

“Did You Step In It?”

Crime Scene Awareness for the First Responder



E5

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Think about it...

*How often are we at
crime scenes?*



*When do we know we are
at a crime scene?*



Overview of Course

- Intended to review and familiarize the first responder with the common pitfalls of scene management and the evidence collection component.
- To provide protective measures at future scenes.

Crime Scene

- A location where a crime has been committed or any place that evidence relating to a crime may be found.

(Brady - Emergency Care 11th Edition, Daniel Limmer & Michael O'Keefe)

The 3 Headed Juggernaut



Is There Fighting Among Us?



It Exists Everywhere



Conflict Occurs

When we don't respect the roles of all responders.



Knowing Your Roles

◉ Emergency Medical Services

&

Fire Departments

- Patient care
- Patient extrication
- Patient transport

Knowing Their Roles

• Law Enforcement

- Scene Safety
- Conduct a criminal investigation that includes:
 - Identify Evidence
 - Prevent Contamination of Crime Scene & Evidence
 - Gather Statements
- GOAL: Attain PROBABLE CAUSE for arrest proceedings (if alive) and/or let the evidence speak on behalf of the deceased.

Law Enforcement Approach

- Starts when dispatched and continues to arrival on scene.



*The
+1
Effect*

Identifying Evidence

● Evidence is identified as:

- An outward sign
- Something that furnishes proof (i.e. Testimony)
- One who bears witness

(Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary – Merriam Webster)



● Types of Evidence:

- Fingerprints
- Blood and Bodily Fluids
- Hairs & Fibers
- Wounds
- Observations & Statements

Fingerprints

- Fingerprints are unique

- Deltas, Ridges & Lines creates Arch(s) & Whorl(s) & Loop Patterns



- Latent prints are never simple to attain

- Smooth and non-porous substances (i.e. glass) are best however there are other ways to attain prints (i.e. - cyanoacrylate).

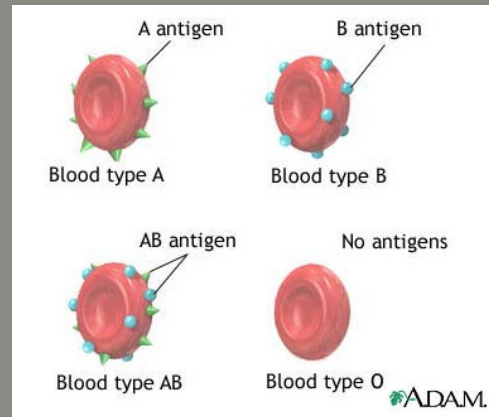


Footprints



Blood & Bodily Fluids

● Blood Typing



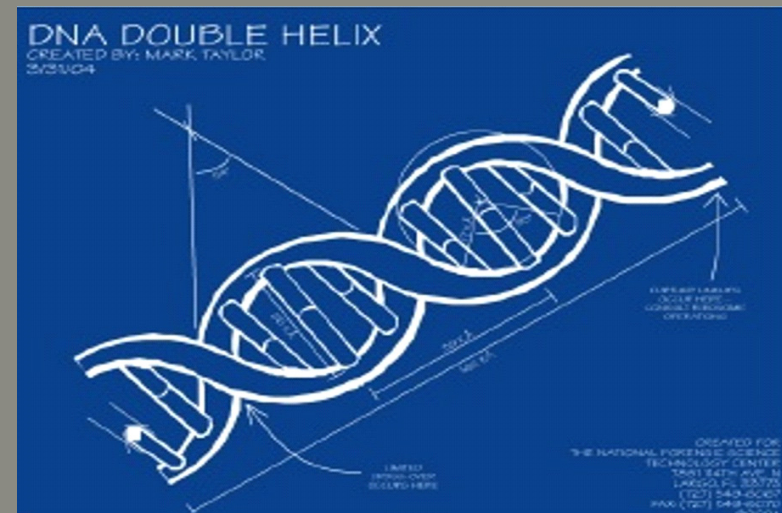
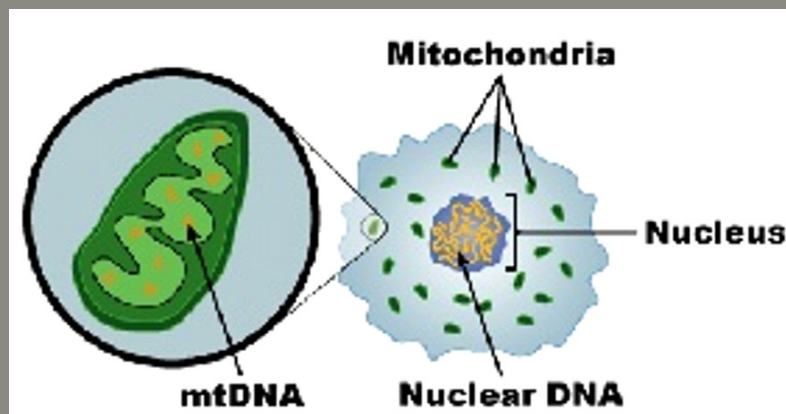
● DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid)

