Course Description:

Evidence collection and preservation – Current CSI

This course is a three (3) day course that includes a day and a half in the classroom environment learning the techniques involved in efficiently and effectively processing a Crime Scene. The second portion of the class is a day and a half of “hands on” practical experience dealing with documenting, processing, and collecting evidence related to crime scenes. This course is specifically designed to teach the student how to exceed society’s expectations related to crime scene investigations.

Course Requirements:

The student should have a basic working knowledge of Crime Scenes.

Course Purpose:

To instruct the student to the methodical approach to properly documenting, collecting, and preserving different types of evidence that they would likely come in contact with during their tour of duty. The student will develop the methodology to successfully articulate why they do what they do while processing a crime scene.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to understand the balance between carrying out their duties safely and preserving potential evidence.
2. The student will clearly understand the definition of evidence.
3. The student will understand the types of evidence that they might encounter during their course of duty.
4. The student will learn the proper steps in which evidence is to be documented prior to collection.
5. The student will have an understanding of how to document those items that cannot be physically collected.
6. The student will develop a clear understanding of the value of physical evidence.
7. The student will have a strong working knowledge of how to properly preserve the evidence collected for storage or further examination.
8. The student will more confidently process a complete crime scene.
9. The student will be able to exceed the expectations of today's society by their ability to work a crime scene and articulate their methodology.

**Methods for Assessing Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The students will begin with a written assessment in order to ascertain their working knowledge of evidence and the proper steps necessary to document, collect, and preserve such evidence.

The students will then have a practical scenario in which they will be required to properly collect and preserve several types of evidence commonly found at crime scenes. The student will be expected to properly handle that evidence in order to yield the best results possible for storage or further examination.

**Grading:**

**WRITTEN PORTION**

The written portion of the testing process will consist of multiple-choice answers that deal with the methodology involving crime scene investigation techniques.

**PRACTICAL PROBLEM SCENARIO**

The practical problem scenario consists of a mock crime scene typical of those officers often come across while on duty. The officer will have to determine which items of evidence are least to most transient in order to indicate which type of documentation or collection technique would be best for that situation. While all items of evidence should be photographed prior to collection not all can be collected, therefore the photograph itself may become the evidence.
The student will be given the opportunity to collect items related to those areas discussed during the presentation. Latent lifts can be taken from various items. Footwear and tire treads can be cast and collected. Swabs can be collected and additional items including an assortment of weapons can be collected for further examination or storage.

Course Outline:

Evidence Collection and Preservation – Current CSI

The affect of the CSI effect…Society’s expectations.

A. Arriving on scene
B. Definition of physical evidence
C. Types of evidence
D. Methodical approach to Crime Scene processing
E. Fingerprint evidence
F. DNA evidence
G. Trace Evidence
H. Footwear and Tire tread evidence
I. Bloodstain Pattern analysis
J. Crime Scene Photography
K. Proper Diagramming /Sketching
L. Vehicle occupant identification techniques
M. Recognizing highly transient evidence
N. Forensic light sources in CSI
O. Establishing the value of physical evidence
P. Evidence preservation for transportation to storage or further submission.