



Crime Scene Basics

Vocabulary

crime scene: Any physical location in which a crime has occurred or is suspected of having occurred.

primary CRIME SCENE: The original location of a crime or accident.

secondary CRIME SCENE: An alternate location where additional evidence may be found.

suspect: Person thought to be capable of committing a crime.

accomplice: Person associated with someone suspected of committing a crime.

alibi: Statement of where a suspect was at the time of a crime.

Types of Evidence

testimonial evidence includes oral or written statements and testimony by eyewitnesses.

physical evidence refers to any material items that would be present at the crime scene, on the victims, or found in a suspect's possession.

trace evidence refers to evidence that is found at a crime scene in small but measurable amounts.

How can evidence be used?

- May **prove** that a crime has been committed
- Establish **key elements** of a crime
- Link a **suspect** with a crime scene or a victim
- Establish the **identity** of a victim or suspect
- Corroborate verbal **witness** testimony
- Exonerate the **innocent**.
- Give **detectives** leads to work with in the case

Crime Scene Protocol

- interview the first officer on the scene, witnesses, and victims to determine what happened.
- examine the crime scene to identify potential evidence, the point of entry and point of exit, and getting the general layout of the crime scene.
- document the crime scene by taking photographs and making sketches of the crime scene area and the location of the evidence.
- process the crime scene by collecting evidence.

Crime Scene Personnel

responding officer
police officer are typically the first to arrive at a crime scene. They are responsible for securing the scene and detaining persons of interest.

The CSI UNIT documents the crime scene in detail and collects any physical evidence.

The DISTRICT Attorney is often present to help determine if any search warrants are required to proceed and obtains those warrants from a judge.

The MEDICAL examiner may or may not be present to determine a preliminary cause of death.

specialists (entomologists, forensic scientists, etc.) may be called in if an expert is needed.

detectives interview witnesses and consult with the CSI unit to investigate the crime by following leads provided by witnesses and evidence.

Investigating the Evidence

Forensic Science disciplines at the Illinois State Police Crime Labs

Drug Chemistry - Determines the presence of controlled substances and the identification of marijuana

Trace Chemistry - Identification and comparison of materials from fires, explosions, paints, and glass.

Microscopy Lab - Microscopic identification and comparison of evidence, such as hairs, fibers, woods, soils, building materials, insulation and other materials.

Biology/DNA - Analysis of body fluids and dried stains such as blood, semen, and saliva.

Toxicology - Tests body fluids and tissues to determine the presence of drugs and poisons.

Latent Prints - Identification and comparison of fingerprints or other hidden impressions from sources like feet, shoes, ears, lips or the tread on vehicle tires.

Ballistics (Firearms) - Study of bullets and ammunition through the comparison of fired bullets, cartridges, guns, and gunpowder patterns on people and objects.

Toolmarks - Examines marks left by tools on objects at a crime scene or on a victim, such as a hammer used to break a door or a screwdriver used to pick a lock.

Questioned Documents - Examination of documents to compare handwriting, ink, paper, writing instruments, printers, and other characteristics that would help to identify its origin.