- The biological molecule that carries genetic information from one generation to the next



DNA Facts

- Inherited from Mom & Dad
- Only identical twins have the same DNA
- Does not change over time
- Same within every cell in the body



Where Can We Find DNA?

• Any item with possible biological residue:

- Blood
- Semen/Sperm
- Hair
- Tissue
- Bones
- Organs
- Tooth Pulp
- Saliva
- Sweat
- Skin Cells
- Urine
- Feces
- Fingernails

Where Can We Find DNA?



www.StrangeCosmos.com



Other Items Containing DNA

- Cigarette butts
- Beverage containers
 - Straws
- Chewing Gum
- Latex Gloves
- Food items (pizza crusts, sandwiches, chicken/rib bones)



Issues with DNA

- ① Severity of the case?
- ① Has it been degraded?
- ① Has it been collected properly?
- ① Was the crime scene contaminated?

Blood Splatter

in residences and grab

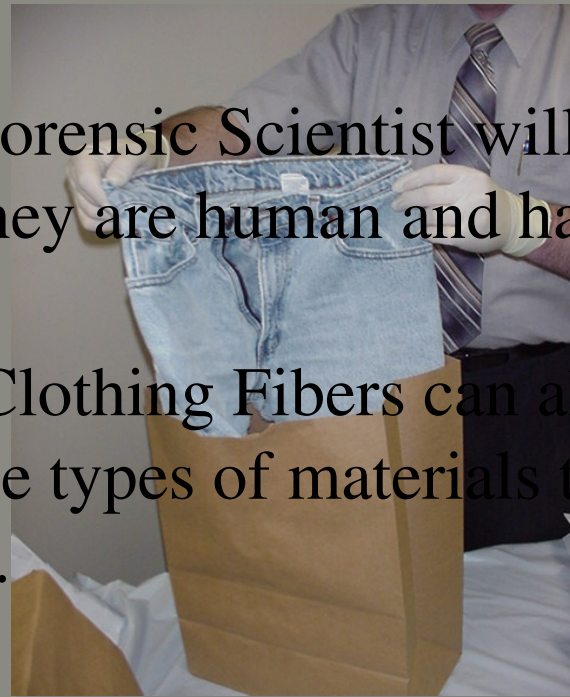


Hairs & Fibers

Forensic Scientist Edmond Locard

- "Everywhere you go, you take something with you, and you leave something behind."

- At the lab, Forensic Scientist will evaluate the hairs to verify that they are human and have root material for DNA.
- Carpet and Clothing Fibers can also be analyzed to determine the types of materials that people came in contact with.



