



# Understanding Crime Scenes: From Discovery to Categorization

Ms. Sidhvita Kaithepalli  
Assistant Professor &  
Ph.d Scholar in Forensic Science



# What is a Crime ?

A crime is an action or omission that violates a law and is punishable by the state. It's essentially a public wrong, harmful to society and forbidden by law. Crimes are determined by the legal norms and laws established by a society, and are typically punishable by penalties such as fines, imprisonment, or other sanctions.



# What is a Crime Scene?

- A crime scene is the location where a crime has taken place or where evidence related to the crime is found.
- It is the starting point of investigation, where physical, biological, or digital evidence is collected.
- It is noted that the crime scene is not limited to a single place but may extend to a wider area depending on the nature of the crime committed.

# Classification of crime scenes

1



2



3

**Based on evidence found on  
the crime scene**

**Based on the geographical  
location of the crime scene:**

**Based on the Size of the  
Crime Scene**



# Based on evidence found on the crime scene

---

## 1. Primary Crime Scene

- The crime scene where the actual crime occurred or where more usable pieces of evidence were found is known as the primary crime scene.
- For example, A murder scene, theft, assault, etc.



# Based on evidence found on the crime scene

---

## 2. Secondary Crime Scene

- The crime scene, which is some or another way related to the crime but is not a place where the actual crime is committed, is known as a secondary crime scene.
- It is very important because it may provide a strong link between the suspect and the victim.
- For example, In a murder case where murder is done at one place and the body is dumped in a different place. In this case, the secondary crime scene (where the body is dumped) can provide more information in terms of evidence like cloth, fiber, hair, weapon, etc. of the suspect. This will help to trace the primary crime scene.



# Based on the geographical location of the crime scene

---

## 1. Outdoor crime scene

- A crime that is committed in an open and wide area like a field, park, road, playground, etc. is known as an outdoor crime scene.
- An outdoor crime scene is more vulnerable to loss or contamination of evidence by sunlight, air, or extreme weather.
- Evidence found at an outdoor crime scene is more susceptible.
- It requires larger investigating teams depending upon the size of the crime scene.
- More eye witnesses can be found in outdoor crime scenes which can help to solve the case more quickly.
- Grid or strip search method provides a better result to find evidence at an outdoor crime scene.

# Based on the geographical location of the crime scene

---

## 2. Indoor Crime Scene

- A crime that is committed in an enclosed and small area like a room, hall, corridor, kitchen, etc. is known as an indoor crime scene.
- An indoor crime scene is less vulnerable to loss or contamination of evidence due to whether conditions as it occurred in an enclosed area.
- Evidence found in an indoor crime scene is less susceptible.
- It requires a small team of IOs/ Forensic experts as the area of an indoor crime scene is generally small.
- Less or no eye witness can be found in an indoor crime scene as their areas are generally closed and protected.
- Spiral, circular, and zone search methods provide better results to find evidence at an indoor crime scene.





# Based on the geographical location of the crime scene

---

## 3. Mobile/ Conveyance Crime Scene

- Conveyance is a means of transportation. Types of crimes committed in conveyances include the following: Vehicle, Train/Bus, Lift, Flight. Physical evidence recovered from these scenes may extend well beyond the conveyance.
- Suspects leaving in a hurry may carelessly leave additional evidence. A conveyance, such as a vehicle, may be transported to the laboratory after proper documentation has been completed.
- May move from one jurisdiction to another, and evidence can be spread across locations.



# Based on the size of the crime scene

---

## 1. Macroscopic Crime Scene

- A macroscopic crime scene refers to the overall or large-scale physical area where a crime occurred.
- It may involve multiple locations, victims, weapons, or objects involved in the incident.
- For example: a house with a murder in one room, a broken window, and a vehicle in the driveway.
- This type of scene provides a comprehensive view of the crime and helps in reconstructing the entire event.



# Based on the size of the crime scene

---

## 2. Microscopic Crime Scene

- A microscopic crime scene refers to the small, specific pieces of evidence found within a larger scene.
- Examples include: blood stains, fingerprints, hair, fibers, gunshot residues, or DNA traces.
- It requires close inspection and laboratory analysis, and is critical for linking individuals to the crime.

# Why is it Necessary to Understand the type of Crime Scene?

Understanding the crime scene type helps in:

- Choosing the right methods and tools for evidence collection.
- Preventing evidence loss or contamination (especially in outdoor scenes).
- Assigning the right experts and resources for efficient investigation.
- Aiding in reconstructing the crime and linking suspects, victims, or objects.



THANK YOU