

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CHAPTER 2 NOTES



THE CRIME SCENE

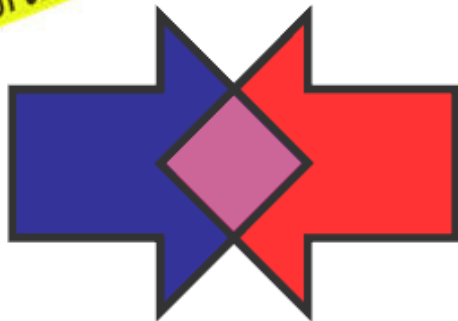


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THE LOCARD EXCHANGE

Dr. Edmond Locard:
Every criminal can be connected to a crime by small particles carried from the scene.

- Whenever 2 objects come in contact with one another, a cross-transfer of physical evidence can occur.
- The intensity, duration, and nature of the materials in contact determine the extent of the transfer.



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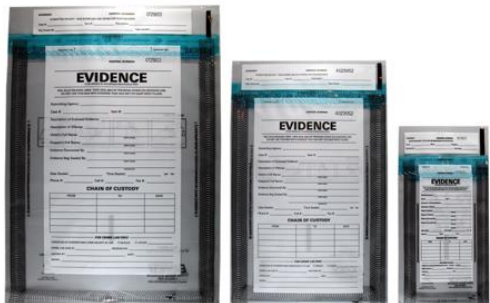


Edmond Locard, also known as the "Sherlock Holmes of France" came up with a principle that states that every contact by a criminal leaves behind a trace.



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Evidence

ALERT SECURITY BAG	
EVIDENCE	
Station/Section/Unit/Dept	_____
Case Number	_____
Type of Offense	_____
Description of Evidence	_____
Suspect	_____
Victim	_____
Date and Time of Recovery	_____
Location of Recovery	_____
Recovered By	_____
CHAIN OF CUSTODY	
Received From	Time _____ By _____ AM / PM
Received From	Time _____ By _____ AM / PM
Received From	Time _____ By _____ AM / PM
Received From	Time _____ By _____ AM / PM
Received From	Time _____ By _____ AM / PM
Warning: THIS IS A TAMPER EVIDENT SECURITY PACKAGE. ONCE SEALING, ANY ATTEMPT TO OPEN WILL RESULT IN OBVIOUS SIGNS OF TAMPERING.	
PACKAGING SOLUTIONS	



- Direct evidence- first hand observations (eyewitness account, videos, confessions)

- Circumstantial evidence- indirect evidence that can be used to imply a fact but does not directly prove it. Example: finding a suspect's gun at a crime scene is circumstantial evidence that the suspect was there.

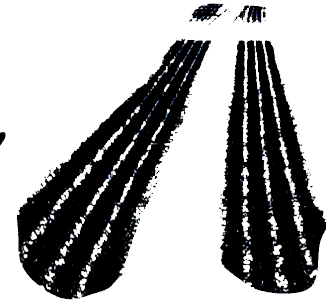


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Types of circumstantial evidence:

a) **Physical** evidence: synthetic fibers, weapons, bullets, shell casings, paint chips, documents, imprints and prints (shoes, tires, etc.), tool marks, soil, drugs, etc.



b) **Biological** evidence: body or body parts, body fluids, hair, leaves or other plant parts, natural fibers, feathers, wood



c) **Trace** evidence: **Small** but measurable amounts of **physical or biological** material found at a crime scene. Examples: **strand** of hair, fingerprint, DNA, **drop** of blood, pollen, gunshot residue



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Evidence can also be divided into:

Class evidence: narrows evidence to a group of persons or things



i. Example: Blood Type- can be A, B, AB, O. Finding one type at a crime scene narrows down the suspects to a smaller group.

Individual evidence: narrows evidence down to a single person or thing.



i. Example: Fingerprints, handwriting, DNA, and sometimes physical matches.