Wounds

- Penetrating and/or blunt trauma



Penetrating Wound



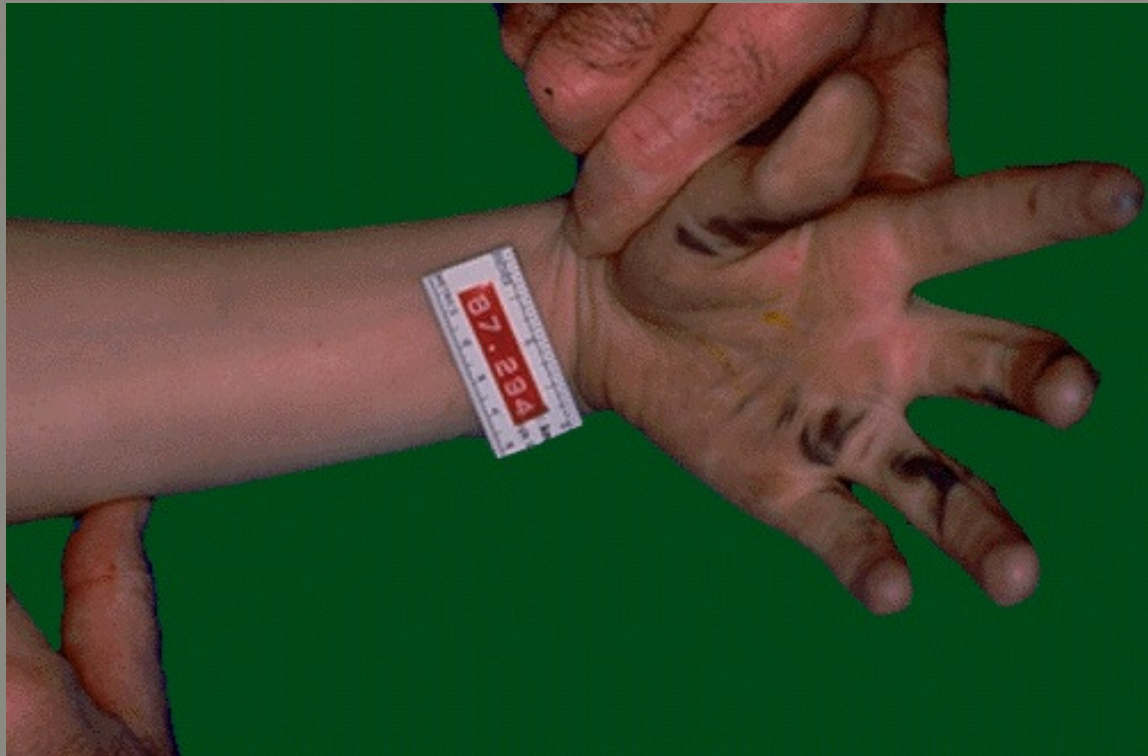
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Penetrating Wound



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Other items



Soot on hands is indicative of what?

Gathering Statements

- ⊙ Patients position
- ⊙ Patients Injuries
- ⊙ Conditions at scene
 - Lights on or off?
 - Curtains?
 - Signs of forced entry?
- ⊙ Statements of persons at scene
- ⊙ Statements of patient/victim
- ⊙ Dying Declarations

“Talking To The Cops”

- What can we discuss with law enforcement?
 - DOH Policy Statement 08-02 - Regarding Prehospital Patient Confidentiality
- Why would you not want to assist law enforcement?
- Put yourselves in the victims shoes?



Prevent Contamination of Crime Scene & Evidence

- ① Starts with Understanding of each others roles. You will all be in a crime scene.
- ① Identifying The Scene...Or the threat! Lets think like they do.
- ① Be aware of your surroundings and assess the scene. Avoid the “Routine” thinking.

