

Forensic Crime Scene Officer

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Article History

Paper Nomenclature:

Argument Based Credential (ABC)

Paper Code: CYBNMV1N5OCT2019ABC1

Submission Online: 01-Oct-2019

Manuscript Acknowledged: 06-Oct-2019

Originality Check: 10-Oct-2019

Originality Test Ratio: 14%

Peer Reviewers Comment: 11-Oct-2019

Blind Reviewers Remarks: 14-Oct-2019

Author Revert: 22-Oct-2019

Camera-Ready-Copy: 26-Oct-2019

Editorial Board Citation: 29-Oct-2019

Published Online First: 31-Dec-2019

In today's technology-driven world, Crime Scene Officers have many responsibilities and they have to expand their role to take full advantage of the technology available. In order to do due diligence to their job, they need to stay updated with the advances in the field so that they become ready for whatever challenges they will face in their field and the best way to accomplish this goal is to invest on ongoing training.

Keywords : AI | Forensic Crime | Investigation

Introduction:

The Forensic Crime Scene Officer must firstly be aware of the know-how such as, but not limited to:

- What are the equipments available in the lab?
- What are the type of evidence to look out for?
- What are the type of evidence that need to be collected?
- When does one call in other experts in case of doubts?

Note: The more the number of equipment the CSO has, the more they will be able to expand their ability at the scene to locate the evidence.

When a CSO is at the crime scene, they are expected to:

- Evaluate the scene
- Process and collect the evidence
- Document the scene with photography
- Write a detailed report

For major crimes at the crime scene they can call in experts. However, for crimes such as burglaries, thefts etc., they won't have that kind of help.

Hence, whenever the CSO is at the crime scene, they need to collect as much forensic evidence as possible as they won't know which piece of evidence will be the key until they put all the pieces together for investigation. If the CSO does not properly identify, collect and document the evidence from the crime scene then people in the lab during the investigation will not have anything to work with. Nowadays, Crime Scene Officers are capable of doing more forensic work right at the crime scene.

Hence, training plays a vital role because it provides a broader perspective. In many cases, one person from a department graduates to "Crime Scene Champ" and then passes the knowledge to the rest of the team members. But the "Crime Scene Champ" needs to be on top

of things by upgrading his knowledge by attending various conferences, classes, seminars, etc.

Crime Scene Officers also function like assessors, because they need to provide documentation of the crime scene as these are needed to support the court cases and at times to reconstruct the crime scene. Mapping systems such as, but not limited to, laser mapping system, TruPoint 300 and QuickMap3D field data collection software are ideal for crime scene investigations. However, when the crime scene occurs in a remote area, documenting a scene properly so that it can be located again easily, can be challenging.

Typical Work Activities of CSO:

- To collect evidence at incidents that could include crime scenes or accidents.
- To preserve and record all evidence for future reference.
- To collect impressions of fingerprints and palm prints left

by the criminals (The activity is usually done by brushing surfaces with power and transferring the impression, via adhesive tape, to a sheet of acetate).

- To collect forensic evidence, often in minute traces, which is sent to a laboratory for further analysis

These examinations shall be carried out at the crime scene, or the evidences / items shall be taken away for further examinations.

Another element of CSO work shall be attending post-mortems where the records are made and photographs are taken of anything else that arises from the examinations. Hence the photography plays a very important role in the work of the CSO.

Responsibility for the maintenance of any equipment, accurate record keeping, accurate report writing lies with the CSO so that their colleagues can refer to them whenever required.