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Determine the 3 types of evidence for this example:



Types of Evidence:

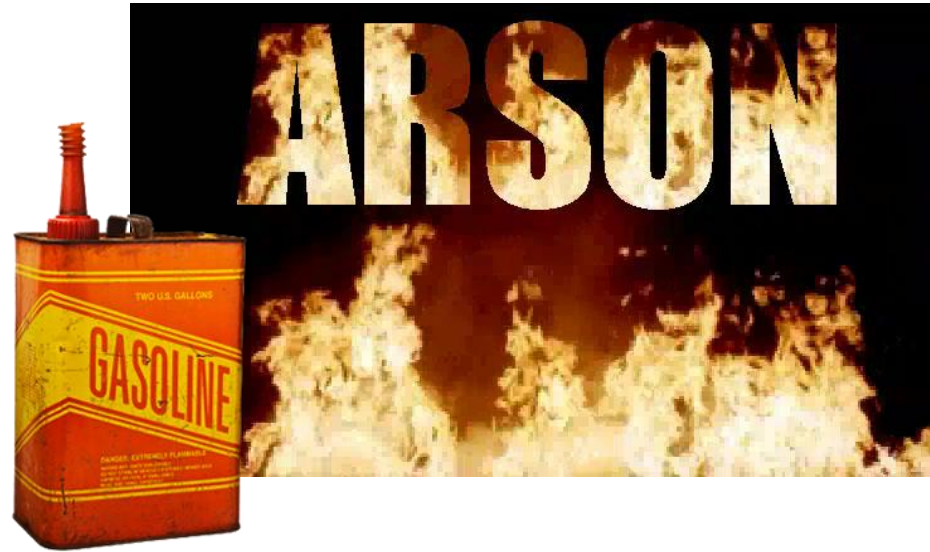
- Direct or circumstantial?
- Physical or biological?
- Class or individual?

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Importance of Evidence

- i. Can prove a crime has been committed and set the scene for the investigation.



- ii. Can back up witness testimony or prove it false.
- iii. Can link a suspect with a victim or with a crime scene.
- ii. Can determine the identity of people associated with a crime.
- ii. Allows investigators to reconstruct a crime.



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The Crime Scene Investigation Team:

- First Police Officer on the scene
- Backup Police and possibly a district attorney
- Medics
- Investigator/Detective
- Medical Examiner
- Photographer and/or Field Evidence Technician
- Lab Experts



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CRIME SCENE



Seven S's of Crime Scene Investigation:

1. Secure the scene
2. Separate the witnesses
3. Scan the scene
4. See the scene
5. Sketch the scene
6. Search for evidence
7. Secure and collect evidence



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CRIME SCENE



Securing the Scene:

The first responding police officer must make sure the scene is secure by first making sure all individuals in the area are safe and second by preserving evidence.

1. Obtain medical assistance if needed
2. Arrest suspects
3. Isolate the area
4. Request additional needs for investigations



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Separating the Witnesses:

Witnesses must not be allowed to talk to one another. This prevents them from working together to create a story (collusion).



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The Innocence Project.org

- Created in 1992, the goal was to reexamine post-conviction cases.
- When evaluating eye witness testimony, the investigator must discriminate between fact and opinion. What did the witness actually see?



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Scan the Scene:

i. Forensic examiners scan the scene to see where photos should be taken. The primary and secondary crime scenes must be determined.

1. The primary crime scene is where a crime actually occurred.
2. A secondary crime scene is in some way related to the crime but is not where the actual crime took place.



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See the Scene:

- i. A crime scene examiner looks at the scene. The Photography Unit takes photos of the overall area and close up photos with and without a measuring ruler.



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Sketching the Scene:

1. North should be labeled and a scale of distance should be included
2. All important objects (weapon and body) should be measured from two immovable landmarks
3. Any other objects in the vicinity of the crime should be included in the sketch (ex. Doors, windows, furniture, trees, vehicles, etc.)
4. Also include: Date, time, location, case number, and names
(Sketched by and Verified by)

