

## Unit 2: The Crime Scene

Crime Scene: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence can be divided into two broad groups

- \_\_\_\_\_ - evidence given in the form of a statements made under oath (eyewitness testimony)
- \_\_\_\_\_ - any type of evidence that has physical properties (size, shape, dimensions)

Crime labs analyze \_\_\_\_\_

- In order for evidence to be useful it must be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- "Everything" cannot be collected @ a crime scene. The individuals responsible for "processing" the scene must be \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Selectivity is based on the individuals

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Processing a Crime Scene (CS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Secure and Isolate the Crime Scene
2. Record the Scene
3. Search for Evidence
4. Collect and Package Physical Evidence
5. Maintain Chain of Custody
6. Obtain Controls
7. Submit Evidence to Lab

### 1. Secure and Isolate the Crime Scene (CS)

- Responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_
    - The success of the investigation may rely on the actions and steps taken by the first officer to arrive
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - ♣ First priority is to obtain medical assistance for injured and apprehend perpetrator ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_
    - ♣ As soon as possible the officer is to exclude all unauthorized personnel ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_
  - The first responder's actions or inactions should not destroy or change anything at the CS. It must be assumed that the criminal left physical evidence (clues) behind.⇒
-

## 2. Record the Crime Scene

- CSI will only have a \_\_\_\_\_ of time to process a CS
  - Opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ the scene in it's untouched condition
  - Records will be used for the \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_
- Three methods for CS recording
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Photography

- CS must be in \_\_\_\_\_
- Photos should include
  - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Overview photos of the CS
    - Surrounding areas and possible \_\_\_\_\_

- If body present, the following photos must be taken:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and location relative to entire scene must be taken
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Pieces of physical evidence as they are discovered
  - Position and location relative to CS
  - Close-ups to show details
  - When size of object is significant, \_\_\_\_\_ should be placed next to the item as a point of reference

## B. Sketches

- CSI will sketch the CS \_\_\_\_\_ photos are taken
  
- "Rough" sketch is done @ the CS
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shows all items of evidence and other important features
  - Objects are located by distance measurements from \_\_\_\_\_
  - Distances must be accurate and \_\_\_\_\_
  - Sketch should include a compass (N,S,E,W)
  
- Finished sketch
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - usually w/ help of computer programs such as CAD

## C. Notes

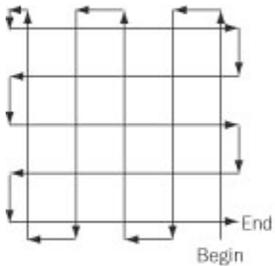
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Must include
  - Detailed written description of the scene with:
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
- Notes may be the only way to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Conduct a Systematic Search

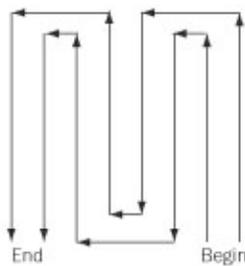
- Search for evidence at CS must be \_\_\_\_\_
- WHY???
  - A failure to do so may lead to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of crime lab or  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the proper  
recognition & collection techniques
- How?
  - Depends on:
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_ of suspects & victims @ CS

- Best to have \_\_\_\_\_ supervising and coordinating to avoid confusion
  
- What?
  - Depends on \_\_\_\_\_
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the CSI @ \_\_\_\_\_, possible \_\_\_\_\_ (very small items) and \_\_\_\_\_ is essential to a successful CS search!!!!!!
  - Ex. Murder scene - search for weapon and evidence left from contact between suspect and victim such as \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ex. Burglary scene - search for \_\_\_\_\_