This field is changing constantly and technology plays a huge part in crime detection. For instance, special equipment shall be used to:

- Identify and photograph fingerprints on documents
- Record shoe or tyre marks
- Take DNA swabs
- Collect fibres from clothes and furniture

Personal Qualities and Skills of CSO:

- Personal Qualities:
 - Patient, understanding and sympathetic when dealing with the victims of the crime
 - Calm and confident
 - Able to analyse the situations carefully
 - Prepared to attend incidents that could be very distressing
 - Able to work in unpleasant or dirty conditions
 - Observant, methodical and able to follow set procedures
- Knowledge:
 - Of materials, equipments, regulations, principles, procedures and practices of crime scene investigations
 - Of fingerprinting and related analysis, equipment and records
 - Of video graphic and photo graphic equipment and film processing
 - Of laws, rules and regulations governing property control and disposition, evidence booking procedures and record keeping, filing practices associated with chain of custody of evidence
- Skills:
 - Collecting and identifying fingerprints

- Collecting and recording physical evidence
- Operating photo graphic and video graphic equipment
- Maintaining detailed records, reports and activity logs
- Preparing clear and concise written and oral reports
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with other department, public and citizens.

A great emphasis should be laid on proper training of CSO. This field is changing constantly; the CSO needs to keep themselves updated with the latest technology and advances or else they will not be able to utilise the advantages of new tools and techniques. Without the right training, valuable evidence can be lost or damaged, and a case can be jeopardized.

CSO should have the zeal to solve the crime. All the hard work performed by the CSO will result in a strong case for the examination.

Final Thoughts:

If the investigator has the highest integrity along with training and resources, then justice is done at the crime scene only. In the end: I would ask “Who Says You Can’t Do That?”

Reference: <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2010/02/role-forensic-crime-scene-officer>



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Annexure I

Submission Date	Submission Id	Word Count	Character Count
10-Oct-2019	D64611217 (urkund)	8122	9564



Urkund Analysis Result

Analysed Document: 2.1 ABC-1 RAKHI-CYB SEP2019- sachin 10-10-2019.docx (D61642717)
Submitted: 10-10-2019 2:10:00 PM
Submitted By: skesharwani@ignou.ac.in
Significance: 14 %

Sources included in the report:

<https://www.criminaljusticedegreeschools.com/criminal-justice-careers/crime-scene-investigator/>

Instances where selected sources appear: 4

Note: Cybernomics runs an Urkund plagiarism tool for the originality check of an article before publication. Urkund is developed by Prio Infocenter AB based in Stockholm, Sweden.

Reviewers Comment

Reviewer Comment 1:- CSIs generally go through on-the-job training once they have been hired. A rookie CSI will typically work with an experienced CSI. As an assistant, the newly-hired CSI will learn how to properly process a crime scene.

Reviewer Comment 2:- This article consist of Explanation

- Crime Scene Analyst (CSA)
- Crime Scene Technician (CST)
- Evidence Technician (ET)
- Forensic Investigator (FI)
- Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO)

Reviewer comment 3:- CSOs have the crucial task of collecting evidence at a crime scene and will often be called to testify in court on their findings. As a result, a successful CSO will have strong communication skills, be detail oriented, and possess the ability to work with others. A CSO must be able to remain professional, despite the gruesome scenes they may see.

Editorial Excerpt

Initially at the time of submission article has 14% of plagiarism which is accepted percentage for the publication based on a Turnitin-(plagiarism tool report). This particular manuscript "**Forensic Crime Scene Officer**. CSOs must be meticulous about details, as well as know how to properly collect and store the evidence they collect. They must be able to prepare forms, reports, and other written documentation about their findings. CSIs are often asked to testify at criminal trials, giving testimony about the physical evidence collected and offering their general expertise about forensic evidence. Real-life and fictionalized crime shows on television have led to an increased interest in forensic science On the basis of reviewers comments and editorial review this particular article has been earmarked and decided under the ambit of "**Argument Based Credential (ABC)**"

Citation

Rakhi R Wadhvani
 "Forensic Crime Scene Officer"
 Volume-1, Issue-5, Oct 2019. (www.cybernomics.in)

Frequency: Monthly, Published: 2019
 Conflict of Interest: Author of a Paper had no conflict neither financially nor academically.



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