



Investigation:

Search is a Classic Mystery

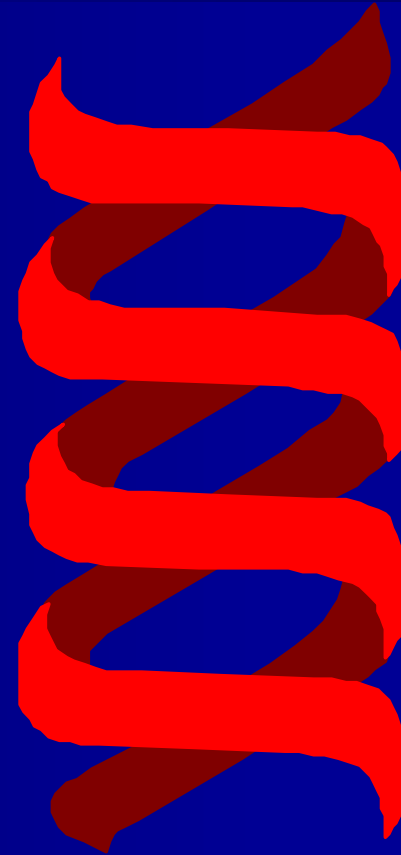
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Objectives

- Describe the importance of investigation during the lost person incident.
- Describe the types of information that must be obtained.
- Identify possible sources of information.
- Describe four types of evidence relevant to the lost person incident.
- Describe the fundamentals of interviewing.

The Incident Genes

- Chaos
- Lack of Information
- Bad Information
- Injury or Death
- Risk of Injury/Death
- Amorphous Energy
- Undefined Authority
- Hysteria



The Priority for Investigation

- Data critical to making immediate decisions is obtained first and quickly.
- Detailed planning data and searching data are obtained.
- The lost person report serves as a checklist or reminder of even remotely possible considerations, reducing the chance of overlooking anything.

Obtaining Evidence

- Observing and recording
 - Actions of people, occurrence of events
 - Descriptions of conditions, physical condition of things related to the lost person.
- Interviewing people
- Examining documents or clues related to the lost person
- Analyzing statistical data

Types of Evidence

- Physical
- Documentary
- Analytical
- Testimonial

Interviewing

- The interviewee's perspective.
- Referrals to other people.
- Documents.

General Principles of Interviewing

- Always assume that everyone will have something to contribute.
- Let information lead to conclusions.
- Be aware of cultural differences between yourself and interviewee.
- Don't assume that one person can give you all the information.

General Principles of Interviewing

- Always interview witness separately.
- Don't assume that anyone is telling the truth or cooperating to the fullest extent.
 - The witness may not understand the seriousness of the situation.
 - There is a tendency to make the subject or themselves look good.
 - Relatives may be embarrassed.
 - Rivalry, jealousy, or animosity
 - Crime involved.

The Five W's Of Information Gathering

- What happened?
- Where?
- When?
- Who?
- Why?

Questioning Techniques

- Open-Ended
- Closed
- Probes

Ways of Asking Open-Ended Questions

- Ask questions that can't be answered yes or no.
- Preface key words with "what about" or "how about".
- Repeat back the key words.
- Summarize back.

Common Pitfalls

- Asking multiple questions.
- Asking yes/no question.
- Asking leading questions.

Probing as a Questioning Technique

- Probing is used to stimulate discussion or obtain more information.
- Probes motivate the respondent to communicate more fully.
- Probes focus the discussion on the specific interview content.
- Inadequate answers make probes necessary.

The "I Don't Know" Response

- The respondent doesn't *understand* the question and is thinking about the question.
- The respondent is thinking the questions over before answering.
- The respondent may be trying to evade the issue because he feels he is uninformed, may give the wrong answer, or because the question strikes him as too personal.
- The respondent may really not know.

**Be A Good Active
Listener!**

Additional Reminders for Conducting Interviews

- Control your attitude.
- Control the interview.
- Be ready for off-the record comments.
- Obtain supporting documentation.
- Try to get needed information in one hour or less.
- Respect interviewee's environment.

Criminal Possibilities

- Staged Incident
- Homicide
- Abduction

Thank You



Questions?