



D52 An Interdisciplinary Study About the Role of the First Responder at the Crime Scene in Colombia

Claudia Delgado Aguacia, MSc, AFFIC Foundation, Avenida Calle 26 No. 68C-61, Oficina 321, Edificio Torre Central, Bogota, DC 110931, COLOMBIA; and Carolina Restrepo, MSc*, Karen B. Rodriguez, MA, Fernanda Pazmiño Moncayo, MSc, and Carolina B. Gutierrez de Piñeres, PhD, AFFIC Foundation, Avenida Calle 26 No. 68C-61 Oficina 321, Centro Comercial y de Negocios Torre Central, Bogotá, D.C., 110931, COLOMBIA; Carlos A. Villalobos, BA, National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, Cra. 7A N° 12-61, Bogota, COLOMBIA; and Santiago Reina Camacho, AFFIC Foundation, Avenida Calle 26 No. 68C-61 Oficina 321, Centro Comercial y de Negocios Torre Central, Bogotá, D.C., 110931, COLOMBIA*

After attending this presentation, attendees will know the procedure of the first responder at the crime scene within the Colombian Criminal System context from an interdisciplinary (psychological, forensic, and legal) point-of-view including the relationship between mass media and crime scene protection.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by presenting an interdisciplinary approach about the first responder work in Colombia and how the Colombian Police face several factors (mass media, stress, criminals, and victims among others) when they arrive at a crime scene and apply every preliminary procedure.

Crime is an issue in every nation of the world and especially in large and congested cities like Bogotá. With the city expansion and the population increase, the crime scenes handled by the police become more complex and the development of new technology and procedures is necessary. The nature of every crime as well as the social context in which it occurs makes the first responder's work increasingly methodological, scientific, and complex.

Bogotá, D.C. is the Colombia capital with a population of 7,500,000 inhabitants divided in 20 localities. During 2010, the Bogotá Metropolitan Police were first responders in more than 1,700 homicides, 44,000 interpersonal violence cases, and 20,000 cases of robbery, and other crimes. Although the Colombian police have the appropriate training for the procedures as first responder at the scene of crime, the high numbers of cases as well as the presence of mass media covering crimes in Bogotá have had legal, psychological, forensic, social and criminal investigation consequences directly affecting the Justice administration and the Adversarial Criminal System.

This presentation is the result of the project named "Support to management in the security and coexistence for citizens within the framework of the twenty integral plans for local security," with financial support from the Bogotá Mayor's Office, through the Surveillance and Security Fund Secretary. The goal of the project was to support and strengthen the Metropolitan Police of Bogotá in its arduous surveillance work, giving the appropriate procedures as first responders in different scenes of crime in a practical and readable way, and empowering its capabilities to write and present reports as well as to give effective testimonies in the courtroom.

This project emphasized to the relationship between the police officers and many types of people at the crime scene, showing an appropriate approach to witnesses, relatives, suspects, and mass media from psychological and criminalistics points-of-view. It also gave a special consideration to the proper management of evidence in uncommon and complex situations that requires basic forensic knowledge (trace evidence, human remains, etc).

Through the presentation of videos and three specific cases, the AFFIC foundation team will show how the Bogotá Police has been improving its procedures as first responders and how they are approaching people at the crime scene and assuring evidence is handled in a proper way. At the same time, the project also helped Bogotá Police members to avoid psychological diseases by teaching self control techniques to prevent and manage anxiety disorders.

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