

Seven Step Protocol for Securing and Investigating a Crime Scene.

Note: Crime circumstances, type of scene and agency protocol may dictate the methodology of scene processing using this protocol as general guidance.

I. Establish the dimensions and identify potential safety and health hazards.

- Establish dimensions.
 - Locate focal point.
 - Observe for secondary scene(s).
- Identify safety hazards.
 - Biohazards, power, weapons, chemical hazards, traps.
 - Contamination.
 - Victim assistance.
 - Communicate hazards to other responders.

II. Establish security.

- Establish boundaries.
- Establish physical barriers.
- Establish entry/exit paths.
- Restrict access.
- Lot participants.
- Exclude unnecessary people.
- Protect evidence.

III. Plan and communicate.

- Determine type of investigation.
- Gather data and intelligence.
- Address legal issues.
- Determine processing priority.
- Define resources: current and future needs.
- Secure areas: consultation and processing.

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- IV. Conduct a primary survey.**
 - Identify evidence.
 - Document.
 - Determine processing list for evidence collection.
- V. Document and process the scene.**
 - Photography.
 - Notes.
 - Observations.
 - Sketches.
 - Task assignment.
- VI. Conduct a secondary survey.**
 - Determine search pattern.
 - Prioritize search areas.
 - Consider environmental factors.
- VII. Recover and preserve evidence**
 - Collect evidence

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