

The Crime Scene Investigation event challenges competitors to secure, process, and document a simulated crime scene. Participants will identify and collect evidence, adhering to forensic guidelines.

Entry Requirements

- Teams must be composed of 3 members.
- Chapters can only register 1 team to compete.

Materials

Competitors can/should provide the following materials. Competitors are only permitted to bring in the below materials to the competition. TPSA does not provide the below materials.

Competitor Provided Materials

- **Measuring Device:** Tool for measuring distance (ex: meter stick, tape measure)
- **Writing utensil:** (Blue/ Black Ink Pen)
- **Gloves**
- **Digital Camera with blank SD card**
- **Other crime scene processing supplies**
- **Photo Identification:** Reference the rulebook (<https://tpsa.info/rulebook>) for details.

TPSA Provided Materials

- **Photography Log**
- **Entry/Exit Log**
- **Crime Scene Notes**
- **Sketch Paper**
- **Dry Erase Photo Placard & Marker**
- **Evidence Log**

Supplemental Documents

- [Crime Scene Investigation Paperwork 26-27](#)

Procedures and Timeline

- **Check In (10 min Time Limit):** Competitors must check in to their event at their designated **check-in time**. Competitors that arrive **ten (10) minutes** after their designated check-in time will be marked as no-shows and not be allowed to compete out of respect for the time commitment made by our Judges and Volunteers.
- **Pre-Event Briefing (5 min Time Limit):** After check-in, Competitors will be guided to the designated event area. Once there, the Moderator will provide a comprehensive briefing, detailing the event's instructions, rules, and procedures. This briefing ensures that each Competitor is well-informed and prepared for the subsequent stages of the competition.
- **Part 1 (5 min Time Limit)**
 1. Competitors will be directed to the designated event area (crime scene not visible) by the moderator. The moderator will give instructions to the competitors and verify that the competitors memory card is empty.
 2. The moderator will set a timer for 5 minutes and give the team the case details face down. At the call of "start," the team will turn the card over and begin their analysis.
 3. Competitors shall verify that the crime scene search is legal. If legal, the competitors will state to the judge why it is legal. If it is illegal, the competitors shall request proper documentation to insure the search is legal. The competitor will also use the provided information to determine if any ancillary agencies need to be notified and verbalize it to the judge.
 4. Information must be verbalized to the judge and written on the proper document before the 5 minute timer sounds. The moderator will call "time" when the 5 minute timer sounds.

To provide a consistent and equal opportunity for all competitors, each team shall utilize the same simulated crime scene and shall receive the same crime scene information.

- **Part 2 (20 min Time Limit)**
 1. The moderator will set a timer for 20 minutes.
 2. When the moderator starts the timer and calls "start", each team will:
 3. If unsecured, competitors shall secure the crime scene.
 4. Search the crime scene and flag all items identified by competitors as evidence. Upon completion of the search, the competitors will inform the judge that the search is complete.
 5. Upon completion of the search, if the competitors have flagged the predetermined item of evidence, the judge will inform the competitors to collect that item for further evaluation. If the competitors do not flag the predetermined item of evidence, after

completing their search, the judge will advise the competitors what the predetermined item is, but not its location.

6. Competitors will process the crime scene in accordance with OSAC standards and rubric:
 - Evidence must be sealed and signed (self sealing bags or by tamper evidence tape) prior to the call of time and before transfer to documentation room.
 - Collect all crime scene documentation materials and prepare to transfer to documentation room.
 - Competitors must verbally release the scene prior the call of time.
7. The moderator will call "time" when the 20 minute timer sounds. All competitors must place their hands in the air and back away from their work if not finished.
 - For competitors who do not utilize the entire 20 minutes for crime scene processing, they may verbally release the scene at any time prior to the call of time. At this point, only crime scene tape placed by the competitors shall be removed from the scene. The remaining time shall not be added to the documentation portion of the competition.
 - Competitors who do not finish shall be scored on an "as is" basis. Zero points will be awarded for incomplete tasks.
- **Part 3 (10 min Time Limit)**
 1. The room moderator shall escort the competitors to the documentation room.
 2. The room moderator shall set a timer for 10 minutes.
 3. When the room moderator starts the timer and calls "start", each team will complete the required documentation for the crime scene which should include:
 - Evidence log (all flagged evidence)
 - Photography log
 - Crime Scene Sketch (all flagged evidence)
 - The only evidence item required to be measured is the predetermined item.
 - All other relevant measurements shall be included.
 - Entry/Exit Log
 - Interview/ Crime Scene Notes
 4. Each team will submit all required documentation, including their digital camera to the judge for scoring prior to the call of time.
 5. The room moderator will call "time" when the 10 minute timer sounds.
 - All documents/cameras not submitted to the judge prior to the call for time will not be scored.
 6. The judge will be provided 5 minutes to:
 - score the competitors documentation/review photos
 - ensure all photos are deleted from the competitor's camera.
 - The competitors may remain in the same room during scoring, however competitors may not interact with the judge or view score cards.
 - The judge will not provide feedback to the team during this time.
- **Evaluation and Scoring (5 min Time Limit):** After the completion of the event, the judges will convene to assess each competitor's/team's performance based on a standardized rubric. This stage is conducted without the presence of the competitors. Judges will evaluate the criteria outlined in the rubric to ensure a fair and objective scoring process. Once all assessments are finalized, scores will be recorded for each competitor/team.

