

- (d) transfer of material to and from the scene;
 - (e) the loss of the integrity of potential evidence to connect a suspect with the scene;
 - (f) contamination of potential evidence.
- (3) A scene only remains in its original state until it is disturbed or interfered with by any means whatsoever. Although unavoidable interference with a scene is often caused by the attendance of Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, ATO, Doctors, etc. The more people who enter a scene the greater the extent of contamination, or removal, of evidence from it. Lack of scene control leads to loss of preservation.
 - (4) EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSES OF PRESERVING LIFE OR PREVENTING FURTHER INJURY, SCENES MUST ONLY BE ENTERED BY PERSONS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE (SENIOR) INVESTIGATING OFFICER [(S)IO]. THESE PERSONS WILL ALWAYS HAVE A FUNCTION TO FULFIL FOR THE (S)IO. NO UNAUTHORISED PERSONS MAY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

3. DUTIES AT A SCENE

- (1) One set of instructions cannot cover duties and procedures for all scenes of crime. The following paragraphs outline the general procedures to be followed and can be augmented by officers using initiative and common sense to suit prevailing circumstances.
- (2) The primary duty of the first police officer on arrival at a scene involving casualties must be directed towards the preservation of life. This duty must be immediately followed by the necessity to 'preserve the scene' to enable correct scene interpretation and identification and collection of all available evidence.
- (3) When the primary duty referred to above has been attended to, police should withdraw from, 'seal off' and preserve the scene. ALL UNNECESSARY PERSONNEL INCLUDING POLICE, MILITARY, PUBLIC OR THE NEWS MEDIA MUST BE EXCLUDED UNTIL OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE (S)IO.
- (4) In respect of serious incidents preservation of a scene will invariably mean taping off the immediate scene area (incident scene) and if considered necessary under the circumstances taping off another wider area (holding area). The incident scene should, where appropriate, include:
 - (a) the obvious or apparent path of entry of the culprit or vehicle, or missile; or
 - (b) the point of entry, or point of impact; or
 - (c) the point of exit; or
 - (d) the path of exit.
- (5) In serious incidents there may be multiple incident scenes, ie a firing point, the target, houses, vehicles, suspects etc. Each must be preserved for examination and prevention of cross contamination.
- (6) When the extent of the incident scene has been identified and taped off, the first officer will act as Scene Log Officer (SLO). When several police officers arrive at a scene the senior member will appoint the SLO and take charge pending the prompt arrival of the (S)IO.
- (7) The SLO will be positioned at a suitably identified Incident Control Point (ICP) within the holding area adjacent to the entry path to the incident scene. Consistent with security the ICP should be clearly marked by an appropriate sign or other means of identification. On arrival at the scene all support and other agency personnel should report to the holding area for briefing by the (S)IO and subsequent controlled access to and exit from the incident scene past the ICP.