



# ***Crime Scene Security and Processing***

## ***Lesson 4.4***



# ***Terminal Learning Objective***



***Upon completion of this lesson and without the aid of references, the student will be able to demonstrate proper response to a crime scene, to include securing the scene, rendering aid, and recording the scene with notes and sketch.***



# ***Enabling Learning Objectives***



***Upon completion of this lesson and without the aid of references, the student will be able to:***

- Identify NSF responsibilities at a crime scene*
- Identify the three methods to document a crime scene*
- Identify crime scene search methods*



# ***Responsibilities at the Scene***



- ***Notify dispatch of the incident at your post.***
- ***Record time, date, complainant, location details in notebook***
- ***Incidents in which an NSF member has a crime scene security responsibility will usually occur at their post.***



# **Actions At Scene**



***There is not always time to take notes, so mental observations must be made.***

- ***Time of arrival***
- ***Weather conditions***
- ***Persons present at the scene***
- ***Unusual odors***
- ***Positions of doors, lights, switches, drapes***
- ***Individuals and vehicles leaving the scene***



## ***Actions At Scene***



- ***Assess crime scene/request support (as needed)***
- ***First priority – Determine the scene is safe for the NSF and other persons around scene***
- ***After controlling dangerous situations or individuals, administer first aid***
- ***Evacuate injured victims as soon as possible***



# **Actions At Scene Injured Persons**



- ***Whenever entering a crime scene to provide first aid or check for signs of life, a searched pathway must be used.***
- ***Make a quick survey from the entry/exit way, then move to the victim by a route that avoids evidence and the possible trail of the suspect.***



# **Actions upon Arrival Injured Persons**



***Aid to injured persons and examination of apparently deceased persons can proceed simultaneously with crime scene protection.***





# **Actions upon Arrival Injured Persons**



***Injured persons should be handled in the following manner:***

- ***Render first aid***
- ***Arrange for medical attention at the scene***
- ***Fully identify***
- ***Have injured evacuated to medical facility***
- ***Identify all medical personnel and vehicles at scene***

Remember only doctors can pronounce victims dead



# Checking the Victim for Signs of Life



***When checking an apparent deceased victim for signs of life, check for:***

- ***Pulse and respiration***
- ***Movements or sounds***
- ***Visible bullet wounds and other apparent injuries***
- ***Extent of bleeding***



# Premature Covering of the Body



*Do not move, cover or disturb deceased victims unless necessary to preserve evidence*

