

**BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

4.8 CRIME SCENE PROCEDURE:

4.8.1 General: Success or failure of criminal investigations and subsequent prosecution often depend on the evidence found at the crime scene. Identification, collection, processing, and preservation of evidence are of utmost importance.

4.8.2 Crime Scene:

- A. The first deputies at a major crime scene will assume the initial command and request needed assistance to:
 - 1. Aid the injured.
 - 2. Apprehend the suspect.
 - 3. Protect the crime scene.
 - 4. Detain witnesses.

- B. The first deputy to respond will be in charge of the scene until relieved by a supervisor. Deputies in charge will:
 - 1. Establish a secure perimeter.
 - 2. Protect the scene.
 - 3. Establish an entry control point immediately outside the crime scene and ensure that a Crime Scene Log (BSO RP#97) is being used to record the name, agency and/or unit, reason for entry, and time in and out of any person entering the scene.

4.8.3 Requesting Crime Scene Technician:

- A. Supervisors will respond to the scene and decide if a Crime Scene technician is needed. Crime Scene technicians are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- B. When supervisors request a Crime Scene technician, they will stay at the scene until the technician arrives. If supervisors must leave, they will ensure the scene is protected.

- C. Supervisors will ensure the deputy gathering pertinent case facts stays at the scene to brief the Crime Scene technician.

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- D. Crime Scene technicians respond to:
1. Homicides, suicides, accidental deaths, and suspicious unattended deaths
 2. Shootings involving deputies
 3. Sexual batteries with a crime scene
 4. Bank robberies with a crime scene
 5. Aggravated batteries with a crime scene and injuries
 6. Unusual crime scenes requiring highly technical processing beyond the patrol deputy's ability and/or photography at the crime scene
 7. Requests by field command staff or other supervisor-level staff, with approval from the Forensic Services Command Staff
 8. Kidnappings with a crime scene
- E. If supervisors request a Crime Scene technician, they will also request applicable detectives or specialist staff to respond.
- F. Routine crime scenes are the responsibility of patrol deputies who will:
1. Identify the incident's location.
 2. Process the crime scene for latent fingerprints.
 3. Collect any physical evidence.
 4. Submit physical evidence to:
 - a. Crime Scene if further processing is necessary or,
 - b. The Crime Lab for analysis if required or,
 - c. Evidence Control for storage
 5. Take elimination fingerprints, palmprints, and if appropriate take footprints as well.

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Note: Elimination prints will be submitted with any latent lifts from the scene to the Latent Print Unit.

6. Transport evidence to Crime Lab or Evidence Control.
 7. Prepare needed written reports and documentation.
- G. Routine crime scenes include:
1. Burglaries
 2. Auto thefts/recovery
 3. Vandalism
 4. Aggravated assaults
 5. Armed robberies with no injuries
 6. Deaths when the attending doctor signs the death certificate
- H. Crime Scene Investigative Aides (CSIA):
1. Crime Scene Investigative Aides are specially trained Community Service Aides (CSAs) who have received forty (40) hours of specialized training in crime scene processing.
 2. Crime Scene Investigative Aides have the capability to process routine crime scenes that are the responsibility of patrol deputies.
 3. Crime Scene Investigative Aides will generally process only crime scenes involving property crimes.
 4. Crime Scene Investigative Aides will:
 - a. Process the crime scene for latent fingerprints and serological evidence.
 - b. Collect any physical evidence.
 - c. Take elimination prints and DNA standards if appropriate.
 - d. Prepare needed written reports and documentation.