Scene Safety

- #1 Threat... The Human Threat



Identifying The Scene

- Scene Size Up – Think of the warning signs:
 - Past History of problems or violence
 - Known drug or gang area
 - Loud noises or items breaking
 - Seeing or hearing fighting
 - Intoxication or drug use
 - Dangerous pets
 - Unusual silence or darkened residence



Identifying The Scene

- Approach with caution
 - Where is law enforcement?
 - Broadcasting with lights and siren?
 - Do you approach using the footpath or up the lawn?
 - Where to stand in front of the door?
 - Listen for signs of danger before announcing (or knocking).
 - Identify yourself...uniform on?

In The Scene

- Be aware of your Entry & Egress

- Code Words for egress?
“Purple” Tie or Bag, etc.



- Avoid walking thru blood

- Do not pile all the victims clothing in one spot
(at a scene)

- Changing gloves between patients

For The Most Part

- ① Do not touch anything unless you have too.
- ① Notify law enforcement what was touched.
- ① Document the same.
- ① And document....and if you remember later, document some more.

Roadway Scenes



Identifying The Scene



Identifying The Scene

- Called to the scene of a 45 year old male with a gunshot wound to the head. I87 Northbound, rest area at....
- Scene Size Up – Highway dangers
 - Who are these people? Wanted? Armed?
 - Intoxicated or on drugs?
 - Tend to be violent?
 - Mental Health Issues?

Scene Safety

- Remember the #1 Threat...

The Human Threat



Vehicle Approaches

- Passenger side
- Behind the B post
- Count the occupants (+1)



Be aware for:

- Voices that are becoming louder
- Hostility

Witnesses...or the +1 Theory



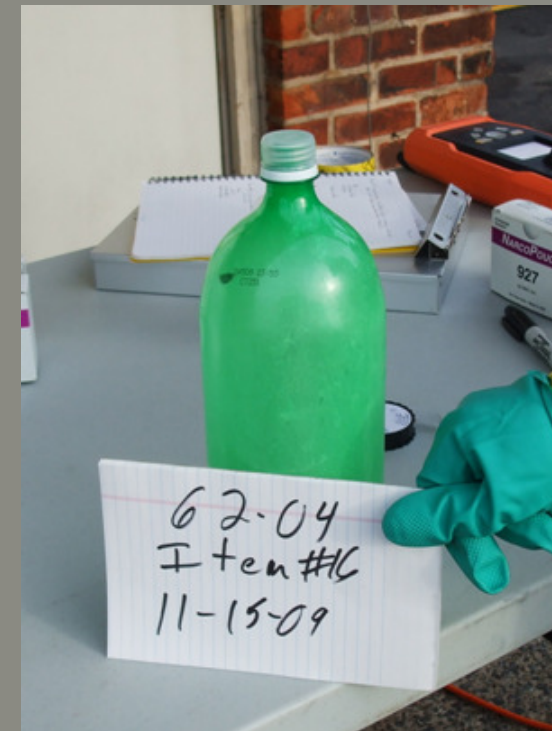
Clandestine Drug Labs



The “One Pot” or “Shake & Bake” Method

⦿ Chemicals Needed:

Pseudoephedrine tablets, ammonium nitrate, starting fluid, lithium strips, caustic soda (sodium hydroxide)



“One Pot” Method

- On the rise...
 - Eleven confirmed “One Pot” methods in 2010 of the 31 Clan labs dismantled.



- After synthesizing the drug in a vessel (i.e. two liter soda bottle) and “burping” (venting) it, the process needs to be filtered and dried to achieve the final product.

Additional Apparatus & Chemicals



Protective Actions

- Do NOT touch or move anything that is most likely associated with a clan lab.
- If the clan lab materials are in a vehicle, do not move the vehicle.
- Do NOT turn lights or appliances on or off.
- Consider all containers potential hazards.

Protective Actions

- ① Remove occupants as quickly as possible.
- ① In most cases, leave doors and windows open if practical (to ventilate the clan lab site).
- ① Secure the site and do not allow re-entry.



Overall

- It's not really IF you stepped in it...It's WHEN you step in it.
- Think Safety...who is the best safety officer?
- Remember who is going home!

*Stand United and work together.
Look out for each other!*

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

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E5

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