Professional Dress Guidelines

To secure professionalism points, competitors should dress in attire that accurately reflects what professionals in the respective public safety careers would wear while performing the tasks associated with the event. Competitors are also expected to consult and follow the professional dress guidelines in the rulebook to qualify for points. Additionally, participation is contingent upon meeting all prescribed safety protocols.

Safety Protocols

- **Long Pants:** Long pants must be worn secured at the waist and shall not extend past the sole of the shoe. No portion of the leg shall be visible.
- **Jewelry:** Rings must feature a continuous, even, and unadorned exterior surface. Necklaces must not be visible from the outside of the uniform. Bracelets may not be worn. If competitors have piercings beyond a single stud in each ear, they must cover these additional piercings with band-aids or wear clear studs to maintain a professional appearance.
- **Hair:** All hair must be secured out of the eyes for the duration of the event. Competitors with hair extending past the top of the shoulder shall wear their hair secured neatly in a bun or ponytail ensuring that no hair extends below the collar of the uniform. It is not an exception to the rule that a Competitor's chosen hair style is too thick to be secured above the collar.
- **Shoes:** Competitors must wear low-heeled, closed-toed footwear for this event.
- **Fingernail Length:** Competitors' fingernails shall not extend past the tip of the finger and shall be free of any/all adornments. Color is not a factor.
- **Shirt Sleeves:** If Long sleeve shirts are worn, they shall fit closely at the wrist and not extend past the wrist.

- **Pant Length:** Pants shall not extend past the sole of the shoe.

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Professionalism						
Professional Dress Presents a neat, professional appearance in attire consistent with any recognized industry standard for the career and event tasks. Team members reasonably match in color and style.	0 Attire does not reasonably reflect a recognized industry standard for the career and tasks, or team members do not reasonably match.		3 Attire reflects a recognized industry standard, but noticeable issues with neatness or how clothing is worn detract from professional appearance.		5 Appearance is neat and professional. Attire reflects a recognized industry standard, is worn properly, and reasonably matches among team members.	
Professional Behavior Maintains a professional demeanor, stays attentive and engaged, and communicates appropriately for the role and situation throughout the event.	0 Professional demeanor and role-appropriate engagement are not demonstrated.	1 2 Shows limited professional demeanor. Communication or engagement remains too casual or disconnected from the role.	3 Generally presents professionally, but communication, attentiveness, or engagement is inconsistent.	4 Maintains a professional demeanor, stays engaged, and communicates appropriately for the role.	5 Sustains a professional demeanor and attentive engagement throughout. Communicates with tact and adapts appropriately to the people and situation.	
Legality of Search/Ancillary Agencies						
Legality of Search/Ancillary Agencies Team members determine if the search was legal, or request proper documents to insure it is legal, and determine which, if any, ancillary agencies need to be notified.	0 Not attempted	2 Team attempts to address search legality but does so incorrectly or incompletely. Fails to request proper documentation when required. AND identifies incorrect ancillary agencies to notify.	4 Team correctly determines whether the search is legal based on available information or appropriately requests the correct documents when legality is unclear OR identifies the most obvious ancillary agency(ies) needed, though may miss less obvious ones.	6 Team accurately and efficiently determines search legality. Requests all necessary documentation without prompting. Correctly identifies all ancillary agencies required by the scenario (e.g., medical examiner, fire marshal, other law enforcement jurisdictions).	8 10 Team demonstrates thorough, independent reasoning about search legality. Proactively secures or verifies all required documentation. Identifies all necessary ancillary agencies and correctly explains why each is needed, including less obvious agencies specific to the scenario's details.	

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Securing the Crime Scene						
Securing the Crime Scene Competitor ensures that the crime scene is secure and entry/exit log is in use.	0 Did NOT ensure that the crime scene is secure. Competitor did NOT make any attempts to secure the scene. Entry/Exit log is NOT in use.	1 Did NOT ensure that the crime scene is secure. Competitor did NOT make any attempts to secure the scene but Entry/Exit log is in use.	3 Competitor ensured that the crime scene is secure but Entry/Exit log is NOT in use.		5 Competitor ensures that the scene is secure. Entry/Exit Log is in use.	
Crime Scene Search						
Search Pattern The team must verbalize the type of search they will conduct and successfully complete that search pattern.	0 The team did not conduct a search	1 The team conducted a search but did not verbalize the pattern.	2 The team conducted a systematic search and verbalized the pattern to the judge.			
Crime Scene Search	0 Search of the crime scene was not conducted.	1 Team does not locate predetermined item of evidence and requires judge intervention.	2 A search of the crime scene was conducted without disruption of evidence. The predetermined item of evidence was marked. No other pertinent evidence was located or properly marked.	3 A search of the crime scene was conducted without disruption of evidence. The predetermined item of evidence was marked. Some other pertinent evidence was located or properly marked.	4 A search of the crime scene was conducted without disruption of evidence. The predetermined item of evidence was marked. All other pertinent evidence was located or properly marked.	
Evidence Collection and Packaging						
Evidence Collection and Packaging Evidence that is not sealed can not be carried to phase III and no points shall be awarded.	0 Evidence is not collected, packaged, or sealed.	2 Evidence is not handled correctly with risk of cross-contamination and/or evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.	3 Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination and evidence is collected properly, but NOT packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.	4 Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination. Evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.	6 Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination. Evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and signed.	
Safety and Contamination Control						

