

**TRAINING AND TESTING  
SPECIFICATIONS FOR LEARNING DOMAIN #30  
CRIME SCENES, EVIDENCE AND FORENSICS**

August 1, 2015

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X			X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X	X	X	

I. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must have a general understanding of the total range of basic criminal investigation procedures in order to make the appropriate decisions regarding the identification and preservation of physical evidence at the scene of a crime.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Identify the goal of a criminal investigation
  
- B. Perform the steps of a preliminary criminal investigation, including:
  - 1. Proceed safely to the scene
  - 2. Determine need for emergency medical services and aid any injured persons
  - 3. Verify that a crime, if any, has occurred
  - 4. Identify and arrest the suspect(s), if appropriate
  - 5. As soon as possible, provide dispatch with any suspect information including physical descriptions, direction of flight, mode of travel, and other pertinent information
  - 6. Contain and protect the crime scene and cause the proper collection of physical evidence
  - 7. Locate and interview victim(s) and/or witness(es) and identify other sources of information
  - 8. Collect all available information necessary to write a clear and accurate report (who, what, when, where, why and how)
  
- C. Demonstrate actions peace officers may employ to preserve possible physical evidence at a crime scene

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	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X			X	
X	X	X			X	
X	X	X			X	
X			X		X	
X				X	X	
X			X		X	
X			X		X	
X	X	X	X		X	
X	X	X	X		X	
X			X		X	
X			X		X	

D. Identify the primary purpose of the:

1. Initial survey of a crime scene
2. Crime scene search

E. Identify criteria for allowing crime scene photographs to be admitted as evidence by the court

F. Identify elements to be included on a crime scene diagram

## II. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must be aware of, and comply with, the general guidelines for the collection, packaging, and processing of physical evidence found at a crime scene to ensure that each piece of evidence is admissible in a court of law.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Demonstrate appropriate precautions that should be taken prior to collection and removal of physical evidence from a crime scene
- B. Identify the purpose of collecting control/known samples
- C. Identify the primary reason for establishing a chain of custody record
- D. Prepare the information that should be noted on a chain of custody record
- E. Identify the three forms of fingerprint impressions that may be found at a crime scene
- F. Apply the basic steps for developing latent fingerprints

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	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X			X		X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	X
X				X	X	X
X				X	X	X
X				X	X	X

G. Identify general guidelines for collecting and processing physical evidence that may be located at a crime scene

III. REQUIRED TESTS

A. A scenario test that requires the student to demonstrate proficiency in conducting a preliminary investigation of a felonious assault. At a minimum, the test shall evaluate the following competencies:

1. Problem Solving/Decision-Making - analyzing situations and implementing plans through one's actions to solve problems. Using verbal or physical skills to determine the appropriate resolution to a situation.
2. Legal Authority/Individual Rights - The identification of laws and constitutional rights governing consensual encounters, detentions, and arrests.
3. Officer Safety - The demonstration of situational and tactical awareness and appropriate response.
4. Communication - The use of effective verbal and non-verbal skills to convey intended meaning and establish understanding.

Presenters must use the POST-developed Scenario Test and the POST Scenario Competency Evaluation and Grading Test Forms or presenter-developed forms approved by POST, which minimally include the performance dimensions used for this scenario test.

IV. REQUIRED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

A. A learning activity that requires the student to systematically search a simulated crime scene and generate crime scene notes and a crime scene sketch. The learning activity shall minimally test the student's ability to:

1. Use a systematic method to search the scene and recover all items of physical evidence
2. Generate crime scene notes that document observations, scene conditions and investigative actions
3. Generate a crime scene sketch that includes measurements, reference points, identification of evidence, a legend and the direction of north
4. Locate latent and plastic prints placed on objects of varying texture and color

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	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X				X	X	X
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
X				X	X	
12	2	2	4	6	12	4

5. Complete the necessary forms generally utilized by law enforcement to insure the chain of custody

B. The student will participate in one or more learning activities from the POST-developed *Instructor's Guide to Learning Activities for Leadership, Ethics and Community Policing (December 2005)* or other comparable sources regarding crimes scenes, evidence and forensics. At a minimum, each activity, or combination of activities must address the following topics:

1. Application of SARA or other problem solving model in the conduct of a thorough preliminary investigation
2. How a peace officer may collaborate with the community to solve a crime and identify underlying conditions that contribute to the crime problem
3. Modeling ethical leadership by a peace officer in the performance of an investigation
4. Impact of an effective investigation on a peace officer's trustworthiness and credibility during courtroom testimony

V. HOURLY REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be provided with a minimum number of instructional hours on crimes scenes, evidence and forensics.

VI. ORIGINATION DATE

January 1, 2001

VII. REVISION DATE

October 1, 2001	April 1, 2006	July 1, 2008
January 1, 2004	January 1, 2007	July 1, 2009
September 15, 2004	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2010
January 16, 2006	January 1, 2008	August 1, 2015