*Premature covering of a body will destroy and alter valuable evidence.*



# Crime Scene Protection



***In any criminal investigation, the testimony of the first NSF member on scene is vital.***

***Therefore, the first Police Officer / Guard on the scene assumes a very critical responsibility:***

**PROTECT THE SCENE**



# Secure the Crime Scene

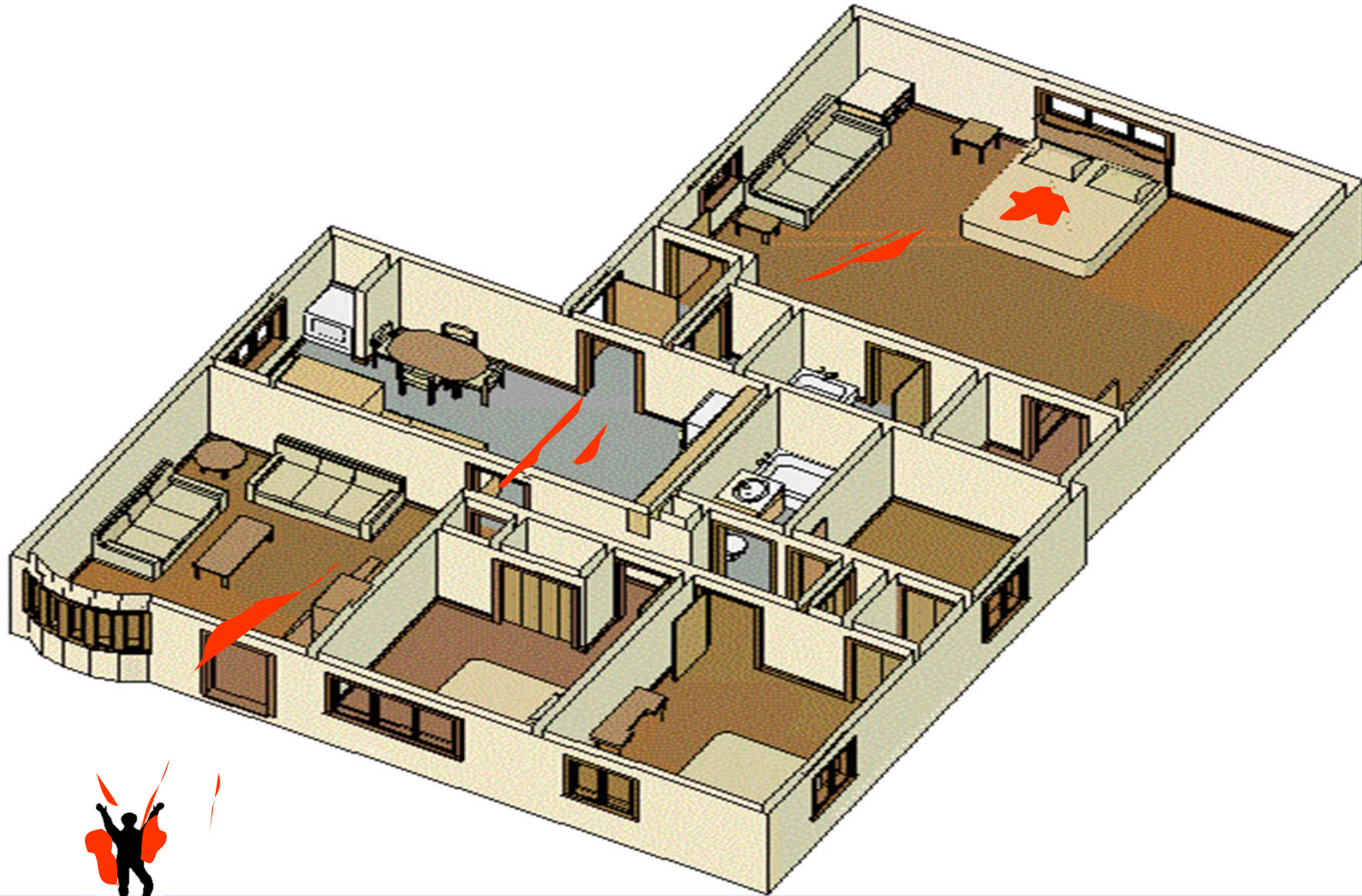


## ***Establish boundaries***

- There are no rules on boundaries or dimensions***
- Should encompass evidence of the crime and entry / exit points***
- Better to go with large boundaries initially***



# Secure the Crime Scene





# Secure the Crime Scene Methods of Protection



- ***Establish one entry/exit point to control access***
- ***Security Force (Best Method)***
- ***Posting guards to control spectators***
- ***Ropes, tape or other equipment***
- ***Officials or responsible individuals***
- ***Vehicles***
- ***Combinations of the above methods***





# Secure the Crime Scene



- *Identify and protect fragile evidence*
- *Prevent unauthorized entry*
- *Prevent removal of items (evidentiary value)*





# Secure the Crime Scene (cont.)



## *Authorized Personnel:*

- *Essential Security Force personnel*
- *Investigative personnel*
- *Medical personnel*
- *Chaplains (request/approval)*



# Secure the Crime Scene (cont.)



- *Identify persons on scene*
- *Separate personnel/instruct them not to discuss the incident among themselves*
- *Detain until arrival of investigative personnel*



# Escort Medical Personnel



- *Accompany medical personnel to the victim*
- *Brief medical personnel on victim condition and aid rendered*



# Record Information



- *Initial notification*
- *Arrival data*
- *Scene security*
- *Persons who have been allowed access to scene*



# Record Information (cont.)



- *Medical support*
- *Investigative personnel*



# Review



- ***What are some initial considerations at the crime scene?***
- ***What is your first priority at scene?***
- ***What are some ways to establish crime scene boundaries?***
- ***What should you do with persons on scene (victims, suspects, witnesses)?***



