic_accident), [bombings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing), [homicides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homicide), and accidents of any severity. Event reconstruction looks at connections between evidence, sequence of events, and identity of those involved. Physical evidence reconstruction focuses on such items as [firearms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firearms), [blood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood) traces, [glass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass) fragments, and any other objects that can be stripped for [DNA analysis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA_analysis).

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_reconstruction&action=edit&section=2)]Expertise

To be competent as a crime scene reconstructionist, one must possess the requisite technical knowledge and have a thorough understanding of forensic investigations. There are no set educational requirements; however, many practicing crime scene reconstructionists possess undergraduate or graduate degrees in forensic science, chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, or criminal justice. In addition, a crime scene reconstructionist must have considerable experience in the investigation and analysis of [crime scenes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scenes) and [physical evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_evidence). Most crime scene reconstructionists have gained such experience either as a [crime scene investigator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene_investigator), [homicide investigator](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Homicide_investigator&action=edit&redlink=1), or [medicolegal death investigator](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Medicolegal_death_investigator&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Medicolegal death investigator (page does not exist)).

Arguably, a crime scene reconstructionist is a forensic scientist who specializes in interpreting and assembling evidence in a coherent manner. Chisum and Turvey explain that to perform crime reconstruction one need not "be an expert in all forensic disciplines" but "must become an expert in only one: *the interpretation of the evidence in context*."[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-3) The crime scene reconstructionist may not be the person who carries out laboratory analysis of evidence such as developing [DNA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA) profiles or performing [firearms and toolmark analysis](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Firearms_and_toolmark_analysis&action=edit&redlink=1); however, the competent crime scene reconstructionist must [understand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) the meaning of each various piece of evidence and how it fits within the overall context of the scene. In this way, the crime scene reconstructionist is able to assemble the necessary puzzle pieces to make the picture visible.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_reconstruction&action=edit&section=3)]Professional Associations

The [Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Association_for_Crime_Scene_Reconstruction&action=edit&redlink=1) was formed in 1991 by a group of crime scene professionals who "saw a need for an organization that would encompass an understanding of the whole crime scene and the necessity of reconstructing that scene in order to better understand the elements of the crime and to recognize and preserve evidence."[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-4) The association publishes a peer-reviewed journal and holds an annual conference in which members gain information about the latest techniques and technologies used in crime scene reconstruction and share case examples. Many crime scene reconstructionists are also members of the [International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Association_of_Bloodstain_Pattern_Analysts), the [American Academy of Forensic Sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Academy_of_Forensic_Sciences), and the[International Association for Identification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Association_for_Identification) or one of its state chapters.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_reconstruction&action=edit&section=4)]Certification

The [International Association for Identification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Association_for_Identification) (IAI) offers the only nationally-recognized Certified Crime Scene Reconstructionist program in the United States. To be eligible for certification, applicants must have a minimum of five years experience in the crime scene reconstruction field; must have completed a minimum of 120 hours of related professional training including coursework in bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting incident reconstruction, and other related areas; and, must meet other qualifications such as being published in a professional journal, presenting to a professional association, or being an active instructor in the field. Once approved by the board, applicants must pass a 300-question multiple choice examination and a series of practical questions involving actual analysis of crime scene evidence as presented in photographs.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-5) Certification is valid for five years. The IAI maintains a roster of certified crime scene reconstructionists on the organization's website.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction#cite_note-6)

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_reconstruction&action=edit&section=5)]See also

* [Crime scene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene)
* [Crime scene photography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene_photography)
* [Trace evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trace_evidence)

# What Are the Biggest Problems Crime Scene Technicians Encounter?

By Quentin Shires, eHow Contributor

Crime scene technicians often experience several frustrations when arriving on a scene.

