INTRODUCTION TO CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

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"Physical evidence can not be intimidated. It does not forget.

It sits there and waits to be detected, preserved,

evaluated and explained".

Herbert Leon Macdonell



• Crime scene investigation is a simple methodical and sequential process that follows a set of procedures and principles ensuring that all physical evidence is discovered and investigated.

• Logic and systematic approaches are used in solving complex and challenging matters in relation to crime.



- An investigation is a thorough search for **facts** concerning complex situations.
- Crime Scene Investigation: this is an investigation that uses physical evidence at the crime scene in unravelling circumstances surrounding a crime and/or gaining knowledge of the events of a crime by the use of deductive and inductive reasoning.

• This is multidisciplinary field.

• Crime scene analysis: It involves evaluating the context of a scene and the physical evidence found there in an effort to identify what occurred and in what order it occurred.

• The scenes in question are generally evaluated to determine if they are areas where crimes occurred.

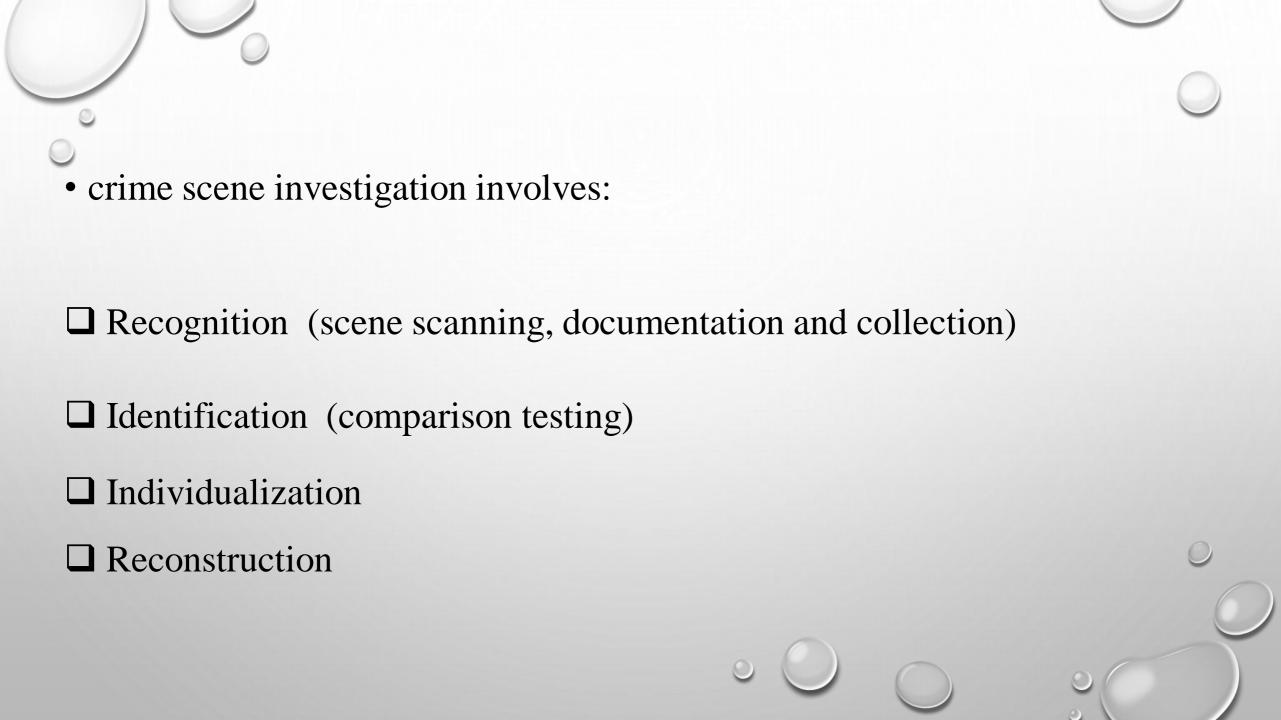
(such decision is not always apparent until after analysis)

- Effective forensic evaluation of objects (evidence) leads to refined data, which
- ✓ leads to more objective and refined conclusions.
- "what happened" is not the only question considered by the crime scene analyst; the order in which it occurred is just as important.

- Crime scene analysis uses reductionism.
- The analysis is reverse engineered from the physical evidence.

SKILLS OF FORENSIC SCIENTIST NEEDED FOR CSI

- ✓ Logical and independent mind
- ✓ Meticulous attention to detail
- ✓ Objective and sensitive
- ✓ Ability to work under pressure
- ✓ Concentration and patience
- ✓ Ability to deal with stressful and emotional situations



CRIME SCENE

- ➤ Crime Scene: refers to <u>any location</u> that may be <u>associated</u> with a committed <u>crime</u> that may provide potential evidence pertinent to a criminal investigation.
- rime scene includes areas within the immediate vicinity of occurrence that might have some pieces of evidence. It may be a person's body, vehicle, buildings, open air etc.
- Depending upon how a crime was committed, more than one crime scene may exist.

