PHOTOGRAPHING THE SCENE

General Considerations

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



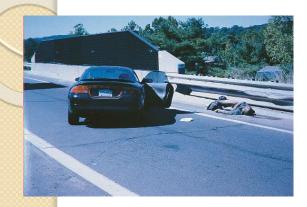
General Considerations

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

Forensic Aspects

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

Forensic Aspects









Long Range Photos

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



Long Range Photos

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



Mid-Range Photos

- Medium range photography consist of any range of photos that show <u>more detail</u> than long range, but not enough detail to <u>accurately</u> <u>describe</u> 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 <u>tie</u>
 <u>together</u> all evidence in the crime scene.

Close-Up Photos

- Close-up photography allows you to establish the <u>magnification</u> rate and <u>size</u> of the subject(s) in the crime scene.
- Close-up photos also show the <u>specific</u> <u>details</u> of the evidence in the scene in order to write a more accurate report, and to help, you the officer, <u>remember</u> 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 <u>same</u> 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 <u>interior</u> and <u>exterior</u> 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 <u>entrance</u> and <u>exit</u> to the scene, or those most likely to have been used if these are not obvious.
- <u>Damaged</u> 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 <u>evidence</u> and its <u>position</u> 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 <u>immediate</u> <u>surroundings.</u>



Basic Photograph Shots Needed – Close-up

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



Basic Photograph Shots Needed - Additional

- After the evidence is collected the area <u>underneath</u> 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 <u>complete</u> the scene.