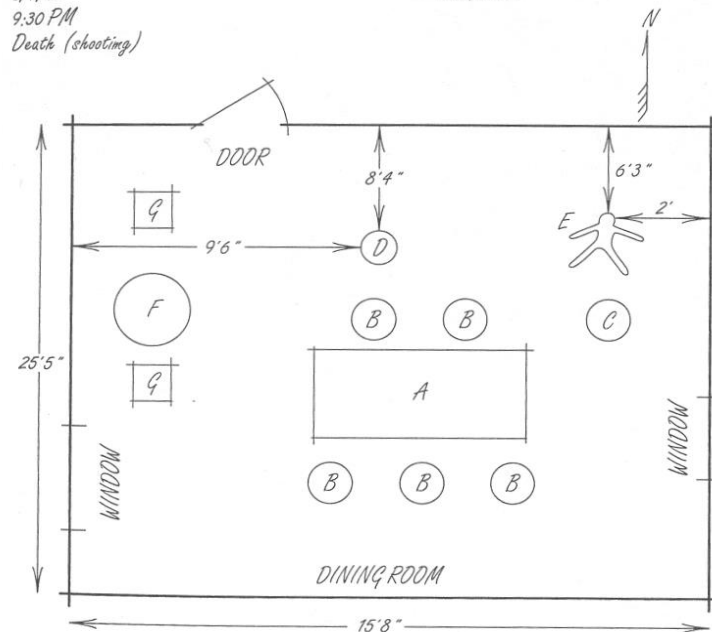


CRIME SCENE



2741 Aragon St.
6/7/81
9:30 PM
Death (shooting)

Sketch by Officer
John Smith



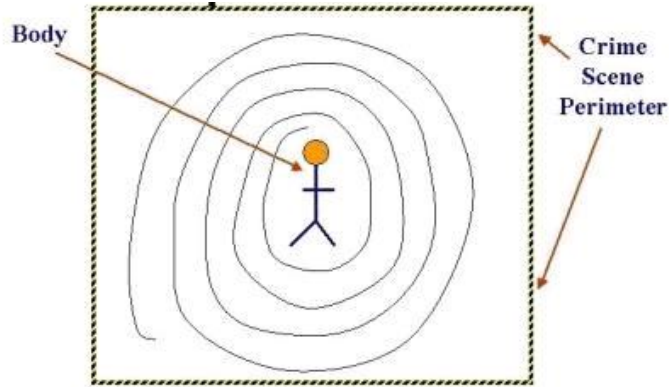
- A - Dining room table
- B - Chair
- C - Overturned chair
- D - 0.38 Revolver
- E - Male body
- F - Table
- G - Chair

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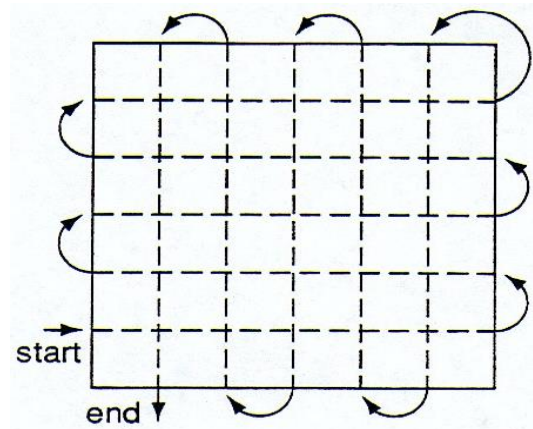
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Search for Evidence:

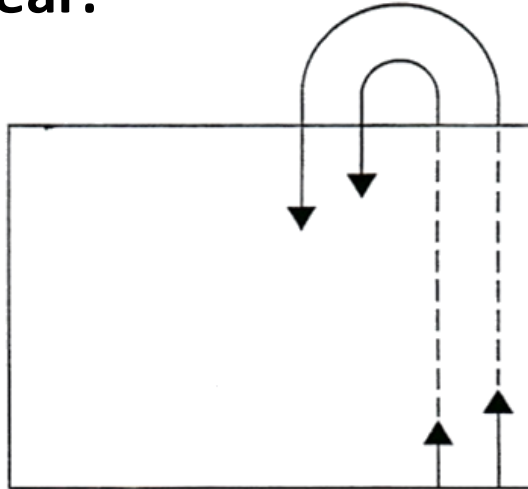
Spiral:



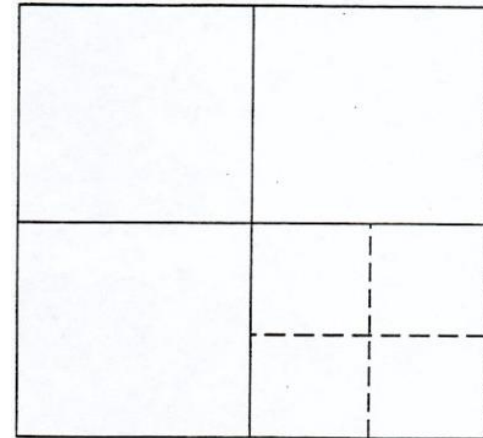
Grid:



Linear:



Quadrant or Zone:



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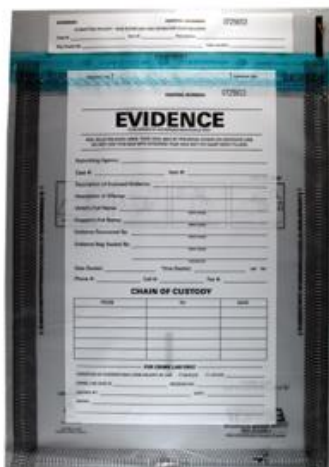
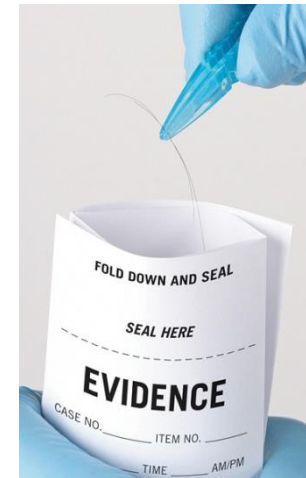
Securing and Collecting the Evidence:

- i. All evidence must be properly packaged, sealed and labeled using specific techniques and procedures.
- ii. Packaging Evidence

1. Metal or plastic **forceps** may have to be used to pick up small items.

1. Plastic **pill** bottles with lids are preferred containers for hairs, glass, fibers, and other kinds of **trace** evidence.

1. Liquids and arson remains are stored in **airtight**, unbreakable containers.



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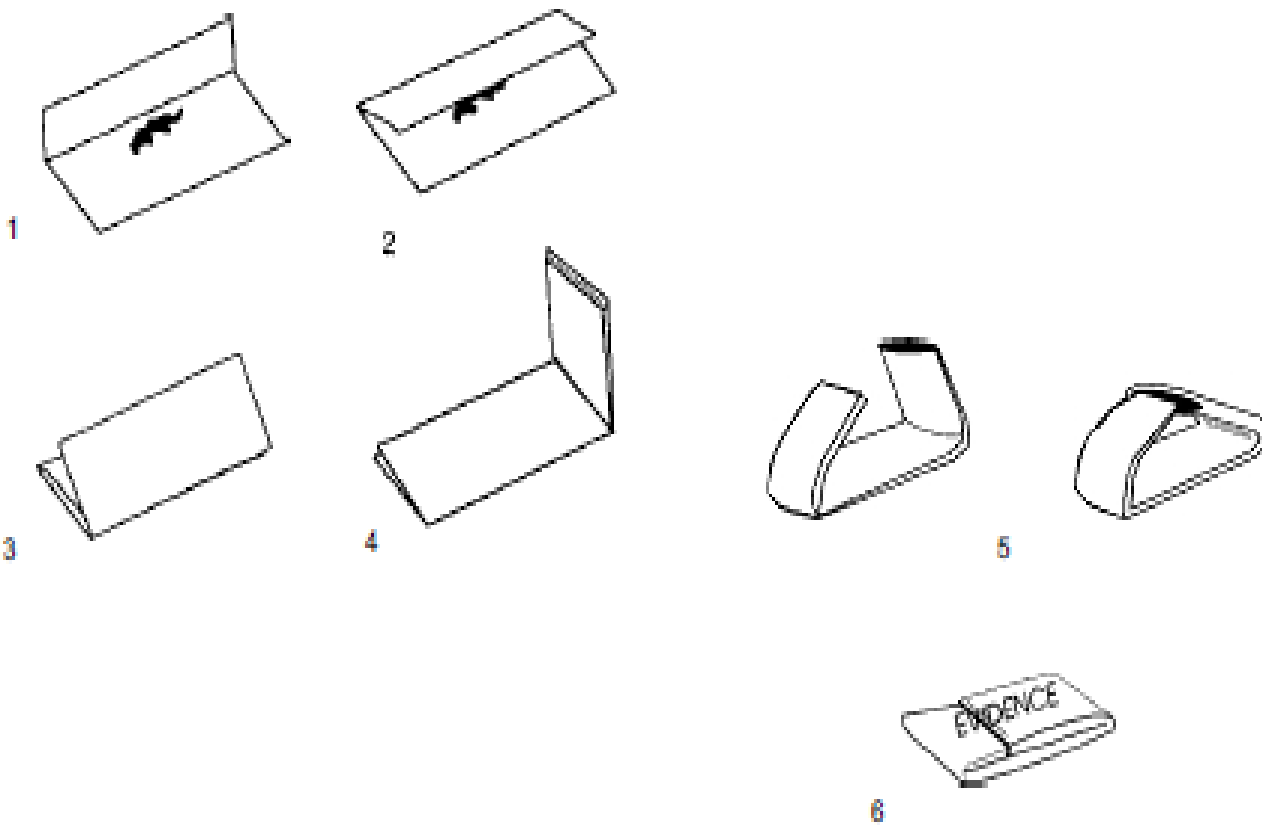