*The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that in 2008, there were an estimated 1.3 million violent crimes in the United States. Technicians that*[*work*](http://www.ehow.com/list_6774498_biggest-crime-scene-technicians-encounter_.html)*at crime scenes collect forensic evidence to help police investigators deduce the events of a crime. Evidence that is collected can also be used to confirm that a particular suspect was involved. A crime scene technician's work is often methodical and must be completed in specific steps. Technicians have reported a number of problems they encounter when arriving at a crime scene that make their job more difficult.*

### Other People Are Reading

* [The Starting Salary for a Crime Scene Technician](http://www.ehow.com/info_8116571_starting-salary-crime-scene-technician.html)
* [Examples of Police Reports](http://www.ehow.com/about_5372802_examples-police-reports.html)
* [Print this article](http://www.ehow.com/print/list_6774498_biggest-crime-scene-technicians-encounter_.html)

## Curious Onlookers

* + Curious onlookers can cause major problems for crime scene technicians. These spectators can leave items at the scene of a crime that can interfere with a technician's work. Onlookers can include eyewitnesses, other police officers, and the general public. At some scenes, curious onlookers can become unmanageable and force police and crime scene technicians to leave the scene [before](http://www.ehow.com/list_6774498_biggest-crime-scene-technicians-encounter_.html) they have recorded and obtained all of the evidence. Popular areas require greater police presence to control the perimeter of the crime scene and allow the technicians to complete their job efficiently and safely.

## Contamination

* + Crime scenes are extremely fragile. Even the presence of police investigators puts evidence in jeopardy of being tainted or ruined. Fingerprints and other evidential items can be smeared and destroyed by careless investigators and other technicians. A minimal number of people should be allowed at the scene until the technicians have completed all routine inspections. Crime scene technicians recommend that a log be kept at all scenes to record each investigator's presence, activities, and fingerprints so they will not be confused with other evidence.
	+ [**Sponsored Links**](http://www.google.com/url?ct=abg&q=https://www.google.com/adsense/support/bin/request.py%3Fcontact%3Dabg_afc%26url%3Dhttp://www.ehow.com/list_6774498_biggest-crime-scene-technicians-encounter_.html%26gl%3DIN%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dca-ehow_300x250%26hideleadgen%3D1%26ai0%3DC0dCEGFZ5UI7TKqbJigfC5ICoDMKY7LkCwuPZ2irAjbcBEAEgqYmtBlDJmovDBmDlwuSDpA6gAZ741eIDyAEBqQKLHxpHN0pUPqgDAaoEjAFP0Hd1Z7JLAM37xxgCiaJM3mPyaDbRzzkfiGQeKW95xtxpN8rTe5Aqa1EA-vA-23LdoZkB7x48GCfwnPVcdpayyZagmvUtuMfRwQ6XXzq_LXpJlA3czaJ78fDsSaRL_adlYL08VPSSQZClS71NZ4Mn6XV_P36Dlad4B4hbWdDbydjgYNI3K95XAoPhc4gGAQ&usg=AFQjCNGu8tokPmY3rIi5xXuLhgaoX2NG1A)
		- [Online Spoken English](http://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=C0dCEGFZ5UI7TKqbJigfC5ICoDMKY7LkCwuPZ2irAjbcBEAEgqYmtBlDJmovDBmDlwuSDpA6gAZ741eIDyAEBqQKLHxpHN0pUPqgDAaoEjAFP0Hd1Z7JLAM37xxgCiaJM3mPyaDbRzzkfiGQeKW95xtxpN8rTe5Aqa1EA-vA-23LdoZkB7x48GCfwnPVcdpayyZagmvUtuMfRwQ6XXzq_LXpJlA3czaJ78fDsSaRL_adlYL08VPSSQZClS71NZ4Mn6XV_P36Dlad4B4hbWdDbydjgYNI3K95XAoPhc4gGAQ&num=1&cid=5GiUw_ktiFR4dJRDASx41KTF&sig=AOD64_1QiWejdrExtzahTASDMR9u5q3J7A&client=ca-ehow_300x250&adurl=http://www.eagetutor.com/online-spoken-english.htm)

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## Accessibility

* + Hard-to-reach crime scenes can present a problem. Some crime scenes may be difficult to reach due to weather factors and distance. Technicians must be informed of the scene's distance so they can prepare themselves with the appropriate equipment. At rural crime scenes, technicians have to take into consideration that weather and animal activity can interfere with decomposition times and may have played a part in the destruction of some evidence.

