

# NCSAR Crime Scene Requirements

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# Objectives

- Recognize potentially hazardous scenes and personal safety within the scene.
- Identify potential evidence and how to preserve the evidence.
- General scene recognition.

# Objectives continued

- Investigative steps taken by Deputies and Detectives.
- What to do if you encounter a marijuana garden.
- What to do when you encounter a crime scene.
- Remember every find is a potential crime scene

# What to do when you encounter a Crime Scene when searching

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  - First things first, always remember your safety comes first.
  - Report the scene location to IC and request a deputy.
  - Carefully inspect scene for safety before approaching subject.
  - If ok, determine need for medical assistance.
  - If the subject is obviously deceased, do not go to the subject. Stay as far away as possible.
  - Secure the scene.

# Encountering a Crime Scene continued

- If you're a dog handler, immediately gain control of your dog and remove the dog from the scene.
- If the dog disturbs the scene or moves something, do not put it back and notify the investigator ASAP.
- Back out exactly the way you entered-mark with flagging.

# Encountering a Crime Scene continued

- Once done, start thinking about scene preservation and documentation.
- Start a crime scene log.
- Take photos to document the scene as you found it, especially if the investigator is not close by.
- If you make the find expect to be interviewed by an investigator and you may have to testify in court. This may occur at a later date and time depending on the case.

# Scene

- If you are within the crime scene, you want to back out the way you came in.
- Try to note any items of interest.
- Look, Listen, Smell, but do not Touch.
- If you disturb anything (spent casing, clothing, etc.) be sure to let the deputies know so they can document it.



# Scene

- Utilize crime scene tape to secure scene.
- You should always have an inner and outer perimeter for the scene.
- The crime scene can always be shrunk down. Anything outside the scene will likely be compromised if not destroyed.

# Scene

- Crime scenes should be secured and that security maintained. Do not allow unauthorized personnel to enter the scene. This includes family, members of the media, and any other unauthorized personnel.
- Be sure to inform investigating personnel if anything was moved or altered.
- Do not talk to press regarding search or your findings.

# Things to remember

- All cadaver finds are considered crime scenes.
- If you make the find, you (the handler) are responsible for maintaining the scene integrity until the investigator arrives on scene.
- If the subject is obviously deceased, do not go to the subject. Stay as far away as possible.

# Continued

- If the subject is not obviously deceased, carefully approach, check vital signs.
- Do not move the subject.
- Remember your path.
- Remember that some evidence is small and you may not notice it when you discover the scene.
- Once you make the find, control your dog if you're a handler and remain as far away as possible.

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# Crime Scene Conduct

- There should be no smoking, drinking, or eating within the crime scene.
- Whenever around or within the scene, always remain professional.
- Remember: You never know who is watching or worse, who is videoing you.
- Crime scene conduct has come up in court cases.

# Conduct, continued

- Gloves should be worn at all times within the crime scene.
- If available, disposable shoe covers should also be worn.
- Defense attorney's are likely to argue that the crime scene was contaminated by various means.



# Crime Scene Documentation

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# Documentation

- Starts the minute you arrive on scene.
- The earliest documentation comes from what you see, hear, and smell.
- The scene will never be “as fresh” as it is when you arrive.
- The moment you enter, the scene is forever changed.

# Photography

- Photographs should be taken as soon as possible.
- You want to preserve the scene in photographs so it can be reconstructed at a later date.
- Remember, every picture you take can end up in court.

# Marijuana Gardens

- Marijuana gardens are often guarded by armed personnel.
- Some of these individuals are not afraid to use deadly force to protect their investment.
- At times, investigators have found booby traps and trip wires in and around the gardens.
- If you find a garden, back out and radio in your position as well as entering a waypoint on your GPS.

# Crime Scene Photo's

The following photo's are extremely graphic and depict dying or deceased people. They are shown only to give an example of what can be found.