

LESSON PLAN COVER SHEET

Lesson Title: PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Classroom Time Required: 30 MINUTES

Instructors Required: One

Method of Training: LECTURE

Evaluation Process: Written Exam

Training Objectives:

1. STUDENT WILL LEARN THE REASONING FOR PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE
2. STUDENT WILL LEARN THE TYPES OF EVIDENCE

Student Aids: HANDOUTS

SLIDE 1

- Security officers will usually be the first to arrive at the scene when a crime occurs.
- After summoning assistance and caring for any injured people, one of your most important jobs is to ensure the integrity of evidence. Maintaining it in its original condition.
- When objects or people are touched, materials are transferred.
- Criminals may leave traces of evidence at a scene, including footprints, heel marks, tool marks, or blood.
- Carpet fibers, soil, and hair may be transferred or left behind.
- Physical evidence is important because it connects a suspect to a crime scene.

SLIDE 2

- The use of physical evidence in a trial will depend in part on its being effectively protected.
- Evidence must be shown to have been found at the scene, relate to the suspect, connect to the crime, remain unchanged, and be distinguishable from similar items.

SLIDE 3

Types of Physical Evidence

- The following are various types of physical evidence and what they reveal:
 - Handguns: May match positively with bullets found at the scene. Ballistics tests may also link weapons to other crimes. Sale and ownership can be determined through registration records.
 - Ammunition: May indicate the type of revolver or automatic and the caliber of the weapon used in the crime. If a weapon is found, the recovered bullets can indicate whether it was used in the crime.

- Cartridge cases: Marks from the firing pin, the ejectors, or the chamber may be matched against the suspected weapon; it may also indicate the type of weapon.
- Gunpowder residue: A powder pattern can show the approximate distance, up to three feet, between the gun and the victim at the time the shot was fired.

SLIDE 4

Types of Physical Evidence (Continued)

- Paint: Paint chips can reveal the make, color, and year of an automobile.
- Glass: Glass at the scene of a hit-and-run accident may determine the type of headlight and, from that, the type of car involved. It can also be used for comparison when the vehicle is located.
- Tools: A microscopic examination can reveal traces of metal, wood, plaster, paint, and other identifying characteristics. A relationship between the tool and the crime can be established.
- Fibers: Microscopic examination of fibers (wool, cotton, nylon) can determine the source, whether the fibers are animal, vegetable, or synthetic. The color of the fibers can also be determined.
- Hair: Hair can be classified as human or animal and can be compared with other hairs of a suspect. The color can also be important.

SLIDE 5

Types of Physical Evidence Continued

- Soil: Samples of dirt loosened by the impact of a vehicle or found on the body or clothing of an individual may be compared to soil from a known source.
- Seminal stains: Semen is identified by laboratory examinations. Blood groupings of the individual can also be identified. Can be a vital element in a rape investigation.

- Blood stains: Determine if blood is human or animal. Blood stains may be analyzed to determine blood groupings, blood alcohol level, and if blood found on someone is theirs.

SLIDE 6

While you protect this evidence from being lost or disturbed, law enforcement officers collect the evidence, mark it, maintain chain of possession, and complete any photography or video taping needed. To secure evidence:

- Never touch, move, pick up, or otherwise disturb in any manner any objects or materials in the crime scene.
- Keep other people from entering the crime scene and changing the evidence in any way.
- If you must assist an injured person, try to use a route that avoids contact with possible evidence. Always use that same route.
- Separate witnesses and victims, ask them not to discuss the incident among themselves, and request that they remain available to be interviewed.
- Keep the area strictly secured until law enforcement officers have completed their work and released the area.

SLIDE 7

Virtually any object, material, fluid, or any thing else can be evidence or contain evidence. While it is not your responsibility to collect evidence, you should list any evidence you observe on your Offense/Incident Report, and note who collected the evidence.

SLIDE 8

REVIEW