

CRIME SCENE SEARCH STUDY GUIDE 2003

PART I OF II



This study guide is designed to provide the law enforcement Explorer with basic principles. The guide is not all inclusive, and does not delineate specific techniques that must be used. The focus of this guide is to provide principals that are flexible and adaptable to various law enforcement situations.

Following the basic principals in this guide should allow the law enforcement Explorer to successfully handle various law enforcement training activities safely and professionally.

The study guide was developed through the cooperation of International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.



CRIME SCENE SEARCH STUDY GUIDE

Initial Action Prior to Entering the Crime Scene

Team leader obtains preliminary information from the first officer.

Secured room and hallway upon arrival

Team leader assigns specific duties to each team member.

Verified reported information from the complainant

Requested permission to search complainant's room

Kept complainant from entering room

Kept other unauthorized personnel out of the scene.

Team leader conducts preliminary observations to locate possible items of evidence

Team member to check hallway for possible evidence dropped by the fleeing suspect

Ensured that they had the necessary equipment to process scene

Team leader briefs the team on the results of the preliminary observations.

Documentation of the Crime Scene

Documented the scene through the use of notes

Documented the scene through the use of overall photographs (or simulation)

Photographed items of evidence w/o scale first

Photographed items of evidence with scale/number

- Band aid packaging
- Cash box
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Plastic bag
- Screwdriver
- Wallet

Each photograph should be listed on the photo log.

Crime Scene Sketch

Overall of the room

Consistency with measured units

Used fixed points

Not to scale on sketch

North arrow for direction

Relevant item included

- Band aid packaging
- Cash box
- Desk
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Screwdriver
- Wallet

Camera positions indicated on sketch

Legend listing

- Measurements
- Symbols used for items

Title block on each page listing

- Date
- Exact location
- Type of case
- Officers name and assistants

Collection and Preservation of Evidence

Latent prints located/recovered from cash box

- Properly developed
- Properly lifted
- Properly preserved on lift card
- Properly marked on the back

Band aid packaging

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Cash Box (After Dusting)

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

First aid kit

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Golf gloves

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Plastic bag

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Screwdriver

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Wallet

- Properly collected
- Properly preserved
- Properly marked

Evidence Custody and Control Form

Each item of evidence that was collected should be documented on this form.

Band aid packaging
Cash Box
First aid kit
Golf gloves
Latent print lift cards
Plastic bag
Screwdriver
Wallet

SITUATION/SCENE:

Background information

There has been a series of “home invasion” type crimes. Where women have been home alone, and attacked by a masked intruder. The intruder forced the door open when the victims looked out to see who was at the door. The women had been assaulted, tied up and robbed.

Each victim related that the man was very tall, slender, wore a dark blue mask and leather type “golf” gloves. The suspect carried a plastic bag that contained the duck tape that was used to tie the victims up, along with various tools used to break into locked cabinets and desks in the victim’s home. The victims also stated that the suspect “sounded” young.

The Case

There has been a burglary of a female student’s dorm room. The first officer is on the scene along with the complainant.

The first officer has interviewed the complainant and found out that the student was supposed to be home waiting for a friend. She suddenly remembered that she needed some makeup, and went to the corner store. Upon returning approximately 25 minutes later she found her door open. Upon entering the room she found the drawers from her desk lying on the floor, along with an empty gray cash box. She immediately called the police from her cell phone.

The Scene

The door to the room will have been kicked open, and a partial shoe print should be visible on the door. The teams should find the door in the open position.

Upon entering the room the team will see that the room, with the exception of the desk, appears not to have been disturbed which can be verified by the complainant. The focus of the team’s attention will be drawn to the desk.

Several drawers will be on the floor with the others open. The top of the desk will have a large CD container that holds the jewel cases with the CD inside. (The container should be of the type that has a clear plastic top and solid color bottom.) The container will have several jewel cases,

but only one will contain a CD. On the jewel case that has the CD there will be an impression of what appears to be finger impressions in blood but closer observation will reveal that the impressions have been made a glove that has openings to allow for air flow (**golf glove**). The other cases will only have blood spots on them.

One of the drawers appears to have been pried open, as does the cash box.

A screwdriver will be located on the floor near the desk. On the handle of the screwdriver there will be blood along with several large drops on the floor. A partial footprint, facing the door, will be visible in the blood.

Another desk drawer will be open containing a first aid kit that has been opened and a band aid has been used, the packaging from the band aid will be on the floor under the desk. (**Team member will have to bend down to see this piece of evidence.**) There will be signs of blood on the kit and the discarded packaging will contain a clear fingerprint. (**Suspect took off gloves to open packaging**) One glove will be located near the first aid kit.

As they conduct a search of the room they will find a plastic bag behind the open door that contains a roll of duck tape, pliers, and a blue mask. In the area of the bag they will discover a campus ID card listed to a male student. The physical description on the card will list the student as 6-2 and 180 pounds.

Team Work

- Team should talk with the first officer to see what type of information he acquired from the complainant
- Insure the security of the scene.
- Found out who entered the room since the call.
- Briefly talk with the complainant to verify information and ask permission to search her room.
- Complainant should tell them that only the desk has been tampered with and that the cash box contained several hundred dollars from an event.
- Team leader should look around the room and determine what will be done.
- Team leader should make assignments if not done so already.
- Prepare a narrative description of the room.
- Start taking pictures of the room.
 - Photograph evidence with and without scale.
- Start a sketch of the room, using separate page for legend.
- Systematically search for evidence
- Evidence:
 - Footprint on door
 - Blood sample from floor near shoe print.
 - Screwdriver
 - CD jewel case
 - First aid box
 - Band aid wrapper
 - Golf glove

- Bag from behind door (duck tape, pliers and mask)
 - Id card
- Partial foot print in blood near desk will turn out to be the first officer on the scene, but he/she will not volunteer the information.

Props

Screwdriver

First aid kit

Band aid wrapper

CD holder with CD's in jewel cases

Plastic bag w/mask, pliers, duck tape

ID card with male student information

Footprint on door

Cash box

Simulated (water soluble) blood

Golf Glove