## Removal of Evidence

* + If crime scene technicians are unable to respond in a timely manner, some upper level police officers may [order](http://www.ehow.com/list_6774498_biggest-crime-scene-technicians-encounter_.html) some of the evidence to be removed from the scene of the crime. This can present multiple problems for the technician, as the evidence may not have been collected properly. Police investigators are required to photograph any evidence before it is moved and to discuss with the technician the exact location of the item and reason for its removal.

# location crime scene

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*"Crime Scene" redirects here. For the American television program, see*[*Crime Scene (U.S. TV series)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_Scene_%28U.S._TV_series%29)*. For the German television program, see [Tatort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatort%22%20%5Co%20%22Tatort).*

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A crime scene

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| [**Forensic science**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_science) |
| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4c/Punuk.Alaska.skulls.jpg/150px-Punuk.Alaska.skulls.jpg |
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 * [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Forensic_science&action=edit)
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A **crime scene** is a location where a [crime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime) took [place](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene) (or another location where evidence of the crime may be found), and comprises the area from which most of the [physical evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_identification) is retrieved by [law enforcement personnel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police), [crime scene investigators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene_investigator) (CSIs) or in rare circumstances, [forensic scientists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_science).

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| --- |
| Contents  [[hide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene)] * [1 Evidence collection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene#Evidence_collection)
* [2 Members of the law at a crime scene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene#Members_of_the_law_at_a_crime_scene)
* [3 Reconstruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene#Reconstruction)
* [4 See also](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene#See_also)
* [5 External links](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene#External_links)
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## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_scene&action=edit&section=1)]Evidence collection

A crime scene is not necessarily where the crime was committed. Indeed, there are primary, secondary and often tertiary crime scenes. For instance, the police may use a [warrant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warrant_%28law%29) to search a [suspect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suspect)'s [home](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_scene). Even though the suspect did not commit the crime at that location, evidence of the crime may be found there. In another instance, an offender might kidnap at one location (primary crime scene), transport the victim (the car being a secondary crime scene), commit another crime at a distant location ([murder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder), for instance) and then dispose of the body at a fourth scene.

All locations where in there is the potential for the recovery of evidence must be handled in the same manner. They must be protected from interference of any kind so as to preserve any [trace evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trace_evidence). It is usually achieved by taping a wide area around the crime was committed to prevent access by any person other than the investigators. The conditions at the crime scene must be carefully recorded in great detail, as well as conserved. Only when recording has taken place can items be removed for laboratory analysis.

Legal concepts impacting the usefulness of evidence in court ([Daubert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daubert%22%20%5Co%20%22Daubert), [chain of custody](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_of_custody), etc.), apply to the recovery of evidence whether or not a crime actually occurred at that location.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_scene&action=edit&section=2)]Members of the law at a crime scene





Soldiers of the [United States Army Criminal Investigation Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Criminal_Investigation_Division) inspecting a crime scene

Many members of the law may be involved at a crime scene including police officers, crime scene investigators and forensic scientists. Their roles include the collection and photography of evidence.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_scene&action=edit&section=3)]Reconstruction

[Crime scene *reconstruction*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_reconstruction) is the use of scientific methods, [physical evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_evidence), [deductive reasoning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deductive_reasoning), and their interrelationships to gain explicit knowledge of the series of events that surround the commission of a crime.

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Crime_scene&action=edit&section=4)]See also

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Portal icon | [***Criminal justice portal***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3ACriminal_justice) |

* [Forensic photography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_photography)
* [Problem property](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Problem_property)

# Crime Scene USA: A Traveler's Guide to the Locations of Famous and Infamous Murders[Paperback]

## Book Description

Publication Date: **April 5, 2000**

True crime aficionados of the world unite!

Calling all carsand mobile homes! Get ready to head out on the road for a tour of the nations most infamous crime scenes. Find out who did what to whom and where and when it happened in this unique guide to the major crime-related attractions in the USA.

