



<b>Series</b> 200 Operations	<b>Effective Date</b> 08/16/2019	<b>Review Date</b> <i>Three Years</i>	<b>Directive Number</b>  <b>203.1</b>
<b>Chapter</b> 203 – Criminal Investigations			
<b>Reviewing Office</b> Crime Scene Services			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Directive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Revised</b> <small>Revisions in <i>italics</i></small>
<b>References</b>			

## **CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION**

### **203.1 - 1 POLICY**

1. The actions taken by patrol and investigative *members* at crime scenes often determine the course and success of criminal investigations. Initial responding *members* play the lead role by protecting the crime scene and rendering emergency services. Initial responding *members* shall promptly, yet cautiously, approach and enter crime scenes, remaining observant of any persons, vehicles, events, potential evidence, and environmental conditions.
2. Qualified members are available on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to process a crime scene.
3. The evidence at all major crime scenes (e.g. homicide, non-fatal shooting, sexual assault, robbery, arson, kidnapping) shall be collected and processed by members of Crime Scene Services.
4. All other crime scenes (e.g. home invasions, breaking and entering businesses) shall be processed by forensic technicians of Crime Scene Services *on a priority, case by case basis. In the interest of time and efficiency, these scenes, when requiring minimal documentation and/or evidence recovery, may be processed by the responding on-scene units. These scenes can also be processed the following day on Platoon Two when a work request is submitted through established procedure by the officer in charge of the case.*
5. The initial responding *members* shall attempt to identify all witnesses to the crime, or those who possess information regarding the crime. In the absence of reasonable suspicion, which is necessary to detain a person, or probable cause, which is necessary to arrest a person, “citizen contacts” are consensual encounters, and the person is free to leave at any time and is not required to produce identification, answer any questions, or to cooperate with a *Department member*.