# ***Brief Investigative Personnel***



- ***Summarize details of offense***
- ***Persons at the scene/relationship to the incident***
- ***Any questioning/rights advisements***
- ***Items of potential evidentiary value/ any alterations of original condition***
- ***Relinquish control of the scene***
- ***Remain until released by the investigator in charge***



# Crime Scene Problems



***The success of the investigation depends heavily on the initial observations and actions of the first police officer on scene.***

- ***Unnecessary walking about (shoe or tire impressions)***
- ***Moving items or disturbing deceased bodies***
- ***Touching items or surfaces (latent prints)***
- ***Allowing items to be removed from a scene without permission of the crime scene investigator***





# Crime Scene Problems



- *Weather conditions*
- *Command personnel wanting first hand knowledge*
- *Security Force alter scene – but do not document*
- *Medical personnel are concerned with saving lives*
- *Relatives may alter a scene which is embarrassing*
- *Animals destroy evidence*



# Critical Elements



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**TIME** - *Secure the scene quickly.*

**TEAMWORK** - *There must be a spirit of cooperation.*

**DOCUMENTATION** - *The observations and actions of the first police arriving on the scene are crucial.*



# Failure to Establish Crime Scene Security



***Failure to establish crime scene security may result in:***

- ***Destruction or loss of evidence***
- ***Evidence becoming inadmissible in court***
- ***Bring embarrassment upon yourself the military and the Security Department***



# Crime Scene Precautions



**Do not allow the use of items in and around crimes scenes such as toilets, phones, light switches, doorknobs, utilities, etc...**

**Do not allow persons to smoke, chew or dip tobacco, eat, drink or chew gum.**



# Crime Scene Precautions



- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – latex gloves, surgical mask, disposable jump-suit, shoe coverings and eye protection**
- ***PPE protects you from blood borne pathogens and other crime scene hazards.***
- ***PPE protects the crime scene from contamination by the NSF processing the scene.***



# ***Crime Scene Notes/Sketches***



- ***Documenting the crime scene is accomplished using three complementary methods – notes, photographs and sketches. Taking notes is the primary method for recording the scene.***



