

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 teams 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.

- **Measuring Device** Tool for measuring distance (ex: meter stick, tape measure)
- **Writing utensil** (Blue/ Black Ink Pen)
- **Gloves**
- **Digital Camera with blank SD card**
- **Various other crime scene processing supplies**
- **Photo Identification** Reference [the rulebook \(https://tpsa.info/rulebook\)](https://tpsa.info/rulebook) for details
- **Documentation** Evidence log, Photography log, Entry/Exit log, Crime Scene Notes, Sketch Paper. All documents shall be created by the competitors and shall not be pre filled prior to the event.

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 call "start", then each team will begin interviewing the first responding officer (not the judge) to take appropriate field notes.
 - For competitors who do not utilize the entire 5 minutes for questioning, they may state that they are finished at any time prior to the call of time. *The remaining time shall not be added to the Crime Scene Processing portion of the competition.*
 3. Competitors shall verify that the crime scene has been secured by the first responding officer. If unsecured, the competitors shall secure the crime scene during the 20 minutes allotted in part 2.
 4. 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 from the first responding officer when questioned. Teams who ask more detailed, thorough questions will receive more specific information than those who do not.

- **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. 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.
 5. Competitors will process the crime scene in accordance with OSAC standards and event guidelines.
 - 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.
 6. 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 performance based on a standardized rubric. This stage is conducted without the presence of the Competitor. 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.

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
First Responding Officer Interview						
First Responding Officer Team members question the first responding officer to obtain pertinent information.	0 Not attempted	2 Questioned First Responding Officer in a professional manner, obtaining less than half of the pertinent information: observations of the scene, conditions upon arrival, personal information from people on scene, first responder actions, any known changes. The legality of the search is NOT determined and the correct steps are taken. All proper ancillary agencies (Medical Examiner, EMS, etc.) have NOT been notified or requested.	4 Questioned First Responding Officer in a professional manner, obtaining less than half of the pertinent information: observations of the scene, conditions upon arrival, personal information from people on scene, first responder actions, any known changes. The legality of the search is determined and the correct steps are taken. All proper ancillary agencies (Medical Examiner, EMS, etc.) have been notified or requested.	5 Questioned First Responding Officer in a professional manner, obtaining at least half of the pertinent information: observations of the scene, conditions upon arrival, personal information from people on scene, first responder actions, any known changes. The legality of the search is determined and the correct steps are taken. All proper ancillary agencies (Medical Examiner, EMS, etc.) have been notified or requested.	6 Questioned First Responding Officer in a professional manner, obtaining all pertinent information: observations of the scene, conditions upon arrival, personal information from individuals on scene, first responder actions and any known changes. The legality of the search is determined and the correct steps are taken. All proper ancillary agencies (Medical Examiner, EMS, etc.) have been notified or requested.	
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						

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Crime Scene Search	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Search of the crime scene was not conducted.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Team does not locate predetermined item of evidence and requires judge intervention.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Team does not use a recognizable search method. A search of the crime scene was conducted without disruption of evidence. All pertinent evidence located and properly marked. Including the predetermined item of evidence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Team determines a search method, does NOT notify the judge of their decision. A thorough search of the crime scene was properly conducted without disruption of evidence. All pertinent evidence located and properly marked. Including the predetermined item of evidence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Team determines a search method, notifying the judge of their decision and it is observed by the judge in their search. A thorough search of the crime scene was properly conducted without disruption of evidence. All pertinent evidence located and properly marked. Including the predetermined item of evidence.</p>	
Evidence Collection and Packaging						
<p>Evidence Collection and Packaging</p> <p>Evidence that is not sealed can not be carried to phase III and no points shall be awarded.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Evidence is not collected, packaged, or sealed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Evidence is not handled correctly with risk of cross-contamination and/or evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination and evidence is collected properly, but NOT packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination. Evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and NOT signed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Evidence is handled correctly with no risk of cross-contamination. Evidence is collected properly, packaged, sealed, and signed.</p>	
Safety and Contamination Control						

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Safety and Contamination Control	<p>0</p> <p>No safety or contamination control was performed.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>6</p> <p>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.</p>	
Release of Crime Scene						
Release of Scene	<p>0</p> <p>The crime scene is not released.</p>		<p>4</p> <p>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.</p>			
Professionalism						
<p>Professionalism</p> <p>This criterion evaluates the appropriateness of attire and the level of professional behavior displayed, considering industry standards relevant to the event.</p>		<p>2</p> <p>Attire is inappropriate for the event and does not meet industry standards. Professional behavior is inconsistent.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Attire is mostly appropriate but may not fully meet industry standards. Professional behavior is generally acceptable.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Attire meets industry standards and is appropriate for the event. Professional behavior is consistent.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Attire meets industry standards and is appropriate for the event. Professional behavior is outstanding and goes above and beyond expectations. Attire quality is not a factor between Proficient and Exemplary.</p>	

Total Score: 0 /43 pts

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Entry/Exit Log						
Entry/ Exit Log	<p>0</p> <p>Entry/Exit log is not submitted for scoring.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Entry/Exit log contains greater than 3 errors or Entry/Exit log does NOT contain all of the entry and exits.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information with 3 errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information with 1-2 errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Entry/Exit log is completed with all pertinent case information and free from errors. Entry/Exit log contains all entries and exits.</p>	
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).	<p>0</p> <p>No crime scene sketch was submitted for scoring.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>25% of sketch is present with no errors.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>50% of sketch is present with no errors.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>75% of sketch is present with no errors.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>All items are present, no errors.</p>	
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.)	<p>0</p> <p>Photo log was not submitted for scoring.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 5 or more errors.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 3-4 errors.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details and photos listed but with 1-2 errors.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Photo log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and free from errors. Photo log contains all required photos and proper information.</p>	

Criteria	Unattempted	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Proficient	Exemplary	Points
Photographs REQUIRED PHOTOS: 1 exterior photo of crime scene entrance with case # placard, 1-4 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.	0 No photos are taken or submitted for scoring.	1 5-6 required photos are unusable or missing.	5 3-4 required photos are unusable or missing.	8 1-2 required photos are unusable or missing.	10 All photos are usable and depict evidence as it appeared upon arrival.	
Evidence Collection and Packaging						
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 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and all required evidence but with 5 or more errors.	3 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and all required evidence but with 3-4 errors.	4 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and required evidence but with 1-2 errors.	5 Evidence log submitted with all pertinent case details listed and free from errors. All required evidence is listed on log.	
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.	
Officer Interview						
Officer Interview Notes were taken during initial officer interview obtaining all pertinent information: observations of the scene, conditions upon arrival, personal information from individuals on scene, first responder actions and any known changes. The legality of the search is determined and the correct steps are taken. All proper ancillary agencies (Medical Examiner, EMS, etc.) have been notified or requested.	0 Officer interview notes are not submitted for scoring.	1 Officer interview notes are not thorough or legible.	4 Officer interview notes are NOT thorough but are legible.	6 Officer interview notes are thorough but NOT legible.	9 Officer interview notes are thorough and legible.	

Total Score: 0 /57 pts