



D23 Effective Use of the Multidisciplinary Approach Critical to Solving Contemporary Violent Crime

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the increasing sophistication and planning of violent crime by contemporary criminals, the impact on violent crimes due to the explosion of forensic science knowledge in mainstream media, the necessity of employing a multidisciplinary scientific approach when conducting violent crime investigation, and the enduring and critical role of "old-fashioned" detective work, when investigating contemporary violent crime.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by demonstrating that the complexity, motivations for, and planning of contemporary violent crimes necessitate adherence to time-honored crime scene processing and investigative techniques bolstered by effectively using the wide spectrum of scientific disciplines within the forensic community to effectively resolve contemporary violent crime.

The explosion of forensic crime dramas and true-life documentaries in the main stream media, and the parallel increase in available academic forensic education, has forever impacted the art of criminal investigation. Savvy criminals can easily learn through a wide variety of sources how to circumvent traditional crime fighting strategies, thwart traditional crime scene processing techniques, and mask or obliterate various types of physical evidence traditionally associated with interpersonal violent crimes. The authors have seen, over the course of their combined five decades of criminal investigative experience, a significant shift in the time and effort spent by perpetrators in altering, and sometimes thoroughly staging, violent crime scenes. These activities occur to avoid forensic detection, in even the most emotion, anger, and drug-fueled violent crimes.

Case studies will be presented which illustrate how knowledge of forensic science affected the planning and execution of violent crimes, and the efforts at crime scene manipulation by perpetrators in the aftermath. The case studies will demonstrate how leveraging the multidisciplinary approach in processing the crime scene, incorporating the forensic pathology and laboratory findings, and combining the results with traditional stalwart investigative methods resulted in identification of the perpetrators. The case studies anecdotally support the belief of the authors that contemporary violent criminals demonstrate an increasing forensic sophistication in their crimes.

Crime Scene, Multidisciplinary, Investigation