

# Seven Step Protocol

## *Introduction*

The circumstances of the crime and the type of scene may dictate the methodology of scene processing using this protocol as general guidance.

1. Establish the dimensions and identify potential safety and health hazards.
2. Establish security.
3. Plan and communicate.
4. Conduct a primary survey.
5. Document and process the scene.
6. Conduct a secondary survey.
7. Recover and preserve evidence.

## **Step 1**

Establish the dimensions and identify potential safety and health hazards.

1. Establish dimensions.
  - Locate focal point.
  - Observe for secondary scene(s).
2. Identify safety hazards.
  - Biohazards, power, weapons, chemical hazards, traps.
  - Contamination.
  - Victim assistance.
  - Communicate hazards to other responders.

## **Step 2**

Establish security.

- Establish boundaries.
- Establish physical barriers.
- Establish entry/exit paths.
- Restrict access.
- Log participants.
- Exclude unnecessary people.
- Protect evidence.

### **Step 3**

Plan and communicate.

- Determine type of investigation.
- Gather data and intelligence.
- Address legal issues.
- Determine processing priority.
- Define resources: current and future needs.
- Secure areas: consultation and processing.

### **Step 4**

Conduct a primary survey.

- Identify evidence.
- Document.
- Determine processing list for evidence collection.

### **Step 5**

Document and process the scene.

- Photography.
- Notes.
- Observations.
- Sketches.
- Task assignment.

### **Step 6**

Conduct secondary survey.

- Determine search pattern.
- Prioritize search areas.
- Consider environmental factors.

### **Step 7**

Recover and preserve evidence.

- Collect evidence.