

# CRIME SCENE





# Defining a Crime Scene

The only thing consistent about  
crime scenes is their  
inconsistency

# *Primary Crime Scene*

- The site of the original crime scene
- the scene of the first criminal activity



- Any scene that is subsequent to the primary scene is known as *secondary*.
- Classification does not infer any priority or importance rather gives designation of **sequence of locations.**

# Macroscopic Crime Scene

- Based on size
- Ex: victim's body
- Ex: wound's on body
- Ex: the ground near the body

# Microscopic Crime Scene

- Based on size (smaller thing)
- Ex: trace evidence
- Ex: gunshot residue
- Ex: Tire treads
- Ex: hair samples
- Ex: mites found in clothes

# Classification based on type of crime committed

- Homicide
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Vehicular homicide
- Battery
- Arson/bomb
- Terrorism/ bioterrorism

# Other Classifications

- Crime Scene Condition
  - Organized or disorganized
- Physical location of the crime scene
  - Indoors, outdoors, street, alley, in vehicle, near vehicle
- Criminal behavior associated with the scene
  - Passive or aggressive

# No one description

- Or definition ever works for every crime scene.
- The crime scene is never by boundaries
- The crime scene investigator **MUST** always be constantly evaluating and frequently changing the defined area



# Basic four processing steps in forensic examinations:

## 1. RECOGNITION

- Survey the scene
- Documentation
- Collection and preservation

## 2. IDENTIFICATION

- Comparison testing

## 3. INDIVIDUALIZATION

- Evaluation and interpretation

## 4. RECONSTRUCTION

- Reporting and Presentation

# Types of information obtained from examination of physical evidence

- Information on the Corpus Delicti
- Information on the Modus Operandi
- Linkage of persons, scenes, and objects
- Proving or disproving witness statements
- Identification of suspects (AFIS/CODIS)
- Identification of unknown substances
- Reconstruction of a Crime
- Providing Investigative Leads

# Defined:

- Corpus Delicti- Body of crime- refers to the principle that it must be proven that a crime has occurred before a person can be convicted of committing the crime
- Modus Operandi= a method of procedure or operation that indicates or suggests the works of a single criminal in more than one crime.

# PART 2

## CRIME SCENE PRODUCERS

# First Responders

- Usually the police officers or fire department (firefighters and paramedics)
- They are responsible for NOT destroying evidence
- SAFETY is the primary concern of first responders

# The Duties of the First Responder

1. Assist the victim
2. Search for and arrest the suspect if still on scene
3. Detain all witnesses
4. Protect the crime scene (barrier tape, official vehicles, security log)
  - A **security log** MUST be kept of all persons entering the crime scene and leaving. No drinking, no smoking, no eating, no unnecessary personnel, no contamination (**\*\*typically- no officer wants this job**)
5. Note and communicate ALL movement within/ around the crime scene

# Other crime scene procedures

- Securing the crime scene- Locard's Exchange Principle
- Crime Scene Survey- "Walk-through" done by lead detective
- Crime scene documentation- note-taking, videography, photography, sketching
  - All FOUR are necessary and one does not substitute any other

# Note-taking at the crime scene

- **VERY IMPORTANT- accurate crime scene notes may be referred to by investigators. DETAILS are a must!!!**
- Notification info- date, time, method of notification, info received
- Arrival info- date and time responded, who was present, personnel present
- Scene description- weather, location, major structures, point(s) of entry, clothing, furniture, trash cans, weapons
- Victim description- do not move body, lividity, wounds, clothes, jewelry, identification present?
- Crime Scene Team (CSI) time the team...notice evidence handling



# Crime Scene Search Methods

1. Link Method
2. Line Method
3. Grid Method
4. Zone Method
5. Wheel Method
6. Spiral Method

# LINK METHOD

- Most common and productive method
- Says one type of evidence leads to another
- Works with all crime scenes

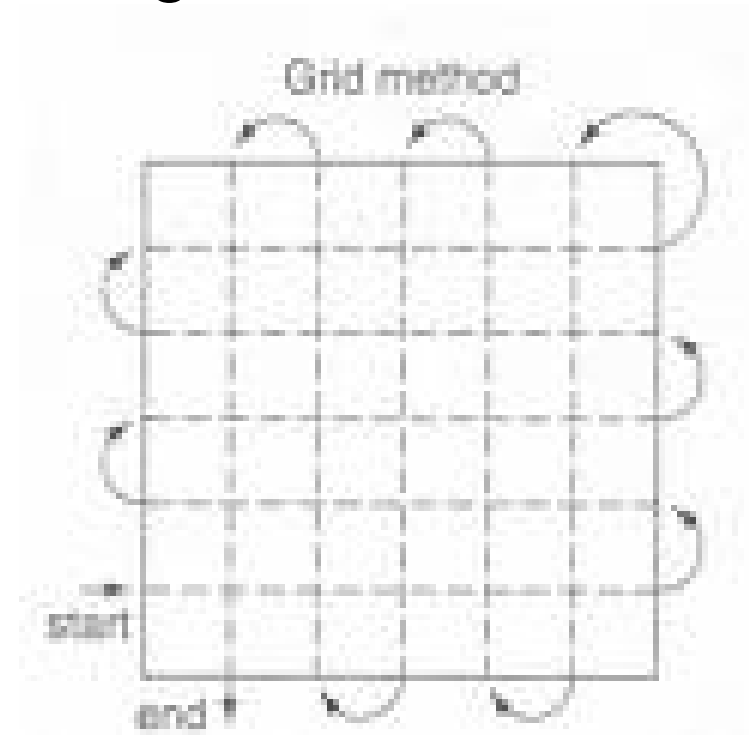
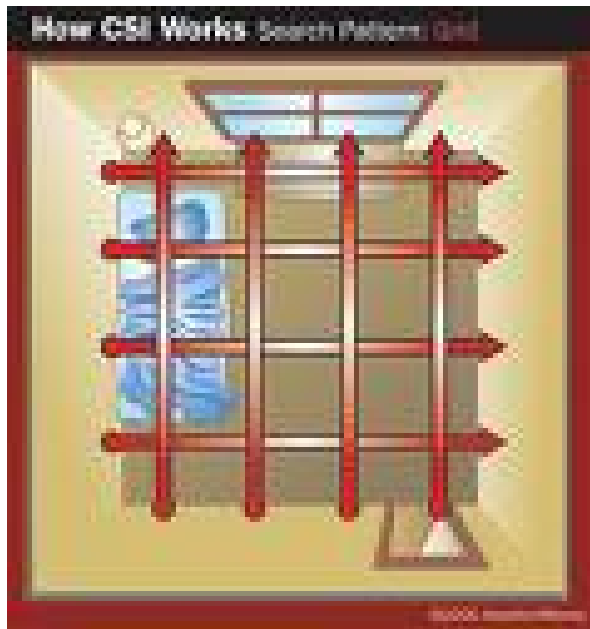
# Line Method

- Works best on large, outdoor scenes
- Requires search coordinator (volunteers)



# Grid Method

- Modified double-line search
- Effective, but time consuming



# Zone Method

- Best used on scenes with defined zones, like in homes, buildings, locker rooms
- Good for warrant searches



# Wheel Method

- Used for special situations
- Limited applications, best used on small, circular crime scenes



# Spiral Method

- Best used on crime scenes with no barriers like the open water or open road
- Requires the ability to trace a regular pattern with fixed diameters



# Crime Scene Sketch





Take NOTES on what happened here:



# Sketch what happened here:



What METHOD would you use to analyze this scene?