A regional guide for all those fascinated with outlaws, serial killers, mafia dons, kidnappers, and robbers, *Crime Scene USA* lists related museums, gift shops, and roadside attractions around the country, and a few APBs along the way for those unsolved crimes that you might want to look into.

Perfect for armchair detectives in search of their own suspects, this one-of-a-kind offbeat guide wont guarantee that youll see a crime taking placebut you will have a lot of fun looking.

\* Serial murder sites \* Criminal hometowns \* Bank robbery sites \* Mafia hangouts \* Museum and prison tours \* Related gift shops, hotels, and restaurants

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## Editorial Reviews

### From School Library Journal

YA-All of the big names in crime are here, from Jesse James to Andrew Cunanan. Most stories are told in a few paragraphs, but sensational events are given more coverage. Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance is allocated three pages, with a listing of places he has been seen alive and a list of possible burial sites. The 1999 burglary of $500,000, which was solved based on a tip by dancers at a strip club who complained about the mildewed smell of their tips, is the most recent account in the book. Listed by state, most of the entries include addresses, phone numbers, Web sites, and maps. A legend identifies the [type](http://www.amazon.com/Crime-Scene-USA-Travelers-Locations/dp/0786883979) of infraction at each location. Graves, crime museums, prison tours, and Mafia hangouts are also included. Sidebars highlight unsolved cases in the area. An index to individual cities, serial killers, celebrities, and criminals and their transgressions provides more access points. The author's eye for the quirky is evidenced by the inclusion of the menu condemned prisoners in Pennsylvania may choose from for their last meal. Many of these deeds are truly horrific, so this book has more of an edge than UFO USA (Hyperion, 1999). However, the author doesn't glorify the subject, and teens will be fascinated by these stories.
*Jane S. Drabkin, Potomac Community Library, Woodbridge, VA*
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### From Library Journal

Yonover, who is associated with BADGE (Bureau of Amateur Detectives and Gatherers of Evidence), has compiled a list of famous crimes, arranged them by state, and provided a description of each deed with the location of the crime scene, any associated museums, and gravesites. All the big names, from Lizzie Borden to Bonnie and Clyde, from Al Capone to John and Lorena Bobbitt, are included. A major drawback is that the maps show only the general location of the [city](http://www.amazon.com/Crime-Scene-USA-Travelers-Locations/dp/0786883979) or town where the crime occurred and would not be helpful in finding the specific location of the crime scene. Recommended for public libraries that would like to add some diversity to their U.S. travel-guide collections.
*-John J. McCormick, New Hampshire State Lib., Concord*
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**Crime Scene Processing — Presentation Transcript**

