

Crime Scene Preservation

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Speaker

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The actions taken by the first attending persons at a crime scene can have a significant outcome on the bearing of an investigation



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- A Crime Scene is where a crime takes place
- It can relate to an offender, victim or both
- Examples of crime scenes widely encountered in this type of environment are criminal damage, burglary, theft, robbery, drugs offences, sexual assaults, violent crime and homicide
- A scene can contain all manor of evidence types from intelligence to CCTV and of course FORENSIC EVIDENCE.
- Forensic evidence can include:
 - DNA
 - Fingerprints
 - Footwear
 - Trace
 - Drugs
 - Digital forensics



- The most important factor is to ensure safety of yourself, your colleagues and the public
- Preservation of life is paramount
- First aid
- Security
- Detention of suspect
- Assisting a victim

THEN AFTER THE DUST HAS SETTLED – **THINK** FORENSICS AND CRIME
SCENE PRESERVATION



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Why do we preserve crime scenes?

- To stop things being moved
- To prevent things from being removed
- To stop things from being destroyed
- To prevent or mitigate the chances of contamination



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What is contamination?

Contamination is when anybody inadvertently transfers something (evidence) from one location to another

- Contamination can be disastrous in a criminal investigation as it can cause evidence to be lost
- Evidence can become unusable
- It can undermine integrity and the strength of a case



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Some simple steps that can prevent contamination

- 1) Keep parties separate
- 2) Do not let persons back into an area (the scene)
- 3) Do not go back into the scene
- 4) If you have had contact with a victim try and avoid contact with the offender
- 5) If you detain an offender do not go back to the victim or return into the scene



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Scene Preservation

- Securing and protecting the scene is a crucial way of maximising forensic evidence
- Probably the best way of doing this is to:

LOCK THE SCENE DOWN

But what does this mean?



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Scene Preservation

- The procedure for lock down is as follows: -
 - Create a secure and sterile area by using furniture, colleagues, tape or even CCTV
 - Deter unauthorised entry
 - Have a single point of entry/exit
 - Prevent any disturbance to the scene
 - Deter removal of items



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Scene Preservation

- Try to protect evidence if you are able to
- This might mean having to cover it (think outside the box!)
- Try not to remove, add or alter anything



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Scene Preservation

- If you do need to move anything, consider
 - Making a note of where it was
 - Recording it as best as you can
 - Taking a photo – mobile phone, CCTV or even a diagram
 - Recording your actions
 - Advising the Police of the actions you have taken



The work you do can really make a huge
difference

Thanks for listening

Keep up the good work

Any questions?



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