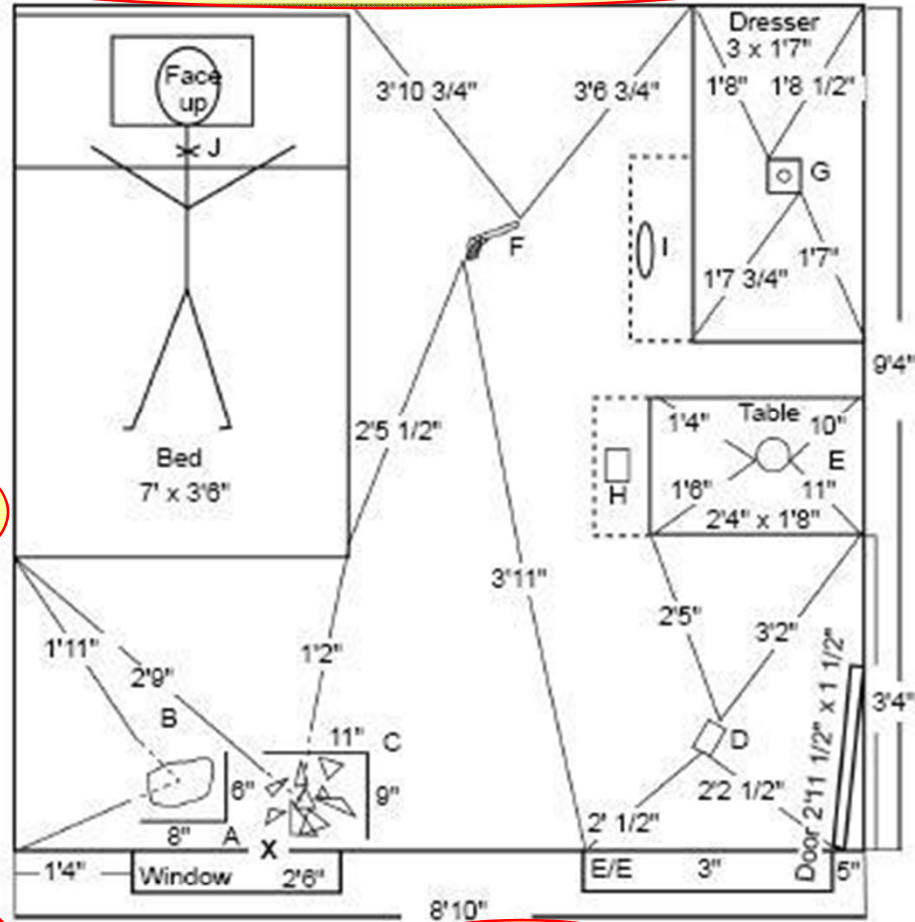
# ***Crime Scene Notes/Sketches***



- ***Taking good notes may be one of the most important actions you do while processing a crime scene. There are two main reasons why notes are important. They represent the basic source of information, or the raw material