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16-012
02/02/16

Crime Scene Management
Red Crime Scene Tape

Maintaining the inner crime scene area of a serious incident is essential to protecting and preserving evidence that requires documentation, processing and collection by CSI.

Currently, the Department uses yellow crime scene tape to cordon off the boundaries of the outer perimeter of crime scenes at serious incidents requiring the response of Investigations. Members sometimes use additional yellow crime scene tape to identify areas within the inner crime scene where physical evidence has been located. As such, the use of the same yellow crime scene tape for the outer and inner perimeters makes it difficult to distinguish the identified areas.

Effective December 1, 2013, the Crime Scene Investigations unit began using red crime scene tape to identify the inner crime scene within the existing crime scene. After conducting a walkthrough of the crime scene, CSI members will utilize red crime scene tape to identify the boundaries of areas containing evidence for processing.

In addition to identifying and marking the inner crime scene evidence area, the ranking member in charge of the crime scene shall assign an officer to protect this inner crime scene evidence area. The officer shall preserve the inner crime scene until CSI responds and puts up this red tape. The assigned officer will be responsible for notifying individuals within the crime scene that the area marked with red crime scene tape contains evidence requiring CSI processing and should not be entered until processed by CSI, unless specific articulable circumstances require entry by a member. Entry shall first be approved by the ranking member in charge of the scene and documented in the crime scene log.

Members shall continue to comply with DGO 6.01, DGO 6.02 and related Department Bulletins regarding Crime Scene Logs and Crime Scene Management.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Greg P. Suhr", is positioned above the printed name.

GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police