

Crime Scene Investigation Study notes

Aims of Investigation

- Investigator must undertake a scientific and systematic approach when processing a crime scene.

Scientific – Use of suitable hypothesis/observations/modifications of hypothesis cycle at the crime scene.

Systematic – Preventing the loss of evidence and to maximise the efficiency of operations on the scene.

Common elements to a crime scene investigation:

- *Reconstructing the incident.*
- *Recovering evidence that may possess value in solving the crime.*
- *Attempting to provide linkages.*
- *Support or disprove statements of witnesses.*

Moving from the general to the particular

- Initially when processing the crime scene, the investigator should make a general (non-destructive) approach prior to employing destructive techniques in the purpose to document key features.

- This is followed by a detailed and destructive search throughout the crime scene locating any possible evidence in relation to the incident.

- Finally, any evidence identified at the scene is touched and moved (i.e. evidence collection) upon the conclusion of the observation stage (considering standard protocols such as, documentation, photography are completed) by which they will be transferred to the laboratory for non-destructive and destructive examinations.

Summary:

- *Non-destructive techniques (e.g. Documentation, photography, grazing light search, white/coloured flashlights)*
- *Destructive techniques (e.g. Chemical enhancements such as luminol, DAB, cyanoacrylate “superglue”)*
- *Movement of evidence for the purpose of packaging and transportation to the laboratory for examinations.*

Transfer evidence

- Transfer evidence occurs when material is deposited at the scene as a result of contact (*such as fingerprints*). Additionally, exchange evidence can be removed by the offender from the scene.

- To demonstrate the transfer of evidence, two samples are required:

- Trace found on A suspected of coming from B
- Control sample of B

-Two types of evidence:

- **Class**- not unique by definition places the individual at the crime scene with some degree of probability.
- **Identification**- Unique to the offender or individual.