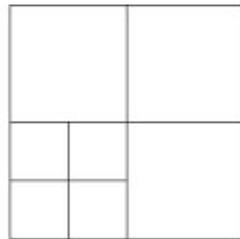
## CRIME SCENE SEARCH PATTERNS



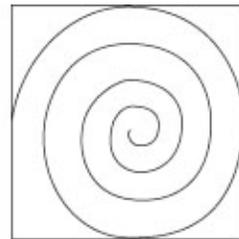
Grid



Linear



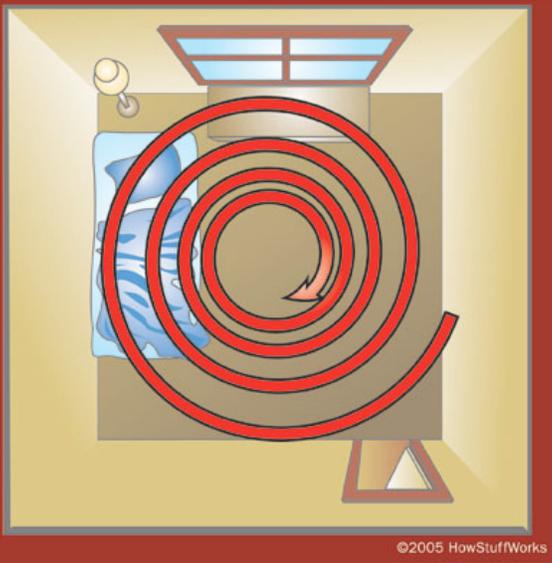
Quadrant or Zone



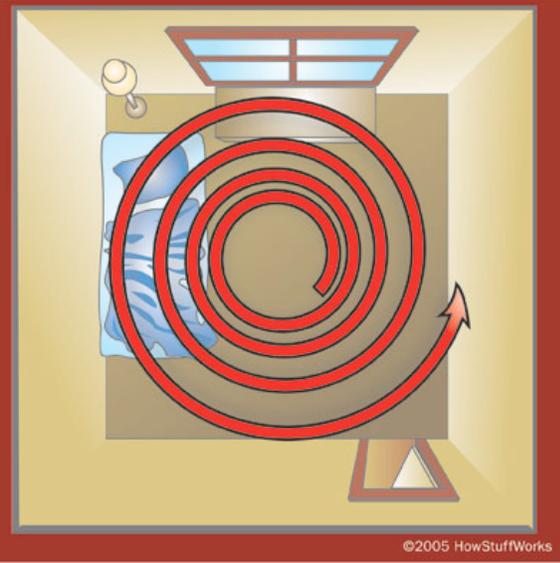
Spiral

- Single CSI
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Group of CSI
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional equipment may be needed
  - Additional light sources
  - Flashlight and forceps
  - Special vacuum

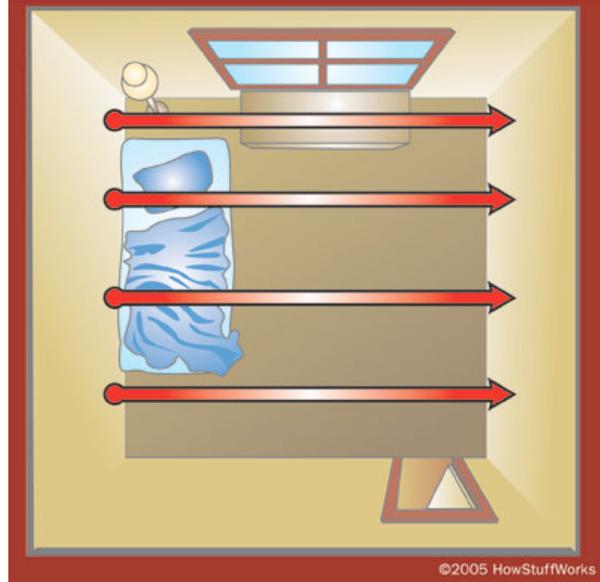
**How CSI Works** Search Pattern: **Inward Spiral**



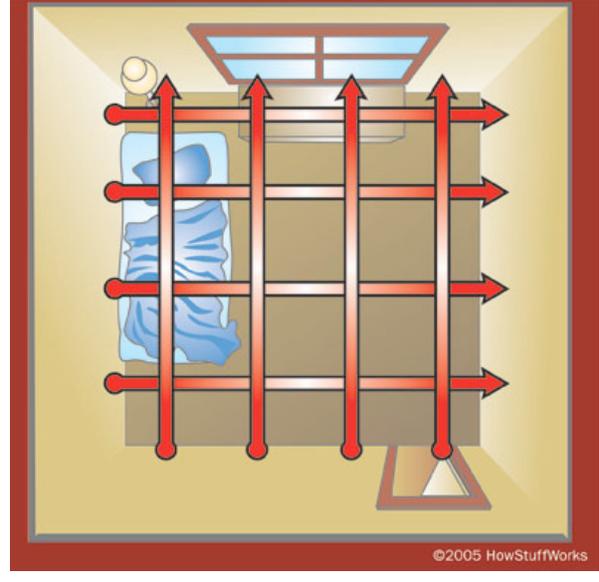
**How CSI Works** Search Pattern: **Outward Spiral**



**How CSI Works** Search Pattern: **Parallel**



**How CSI Works** Search Pattern: **Grid**



**How CSI Works** Search Pattern: **Zone**

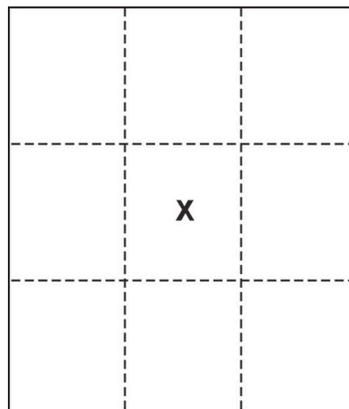


## 4. Collect & Package Physical Evidence

- Evidence must \_\_\_\_\_ during the collection and packaging process
- Each different piece of physical evidence must be \_\_\_\_\_
  - prevents \_\_\_\_\_
  - prevents \_\_\_\_\_
- CSI comes prepared with an assortment of packaging materials
  - Trace evidence
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - picking up small items
    - Unbreakable plastic pill bottles w/ lids - hair, glass, fibers, other \_\_\_\_\_ evidence
    - Manila envelopes, screw-cap glass vials, cardboard pillboxes - also good for trace evidence
    - Should NOT use ordinary mailing envelopes - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - carefully folded paper