* 1. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING Introduction to Forensic Science
* 2. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING Crime scene processing is a slow, methodical, systematic and orderly process that involves protocols and a processing methodology.
* 3. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING EDMOND LOCARD-father of Criminalistics LOCARD EXCHANGE PRINCIPLE: Whenever an individual comes into contact with another person/location certain small seemingly insignificant changes occur. Small items, such as hair, fibers and assorted microscopic debris may be left by one person or picked up by that person. In short it is impossible to come into contact with an environment without changing it in some small way
* 4. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING HAZARDS: -personal safety #1 concern 1 st officer on scene- -Actions very important -crime scene starting point -physical evidence on scene -#1 task:prevent destruction/disturbance of evidence -includes officer -Approach scene cautiously a. EMS holding short b. suspect still on scene c. obvious dead-let one medic in -injured take precedence -mistakes cannot be corrected STEPS: 1. Record time/precise times -time of call/arrival -witnesses times
* 5. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING 2. Protect scene -close/post door -crime scene tape -1 st PO stay at scene until properly relieved 3. [Start](http://www.slideshare.net/warren142/crime-scene-processing-1799278) log -name/ID# -times -exact location -who entered scene a. name b. agency c. purpose/actions taken d. time in/out 4. Isolate/hold witnesses a. start on written statements b. keep separated until detectives can interview
* 6. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING AVOID HUB!!! HUA=Head up Butt. Never assume a case is one thing or another. Treat every case like a homicide and[work](http://www.slideshare.net/warren142/crime-scene-processing-1799278) backwards. Do not let yourself be fooled or talked into something. Base your decisions on your exams/scene evidence. Good rule of thumb: Nothing is what it seems. The main thing you can do in a scene is to remain aware. Using the power of observation is key. Don’t assume everyone has seen an object-mention it. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AT ALL TIMES!!!!
* 7. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING Understand trace evidence Few absolute rules Remain calm, flexible and adaptable EXAM OF SCENE: -Follow law/protocols -Start when entire team assembled -3 conditions for success organization thoroughness caution
* 8. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING POSSIBLE EVIDENCE: -look [before](http://www.slideshare.net/warren142/crime-scene-processing-1799278) you leap! -never charge into a scene. -stand at periphery and look around. -let scene “talk” to you. -be aware at all times for possible evidence. Look/think before you: -enter -touch -move -step Physical evidence-can be seen with naked eye ( shell casings, blood spatter) Trace evidence-cannot be seen with naked eye (fibers, blood) DO NOT TOUCH WHAT YOU DON’T HAVE TO. IF YOU DO TOUCH SOMETHING OWN UP TO IT!!
* 9. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING Crime scene processing is a team effort -no one is an expert in all areas. -consults are done with many disciplines: Forensic pathologist -MD specially trained to perform autopsies determine cause/manner of death Cause of death: Varied Manners of death: 5 5 manners of death: Homicide Suicide Accidental Natural Undetermined District Attorney (DA) -presents case in court Dentists/Odontologists Entomologists Anthropologists Firearms experts Forensic toxicologists
* 10. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING \*RESPONSIBILITIES: 1.       skill/knowledge in investigation may establish guilt/innocence 2.       professional ethics/integrity are essential   3.       owe duty to truth 4.       outcome of guilt/innocence not important as long as collected evidence in [good](http://www.slideshare.net/warren142/crime-scene-processing-1799278%22%20%5Co%20%22Click%20to%20Continue%20%3E%20by%20Text-Enhance)faith. 5.       thorough, competent and unbiased
* 11. Fruit of the Poisoned Tree Doctrine Takes police to hidden gun/money Suspect confesses to whole event Detectives confront suspect w/bag & mask CSA sees car opens trunk-mask/bag Search warrant for residence only Bank robbery-fingerprints lifted/ID’d
* 12. Fruit of the Poisoned Tree Doctrine Probable cause hearing before judge: -defense points out search warrant specifically listed the residence and not the car -judge agrees car search was illegal -any/all evidence obtained on the basis of the car search now inadmissible -includes objects in car/confession/suspect leading to hidden items at another location -left? The fingerprints at the bank---where the suspect has banked many time sin the past three years.
* 13. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING EVIDENCE: 2 TYPES Testimonial: witnesses testifying to what they saw Real: -physical -trace
* 14. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING TRACE EVIDENCE: -not visible to the naked eye -sources:clothing, fibers, footwear, tools. -use alternate light sources PHYSICAL EVIDENCE: -can be seen with the naked eye. -blood/shell casings -documented with photos/notes collected properly