that will be used in the written police report, and they aid the officer in the recall of events for testimony in court.***



Rough Sketch of Rm 221, Barracks 951 - Unattended death



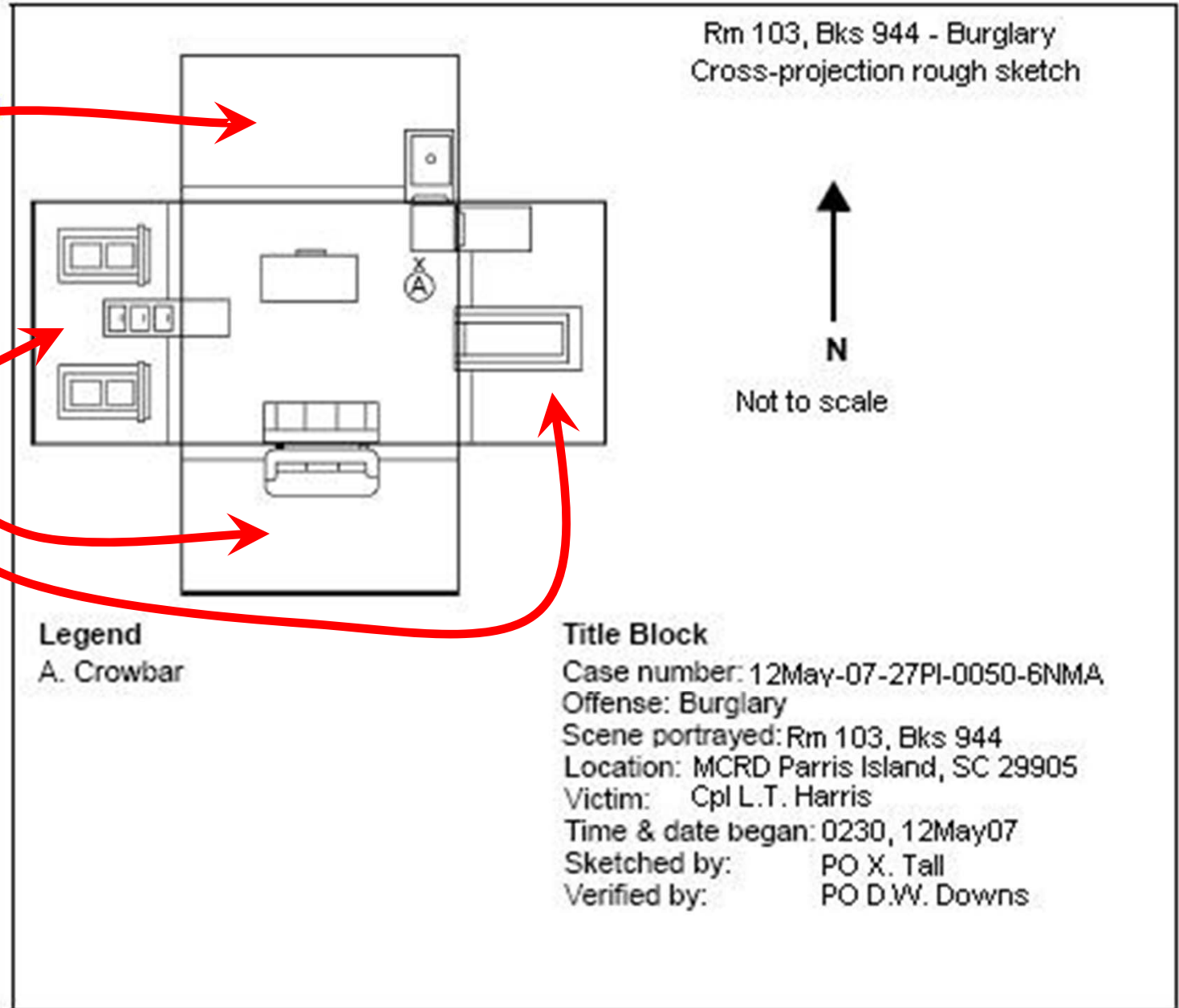
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Not to Scale