### Packaging the evidence

1. Crease a clean paper and place evidence in the X position
2. Fold in the left and right sides, and then fold in the top and bottom
3. Put the bundle into a plastic or paper evidence bag affixing a seal over the opening
4. Write your name on the seal



- **Moist Biological material:**

- Stored in a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Reduces chances of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Any DNA present may breakdown and evidence may become moldy
- \_\_\_\_\_ it is placed in a paper bundle (druggists fold) and then placed in a plastic or paper container
- Outer container is \_\_\_\_\_
- CSI that collected evidence \_\_\_\_\_

- **Liquids and Arson remains:**

- Ex. Charred debris, gasoline
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_

## **5. Maintain Chain of Custody**

Evidence Log : Each person who comes in contact with a piece of evidence must use proper procedure and protocol in order to maintain responsible handling of evidence from crime scene to courtroom.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Evidence Log :

- Form must be attached to evidence container
- Includes
  - Case number
  - Item inventory number
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name of \_\_\_\_\_ (whoever evidence was collected from)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of collection
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Signature of any witnesses present during collection

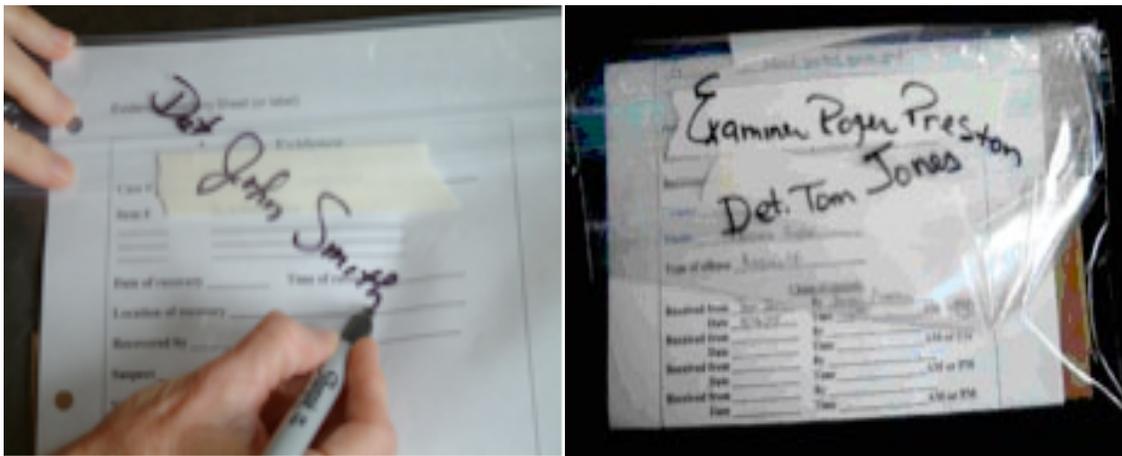
Evidence	Evidence Inventory Label
Case # _____ Inventory # _____	Case # _____ Inventory # _____
Item # _____ Item description _____	Item # _____ Item description _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Date of recovery _____ Time of recovery _____	Date of recovery _____ Time of recovery _____
Location of recovery _____	Location of recovery _____
Recovered by _____	Recovered by _____
Suspect _____	Suspect _____
Victim _____	Victim _____
Type of offense _____	Type of offense _____
<b>Chain of custody</b>	<b>Chain of custody</b>
Received from _____ By _____	Received from _____ By _____
Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM	Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM
Received from _____ By _____	Received from _____ By _____
Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM	Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM
Received from _____ By _____	Received from _____ By _____
Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM	Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM
Received from _____ By _____	Received from _____ By _____
Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM	Date _____ Time _____ AM or PM

# Chain of Custody

---

---

1. Bag the evidence  
Add identification  
Seal it  
Sign it across the sealed edge
2. Sign over to a lab technician  
Open bag on non-sealed edge
3. Return items to the evidence bag  
Seal evidence bag in another bag  
**Sign the chain of custody log**



Properly completed evidence submission forms for lab analysis:

\*

\_\_\_\_\_ must be accounted for  
and recorded in a written record

\* All individuals who were involved in any way may be called to testify in court  
and therefore \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Failure to substantiate the evidence's chain of custody may lead to serious questions regarding the \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 6. Obtain Controls

Control: \_\_\_\_\_

- Example: Evidence - Hair found at a CS

Control - \_\_\_\_\_

- Example: Evidence - Bloodstained evidence

Control - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Controls must be collected and packaged in the same way evidence is in order to be used in a lab.

## 7. Submit Evidence to the Laboratory

- Evidence to be dropped off at the crime lab must have an \_\_\_\_\_ with it.
- An evidence submission form will have a brief description of the case so the lab analyst can perform the proper tests and know what type of trace evidence to look for:

Example: Case - Arson

Evidence - article of clothing

\*\* Analyst will test for \_\_\_\_\_

Example: Case - Rape

Evidence - article of clothing

\*\* Analyst will test for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Crime Scene Safety**

\* Although the risk of contracting HIV and Hepatitis from a CS are low, all CSI must be careful and use caution and protection at all times.