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Druggist's Fold for Evidence:

Most biological evidence is stored in breathable containers so the evidence can dry out, reducing the chances of mold contamination. After the evidence has air dried, it is packaged into a paper **bindle** (or druggist's fold) then placed in a paper or plastic container.



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Evidence Log & Chain of Custody

- 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 in order for the evidence to be admissible in court.

EVIDENCE	
Submitting Agency	_____
Date Collected	_____ Time _____
Item #	_____ Case # _____
Collected By	_____
Description of Evidence	_____ _____
Location Where Collected	_____
Type of Offense	_____
CHAIN OF CUSTODY	
Rec. From	_____ By _____
Date	_____ Time _____
Rec. From	_____ By _____
Date	_____ Time _____
Rec. From	_____ By _____
Date	_____ Time _____

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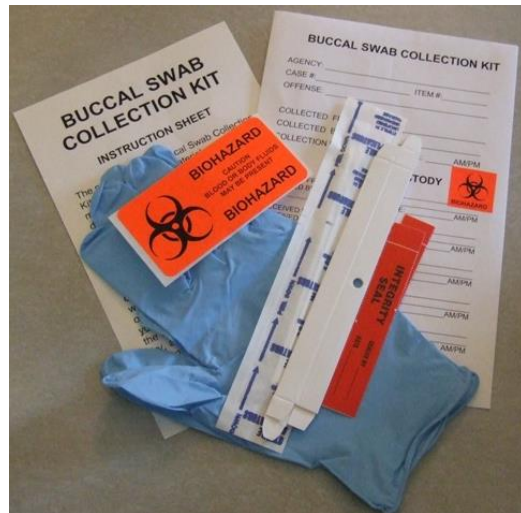
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Control Samples:

Control samples should also be taken from the victim for purposes of exclusion (blood, hair, etc.)

Standard/Reference Sample- Physical evidence whose origin is known, such as blood or hair from a suspect, that can be compared to crime-scene evidence.



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Analyze the Evidence:

- a. A forensic lab processes all evidence the crime scene investigation team collected.
- b. Forensic lab technicians are specialized and process one type of evidence, unlike CSI TV shows where they may process many.



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Crime Scene Reconstruction:

Crime scene reconstruction allows the detectives to form a **hypothesis** of the **sequence** of events from before the crime was committed through its commission.



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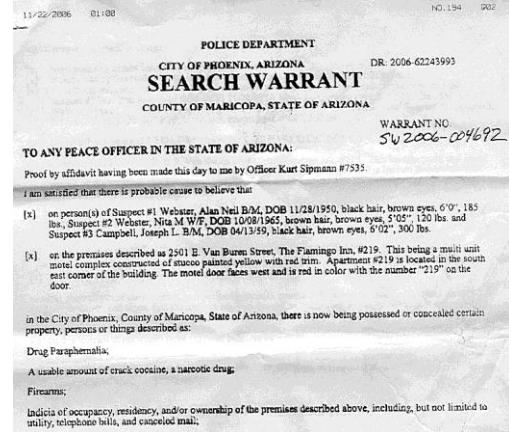
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Legal Considerations:

a. Any **removal** of **evidence** from a crime scene must be in accordance with the **Fourth** Amendment.

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against **unreasonable** searches and **seizures**, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon **probable cause**, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”



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A warrantless search can be conducted:

- under emergency circumstances (danger to life or limb)
- if there is immediate danger of the loss or destruction of evidence
- if there is probable cause — the search of a person and their immediate property in conjunction with a lawful arrest
- with the consent of the involved parties



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