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Safety and Contamination Control	0 No safety or contamination control was performed.	1 All team members physically don gloves prior to handling evidence. Competitors did NOT verbalize that evidence collection tools utilized were cleaned or sanitized prior to contact with evidence and NOT all trash and investigative equipment were removed from the crime scene prior to releasing the scene.	3 All team members physically don new gloves prior to handling each item of evidence. Competitors did NOT verbalize that evidence collection tools utilized were cleaned or sanitized prior to contact with evidence or NOT all trash and investigative equipment were removed from the crime scene prior to releasing the scene.		6 All team members physically don new gloves prior to handling each item of evidence. Competitors verbalized that evidence collection tools utilized were cleaned and sanitized prior to contact with evidence. All trash and investigative equipment were removed from the crime scene prior to releasing the scene.	
Release of Crime Scene						
Release of Scene	0 The crime scene is not released.		4 Team members vocalize to the judge that they are 'releasing the scene' prior to time ending. Crime scene tape is removed if placed by the competitor and discarded prior to time ending.			
Total Score: _____						/ 47 pts

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Entry/Exit Log						
Entry/ Exit Log	0 Entry/Exit log is not submitted for scoring.	1 Entry/Exit log contains greater than 3 errors or Entry/Exit log does NOT contain all of the entry and exits.	3 Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information with 3 errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.	4 Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information with 1-2 errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.	5 Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information and free from errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.	
Sketch						
Sketch Crime Scene Sketch is legible and free from errors. Measurements, with units, were taken properly and documented on the crime scene sketch. All fixed points including predetermined evidence are included. North is indicated correctly on the crime scene sketch. Fixed Reference points corresponding to the selected measuring method are noted. Legend is properly labeled and corresponds to evidence identified at scene. All pertinent case information is documented on the sketch (i.e. date, case number, location, offense, victim, name/badge number, and scale).	0 No crime scene sketch was submitted for scoring.	3 4 5 6 At least 25% of sketch is present with no errors.	8 9 10 11 At least 50% of sketch is present with no errors.	12 13 14 15 At least 75% of sketch is present with no errors.	16 17 18 All items are present, no errors. Differentiate based on neatness and ability to read.	
Photography						
Photo Log						
The photo log should include all pictures on the camera. Photos should be numbered on the photo log as they appear on the camera. Each photo should be labeled on the photo log. (Ex. #1 - Entryway; 2-5 Overlapping overall pictures; #6 - do not use; #7 - evidence without marker; #8 - evidence with marker, etc.)	0 Photo log was not submitted for scoring.	1 Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 5 or more errors.	3 Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 3-4 errors.	4 Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 1-2 errors.	5 Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and free from errors. Photo log contains all required photos and proper information.	

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Photographs REQUIRED PHOTOS: 1 exterior photo of crime scene entrance with case # placard, 8 interior photos showing the entire crime scene with overlap. These photos depict crime scene and evidence as it appeared (without markers) upon arrival of investigators. 1 mid range photo of evidence to be collected with markers, 1 close up photo of evidence item to be collected with marker and without scale, 1 close up photo of evidence item to be collected with marker and scale. NOTE: Competitors are not to be scored higher or lower based on the number of photos taken, only score based on completing the required photos.	0 No photos are taken or less than 3 are present and usable.	1 2 3 4 3-6 of the required photos are present and usable.	5 6 7 7-9 required photos are present and usable.	8 9 10 or 11 required photos are present and usable.	10 All 12 required photos are present and usable.	
Evidence Collection and Packaging						
Evidence Collection and Packaging	0 No evidence submitted for scoring.	1 Evidence is packaged in an inappropriate size or type container AND there are mistakes in case information.	3 Evidence is packaged in proper size and type of container OR all relevant case information labeled correctly.		5 Evidence is packaged in proper size and type of container with all relevant case information labeled correctly.	
Evidence Log An evidence log should be completed with all evidentiary items that were marked. The marker number and a description of the piece of evidence should be included on the log.	0 Evidence log is not submitted for scoring.	1 2 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and all required evidence but with 5 or more errors.	4 5 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and all required evidence but with 3-4 errors.	7 8 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and required evidence but with 1-2 errors.	9 10 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and free from errors. All required evidence is listed on log.	
Total Score: _____ / 53 pts						