- Legend**
- A. Hole
  - B. Red stain
  - C. Glass fragments
  - D. Shell casing
  - E. Glass
  - F. Pistol
  - G. Bottle
  - H. Canister
  - I. Cigarette
  - J. Neck injury

**Title Block**

Case number: 1May06-27PI-0044  
 Offense: Undetermined death  
 Scene portrayed: Rm 221, Bks 951  
 Location: MCRD Parris Island, SC 29905  
 Victim: SGT Janet Williams  
 Time & date began: 1222 1 May 06  
 Sketched by: PO J. Smith  
 Verified by: Sgt T.R. Howe







# Crime Scene Search



***Crime scene searches are used to locate evidence.***

- ***Planned, coordinated and legal***
- ***Systematic and efficient***
- ***Method used depends on nature of scene and characteristics of the crime***



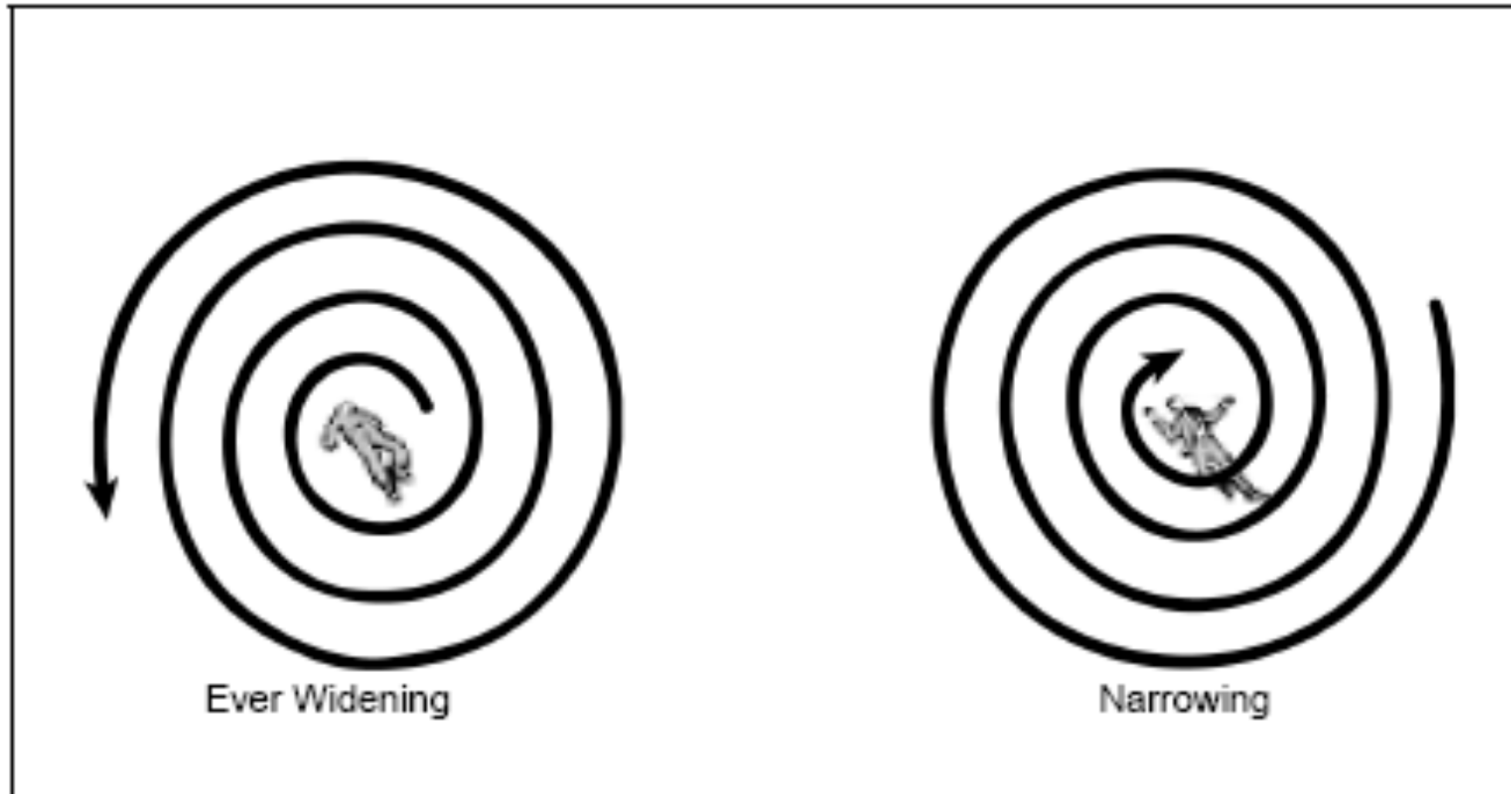
# Crime Scene Search



- *Establish search perimeters*
- *Determine search patterns*
  - *Circle search*
  - *Strip search*
  - *Grid search*
  - *Zone or sector*



