

1. Which of the following is a major task that the first responder must be concerned with?

- A) Calling for back-up
- B) Contacting their supervisor to apprise them of the situation
- C) Protecting the crime scene
- D) Arresting the suspect

Answer: C

2. This principle is associated with processing crime scenes and is often summarized as "every contact leaves a trace?"

- A) Locard's Exchange Principle
- B) Trace Evidence Principle
- C) Bertillion's Principle
- D) Lacassagne's Principle

Answer: A

3. Describe why it is important for the first responder to record the times associated with a crime scene investigation:

Answer: Precise notations of the time are most important for checking a suspect's story. These notations lend precision and credibility to the officer's statement if testifying in court. Also, it helps to maintain a chronological record of the way things were done during the crime scene investigation.

4. When entering a crime scene, the first responder should proceed with extreme caution and concentrate their attention to possible evidence at which locations?

Answer: Evidence on doors, doorknobs, light switches, and floors.

5. List some of the points that should be covered when taking notes on the condition of the crime scene:

Answer:

- Doors — open, closed, or locked? On which side was the key?
- Windows — open or closed? Were they locked?
- Lights — on or off? Which lights were on?
- Shades, shutters, or blinds — open or closed?
- Odors — cigarette smoke, gas, gun powder, perfume, etc.?
- Signs of activity — meal preparation, dishes in the sink, house clean or dirty, etc.?
- Date and time indicators — mail, newspapers, dates on milk cartons, stopped clocks, spoiled foods, items that should have been hot or cold but were at room temperature

6. When is it appropriate for the first responding officer to move a piece of evidence?

- A) When the evidence is a gun
- B) When he is charged with the responsibility of processing the scene for physical evidence.
- C) Only when the scene is secured
- D) If the crime is serious such as a homicide

Answer: B

7. You are called to the scene of a sexual assault that took place at a park. Describe how you would secure the scene:

Answer: Ample areas should be roped off to include the paths taken by the criminal to and from the scene proper.

8. The position of _____ and _____ may reveal the direction of the shot and possibly the location of the assailant:

- A) Bullets, cartridge cases
- B) Bullets, fingerprints
- C) Cartridge cases, fibers
- D) Bullets, firearms

Answer: A

9. Describe the proper procedure when dealing with multiple witnesses at the scene of a crime:

Answer: Instruct witnesses not to discuss the events. This can prevent distortion by suggestion. If possible, the principal witnesses should be separated. In relating events to one another, witnesses may distort each other's impressions to a point at which they believe that they saw things that they really did not see or that never happened.

10. List five crime scene "dos" and five crime scene "don'ts:"

Answer:

Crime Scene Dos and Don'ts	
Do	Don't
Limit access to the crime scene by using tape and a major incident log.	Permit unnecessary personnel to enter the crime scene.
Attempt to identify possible routes used by the suspect.	Use routes possibly used by the suspect.
Note original conditions at the crime scene.	Assume others will note original conditions, etc.
Record changes in conditions especially in regard to your activities (or paramedics').	Fail to document any changes or contamination at the scene.
Protect evidence from adverse environmental conditions.	Allow evidence to be compromised by nature

Conduct all administrative duties outside the tape (coffee drinking, smoking).

Record the location of evidence before moving it.

Package trace evidence (paint, glass, etc.) into large envelopes.

Keep an open mind as to what might be evidence.

Be aware that you are a potential source of evidence.

Take photographs of items at 90° with and without L-scales.

Call expert personnel to crime scenes for detailed or difficult collection or documentation.

Take photographs of all aspects of crime scenes, perspective shots, 90° photos of items and bloodstains.

Eat or use any facilities or the phone within the crime scene.

Remove items and package without documentation.

Package trace evidence in a bundle.

Ignore items that appear out of place or are difficult to explain.

Touch anything unnecessarily.

Photograph items only without scales.

Assume the expert can always answer the questions from nonexpert collection or documentation.

Limit your photos to overalls and item locations.