THE SCENE

- > Crime scenes can be classified based on:
- 1. Location of the criminal activity or starting point of investigation
- 2. The physical location type where the crime scene has occurred
- 3. Size of crime scene
- 4. Type of crime committed
- 5. Crime scene behaviour (active/passive)
- 6. Crime scene condition (organized/ disorganized)

(combination or adaptation of these classifications is used by the investigator)

CATEGORY 1

Location of the criminal activity or starting point of investigation

Primary crime scene: This refers to where the crime actually occurs or occurred and its immediate surroundings within which evidence might be found.

Secondary crime scene: this refers to places related to the crime and not where the actual crime took place where evidences can be found linking the crime, the victim and the offenders

Category 2

The physical location type where the crime scene has occurred

1. Outdoor crime scene

2. Indoor crime scene

3. Conveyance crime scene



Size of crime scene

• Macroscopic crime scene

• Microscopic crime scene

Category 4 (Type of crime)

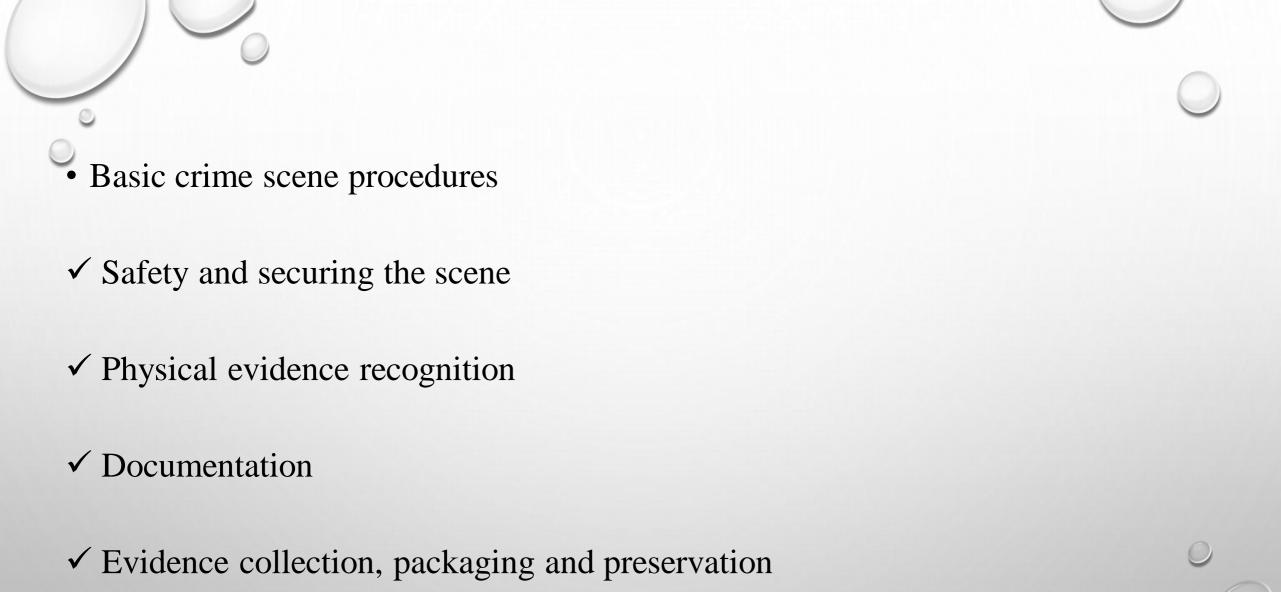
- √ homicide
- ✓ robbery
- ✓ sexual assault etc



- > Crime scene behavior
- Active:
- Passive
- > Crime scene condition

Organized

disorganized



✓ Scene reconstruction

The Seven S's of Crime Scene Investigation

- 1. Securing the scene
- 2. Separating the witness
- 3. Scanning the scene
- 4. Seeing the scene

documenting the crime scene

- 5. Sketching the scene
- 6. Searching for evidence
- 7. Securing and collection of evidence

GOALS FOR CSI

- THE GOALS FOR CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
- ☐ CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION IS TO DETERMINE

$$(5W'S + H)$$

- ✓ WHAT
- ✓ WHO
- ✓ WHEN
- ✓ WHY
- ✓ WHERE
- ✓ HOW

USES OF INFORMATION FROM CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

- physical evidence from crime scene investigations provides:
- Information on the corpus delecti

• Information on modus operandi

Linkage of persons, scenes, objects

USES OF INFORMATION FROM CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

Proving or disproving witness statements

Identification of suspects

• Identification of unknown substances - drugs, poisons, bacteria

• Reconstruction of a crime - the crime scene investigator is more interested in how the crime occurred.

Providing investigative leads-



• CRIME SCENE AND SAFETY