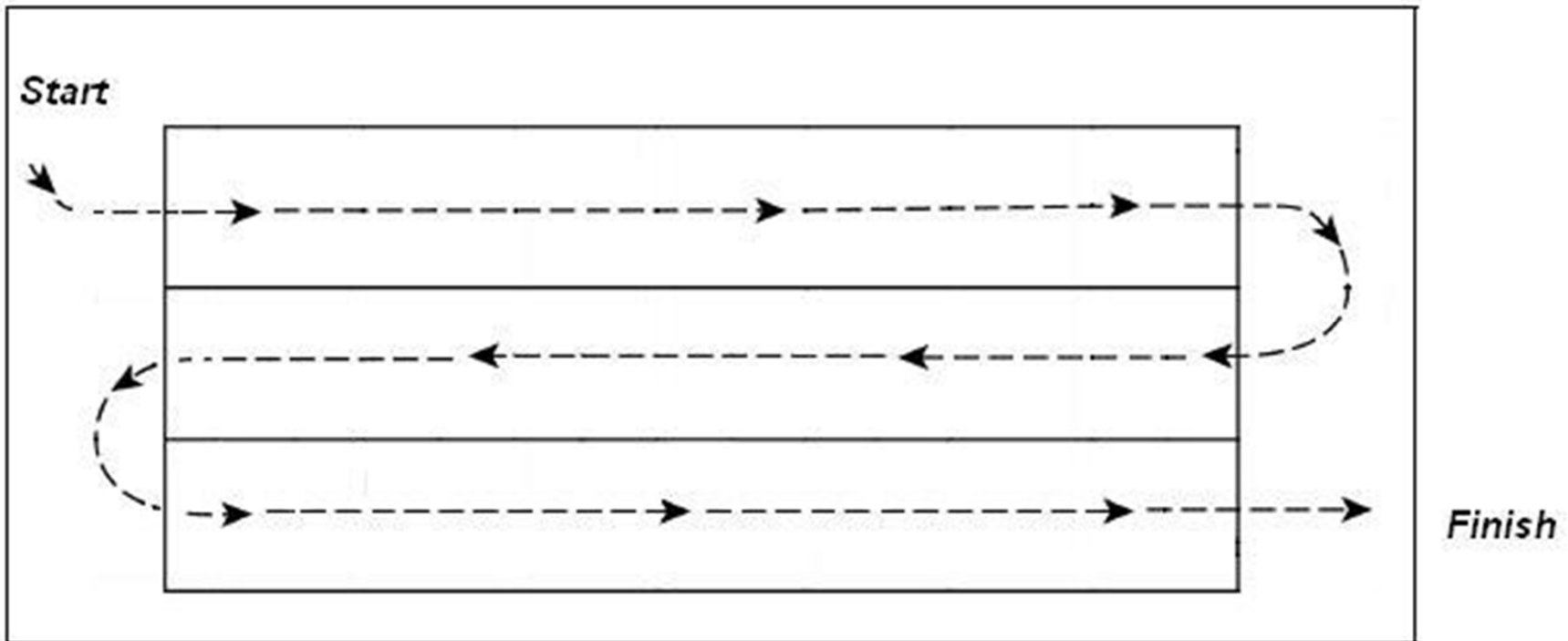
# Crime Scene Search Patterns



***Circle search method***



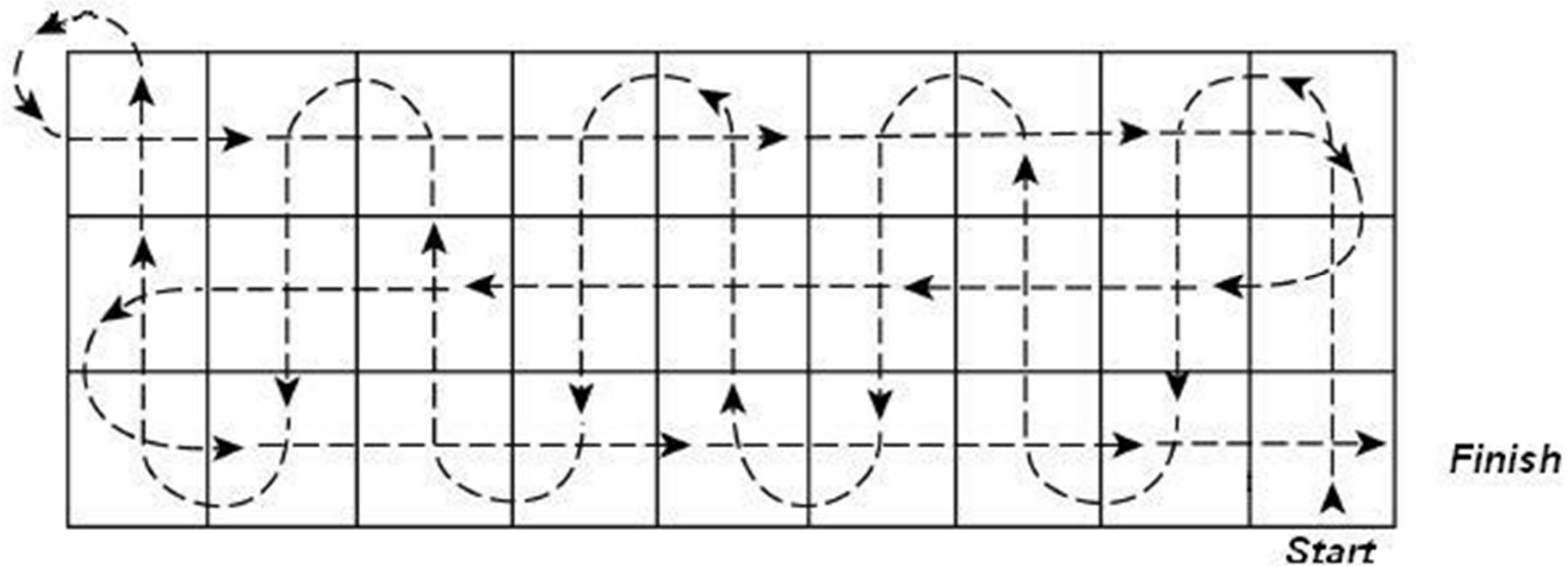
# Crime Scene Search Patterns



**Strip search method**



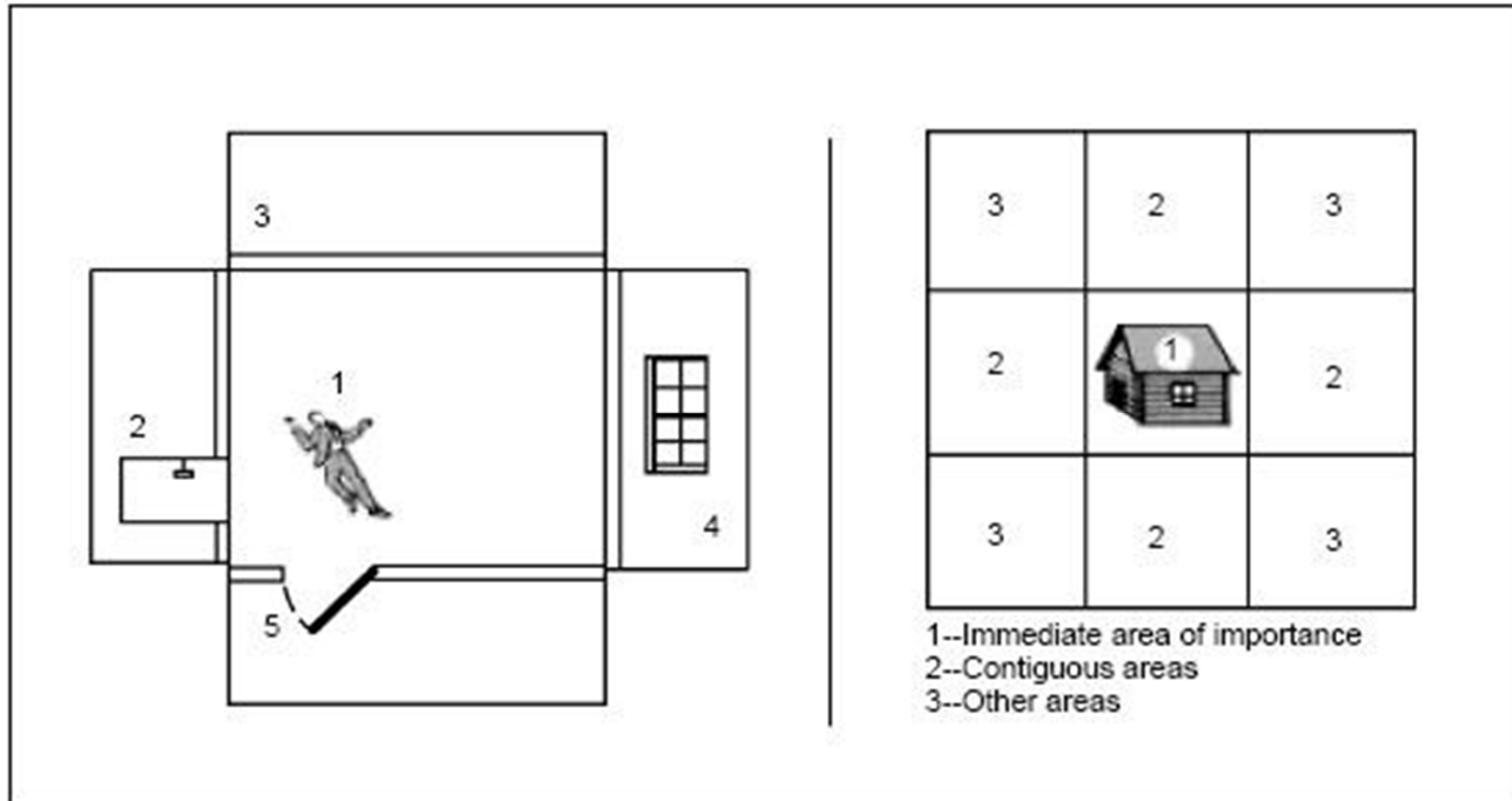
# Crime Scene Search Patterns



**Grid search method**



# Crime Scene Search Patterns



## Zone search method



# Crime Scene Search



- ***Brief the searchers – action to take when evidence found***
- ***Share/coordinate information***
- ***Terminate the search***





# Review



- ***What information should you provide investigators?***
- ***What are some crime scene problems?***
- ***What types of PPE should you wear when processing a crime scene?***
- ***What two purposes does PPE serve?***
- ***What are the three ways to document a crime scene?***
- ***What are the four crime scene search methods?***



***Questions?***