



Crime Scene Preservation for SAR Personnel

Scene Surveys



Scene Surveys

Having a non-tracker decide whether tracking will work is like having a painter decide whether or not surgery is required.

Arriving on Scene

- First things first - Always remember your safety comes first.
- If suspect(s) are still in area, radio location and back out to safety.
- If not, determine need for medical assistance.
- Once done, start thinking about scene preservation and documentation.

Scene

- If you are within the crime scene, you want to back out the way you came in.
- Immediately note any visible evidence.
- Do not Touch Anything.
- Look, Listen and Smell.
- If you disturb anything, be sure to let the deputies know so they can document it.
- Remember the fewer mistakes that are made, the less grief we will feel later on the stand during cross-examination.

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Scene

- Start a crime scene log.
- Utilize your team members and flagging tape to secure the scene as big as possible.
- Remember: The crime scene can always be shrunk down. Anything outside the scene will likely be compromised if not destroyed.

Crime Scene Conduct

- There should be no smoking, drinking, or eating within the crime scene.
- Whenever around or within the scene, always remain professional.
- Remember: You never know who is watching; or worse, who is videoing you.
- Gloves should be worn at all times within the crime scene.
- If available, disposable shoe covers should also be worn.

Documentation

- Starts the minute you arrive on scene.
- The earliest documentation comes from what you see, hear, and smell.
- The scene will never be as “fresh” as it is when you arrive.
- The moment you enter the scene, it is forever changed.

Crime scenes should be secured and that security maintained.

Do not allow unauthorized personnel to enter the scene. This includes family, members of the media, and any other unauthorized personnel.

Be sure to inform investigating personnel if anything was moved or altered.

Do not talk to the press regarding the search or your findings.

CRIME SCENE

- Crime scene- General protocols and procedures
- (1) No One enters unless they have a function at the crime scene
- (2) Crime Scene attendance log
 - A complete written record of every person entering the scene and for what purpose. You must sign in on arrival with the officer keeping the log prior to entering the scene
 - (B) One or more officers should be stopping anyone approaching the scene. No one should be able to enter the scene without being screened by an officer in charge of the scene security. The log contains valuable information for the tracker as to how many people have been in the scene.

CRIME SCENE

- Never show up at a crime scene unless requested.
- Law enforcement personnel are by nature extremely suspicious of bystanders and persons attempting to gain access to the scene.
- Repeated confrontations will no doubt cause law enforcement to develop a profile on you that will not benefit your career.
- Only through the process of demonstrating your skill in track investigation will you develop the trust of your agency and become accepted. This may be a long ongoing process.
- Ask to speak to a detective or investigator . Get Briefed ! Find out what they would you to accomplish.

CRIME SCENE

- Law Enforcement, Fire and Medical personal, though highly trained, are generally not trained to look for or protect evidence. They almost always inadvertently destroy track evidence and contaminate the scene with their own sign. The more personal that enter the scene, the greater the contamination the scene with their own sign. The more personnel that enter the scene, the greater the contamination and destruction of track evidence.

CRIME SCENE

- (A) First responders are tasked with many other priority tasks that require their attention and they generally are not concerned about track evidence in the initial response to the incident.
- (B) Fortunately most officers, fire and medical responders wear distinctive types of footwear or boots that have some common characteristics. Their footwear is generally dissimilar from those worn by the general public.

Sole and Wear Patterns



Foot prints can be traced to specific individuals based upon the specific wear and sole patterns. No two people walk the same, which is why each person will have unique wear patterns on the sole of their foot wear. Each person has their own unique gait pattern. The way we walk is unique to who we are. Here is a good illustration of how foot print evidence can be traced back to a specific individual based on the sole and wear pattern.





Maroon- primary disk, peach- secondary dish-crumble, yellow- digital crest-crumbles, orange- plate-fissure, green- crest-crumble/peak, white- long ridge, dark blue- reverse heel plate-fissures, light blue- secondary plate, dark purple- primary heel plate, pink- digital cave-crumble, red-- micro (gourd) -----k guys. Put them in order, put them in 8ths, let's tell the story of what happened















Toe Depth

Natural Roll of Floor

Deep Heel

TRACK 1

TRACK 2

ONE TRACK IS A SLOW JOG; THE OTHER IS A FAST WALK. SAME STRIDE LENGTH!



FAST WALK



SLOW JOG





WORN AREAS
ON SOLE

DEEP
PRESSURE
BUT INTACT
LUGS



