



**PHOTOGRAPHING**  
**THE SCENE**

# General Considerations

- **Time** is an essential factor
- Photos come **first** in the investigation
- Photograph from all necessary **angles**
- **Record** all photos and angle taken from



# General Considerations

- Important to maintain *perspective* in photos
- Distortion in perspective will *ruin* value of photo as *evidence*
- Taking photos with the camera aimed to make a *90° angle* with an *opposite* wall will help maintain perspective



# Forensic Aspects

- Proper selection of subjects and objects
- Overall/ Long range, midrange, and close-up photos

# Forensic Aspects



# Long Range Photos

- Long range photos consist of your overall photos of your scene
  - Outdoors or indoors
- Long range photos also show:
  - the approximate time of day during the investigation
  - the condition of the weather during the investigation.



# Long Range Photos

- Take long range photos from *all angles* or directions of the crime scene
  - Shows what is *surrounding* the residence.



# Mid-Range Photos

- Medium range photography consist of any range of photos that show *more detail* than long range, but not enough detail to *accurately describe* any items in the scene.
- Remember to take these photos from a distance that they are not too close to the items in the scene, but not too far either.
- The key concept to this range of photos is to *tie together* all evidence in the crime scene.





# Close-Up Photos

- Close-up photography allows you to establish the magnification rate and size of the subject(s) in the crime scene.
- Close-up photos also show the specific details of the evidence in the scene in order to write a more accurate report, and to help, you the officer, remember the case two years down the road when the case finally reaches the courtroom.



# Close-Up Photos

- One important thing to remember with this range is to always take one picture **without** a scale or ruler, and take another picture of the same item from the **same** place **with a scale** or ruler
  - this will help if the picture ever needs any **enlargements** made or computer enhancements.



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Long Range

- Approaches to the Scene
- The interior and exterior of the building
- Surrounding areas (the yard of a house in which the crime occurred, the general area surrounding an outdoor crime scene, and so forth)



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Mid-Range

- Mid-Range photographs should be taken of the entrance and exit to the scene, or those most likely to have been used if these are not obvious.
- Damaged areas, particularly those around the points of entry and exits used by the criminal.



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Mid-Range

- A general scenario shot showing the location of the *evidence* and its *position* in relation to the room or area in which it was found



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Close-up

- As many close-ups of the evidence should be taken as needed to show pry marks, blood pattern, tools laying on floor, and the *immediate surroundings.*



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Close-up

- All finger and *palm* prints, which do not need further development or cannot be *lifted*, should be photographed.
- Areas in which fingerprints were *discovered* are photographed.



# Basic Photograph Shots Needed - Additional

- After the evidence is collected the area *underneath* them should be photographed if there is any marks, stains, or other apparent change.
- Any other photographs you, as the officer, feel are necessary to *complete* the scene.

