



Forensic science

An Investigator's Job

PRESENTATION BY: HIRENKUMAR SAVANI

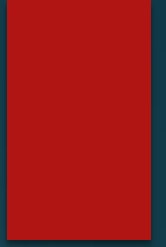


An investigator should approach the crime scene investigation as if it will be their only opportunity to preserve and recover physical clues.

Goal of the most crime scene investigations is to answer some or all the following questions:

- ▶ Who is the perpetrator, and who is the victim?
- ▶ What happened, when, and why?
- ▶ How did the crime happen?
- ▶ Where did it happen (the location of the body is not always at the primary crime scene?)
- ▶ What is the evidence?

What would be found at a crime scene in which a victim was murdered with a knife?



A brief examination of the scene will often provide a general theory of what occurred, while forensics often reveals hidden clues.

- ▶ Body Temp. – Approximate time of death
- ▶ Insects found in or on body – Approximate time of death
- ▶ Blood – DNA of victim or perpetrator
- ▶ Hand or Shoe Print – Approximate height and stride of suspect
- ▶ Time of Death and Stride of Suspect – Radius the suspect must be in

What is the best way to find evidence

- ▶ If officers rush to the scene to collect the murder weapon, it's possible that they may destroy other evidence such as footprints. Crime scene investigators often work in teams and follow an established procedure.

Step one: approaching:

- ▶ Carefully observe persons, odors, and other elements. Exercise extreme safety.

Step two: confirm or disconfirm death

- ▶ Locate and view the body, noting the success, failure, or uselessness of resuscitative efforts.

Step three: preserving

- ▶ Establish perimeters. Set up command posts. Determine suspect's point of entry and way out .

Step four: processing

- ▶ Photograph scene, body, and face. Place photograph markers. Photograph body. Sketch and search the scene. Examine evidence in detail. Take notes. Tag and bag. Describe and document. When you do this, you may want to bring in a police officer or forensic specialist to explain this portion.

Step five: identify the victim

- ▶ Estimate cause, manner, and time of death. Look for ID. Look for drag marks. Note discrepancies in mortis and body temperature.

Step six: notify next of kin

- ▶ Tell the victim's family

Step seven: develop theory of motive

- ▶ Rely upon evidence, knowledge of victim's activities, and appearance of victim's clothing. See if any documents were written by or sent to victim recently. Determine the pre-scene activity and health status of the victim.

Step eight: seek additional information

- ▶ Do background and history checks. Obtain leads from people who knew the victim. Challenge discrepancies in witness' knowledge of the victim. Order warrants on suspects.

Step nine: questioning

- ▶ Question all suspects. Make use of evidence during questioning. Use information withheld from the public about the case to obtain a confession. Destroy alibis.

Thank you