* 15. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING VALUE OF EVIDENCE? Crime committed Suspect contact w/vics & scene Exonerate innocent Corroborate stories Suspect confronted w/evidence may confess Physical is more reliable than eyewitnesses Juries love the “smoking gun” Identification versus Individualization of evidence. IDENTIFICATION: -Items share common source-classified /placed into groups with all other items w/similar properties. INDIVIDUALIZATION: -Items come from unique source.
* 16. 7 steps to crime scene processing 1. Arrive on scene and get info: -start notes chronological order specific as possible Officer’s name/P# Time of call Details of events Who has entered/left scene Scene changed/items moved Primary detective/investigator Witnesses/suspect info 2. Review the scene/formulate plan -stand at periphery and look at whole scene -establish appropriate scene boundaries -entire team discusses and formulates plan of action -plan search patterns -once agreed on implement plan of action. 3. Photograph/diagram scene - search for evidence and mark as found-letter or # w/each item -leave in place during first search -take measurements for scene boundaries -take measurements of items using perpendicular or triangulation
* 17. 7 steps to crime scene processing -draw diagram of scene -mark north on diagram -use legend -photograph overalls of scene first -document photo w/# & description in notebook -if you don’t know what photo is of no one else will -document #/total # -overalls-mid range and finally close ups of evidence -photo with & without a scale in photo 4. Collect evidence of fragile nature first -blood -hair -fibers -fingerprints -powders 5. Properly Recover remaining evidence -Fingerprints-dusting, photo, lifting -physical evidence-gun, casings -conduct secondary search to be sure nothing was overlooked
* 18. 7 steps to crime scene processing 6. Properly package evidence & tag with appropriate information. -date/time -what evidence is -where collected from -who collected by (initial) -case # 7. Complete inventory of impounded evidence/maintain chain of evidence. -evidence log to go to lab-describing each item -chain of custody-definition?
* 19. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING CHAIN OF CUSTODY: The written documentation of where the evidence has been and who has had custody/possession of it from it’s collection to the present time.
* 20. Boundaries Scene boundaries are important!
* 21. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING PHOTOGRAPHS: -number photo in corresponding photo log OVERVIEWS: -from farthest part of scene (outward working inward) MEDIUMS: -closer views UP-CLOSE: -close up of items/scene -2 of every picture -1 with/1 without scale
* 22. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING PHOTOS Of body: All five angles: 1. From above 2. From feet 3. From left side 4. From right side 5. From head
* 23.
* 24.
* 25.
* 26.
* 27.
* 28. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING Every crime scene should be evaluated on its own merits. Do not take anything for granted. Pay attention to every detail. Things are not always what they seem.
* 29. You decide Look carefully at what you see: -elderly female on floor -walker nearby -no blood -nothing suspicious
* 30. You decide OOOPS! -things have just taken a turn for the worst -never assume anything on a scene -what do you see here? -blood?- how come no blood?
* 31. Processing Clean floor? Look closely!
* 32. Processing Same floor when luminol has been applied. The area luminescing is where blood has been cleaned up.
* 33. Observe What do you see? What about the shirt? What about the pants? What happened to the mid-section? What type of crime do you think this is? Answer: -Sexual-related homicide -mid-section damage: feral animal activity from being outside. What do you think that does to your forensic evidence?
* 34. Observe What do you see? What about the feet? Do you think victim hopped out into desert with legs taped? What about the face? Decedent appears wet-what is that? Answer: Homicide Animal activity to the face Fluid is decomposition fluid
* 35. Crime scenes You never know what type of scene you will have. This is the remains of a homicide bomber in Israel.
* 36. Another bomber in Israel. Source of tremendous forensic experience
* 37. Crime scenes Identifying homicide bombers is not difficult. They are heroes in their homeland. Pretty young huh?
* 38. Police photography has been around for many years
* 39. Photograph with a scale
* 40. Crime scene kit
* 41. Jaw bone in the dirt
* 42. Foot wear impression with scale in photograph
* 43. Shell casing
* 44. Blood stain
* 45. Crime scene photo of burial site. Note the sign at the head. There is a fine line between love & hate
* 46. 3-D Diagram
* 47. Crime scene diagram
* 48. Primary sketch
* 49. Computer program di
* The fracture match is another important concept, particularly when trace evidence is concerned.  Tear a piece of paper in half.  Hold the two halves together.  This is called a fracture match. No two tears are exactly alike.  One half of a tear c individual blood droplets s committed.
* Drops falling from different heights (i.e. at different speeds) will leave different looking spatters.  A drop falling from a low height of a few inches will leave a small cohesive circle.  At greater heights, the circle will be larger and may even have a 'crown' effect.
* Hitting a surface at an angle does even more to disrupt a blood droplet.  Perpendicular impact leaves a droplet fairly uniform, as shown below.  A droplet hitting a surface at an angle will bulge out in one direction, indicating the direction of travel o