STEP TWO - ESTABLISH SECURITY AND EVIDENCE

Establish security.

• Establish boundaries.

• Establish physical barriers.

• Establish entry/exit paths and debris fields.

• Restrict access.

• Lot participants.

• Exclude unnecessary people.

• Protect evidence

Items of physical evidence are not always visible to the naked eye and may be easily overlooked. A methodical approach to collection and preservation of evidence is essential. One exception may be if evidence integrity is at risk. Under those circumstances, it is important that rapid decisions be made to prevent degradation or loss of evidence.

**Establish security** - According to this principle, every person who enters or exits the scene will add or subtract material from the scene, so it's crucial to quickly secure the area.

To control access, the scene may be cordoned off with yellow crime scene tape, cones or by other means. In addition, a common entryway is often established that all crime scene personnel will use to enter and exit the scene and all people entering or leaving the scene are documented once the boundaries have been established. Additional areas for consultation and evidence storage may also be established if necessary.

An alternate light source or oblique lighting may be used to identify some types of evidence, especially suspected biological evidence. A sample detected with the ALS should be properly collected and packaged with a label noting that the ALS and suspected type of sample or that it is a biological sample.

Blood may also be detected with chemical processes such as luminol. Luminol is an investigative aid that can assist in determining the presence of small quantities of blood (biological and animal). The luminol reagent reacts with the iron in hemoglobin resulting in a creation of a blue-green, luminescent light.

Precautions to consider when using luminol include the following:

- The chemical reaction can destroy evidence at the scene.

- Luminol will react to other substances, including copper and bleach.

- Luminol reactions must be viewed in complete darkness to observe the luminescence.

Based on these considerations, this method can be a valuable tool. It is generally only used after exhausting other options.