

## **CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY**

### **OVERALL**

- Overall photographs are meant to document the scene the way the investigator/examiner saw it
- Take these photographs at normal height with light settings set to how things were at the scene
- Additional flash or other light settings should be taken after the “as is” photographs are taken
- Meant to show the totality of the scene without focusing on one thing in particular

### **MID-RANGE**

- Mid-range photographs also known as evidence establishing photographs are meant to document the relationship of items with each other and with the scene
- Take these photographs with one item in focus but frame it to show its location within the scene
- Make an isosceles triangle with the camera, the item, and a prominent scene feature

### **CLOSE-UP**

- Close-up photographs are meant to document an item or location at the scene
- The focus is entirely on the object, make sure it fills the frame
- Use a small enough aperture to facilitate depth of field
- Consider getting the flash off the camera to avoid hot spots
- NOTE: These are not comparison quality photographs, but they could be

### **COMPARISON QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHS**

- These are best completed with a digital SLR camera or Mirrorless camera with detachable lens capable of being set to 35mm or 50 mm, a tripod, a sync cord, and an external flash

#### **1. Take overall, midrange, and close-up photos of the impression**

- Do this with a scale, and then without a scale
- Place the scale next to and at the same level as the impression

#### **2. Set the camera image format to RAW (or RAW + JPEGfine), the camera mode to Aperture Priority or Manual Mode (“A” or “AV”), and the f-stop to at least 8**

#### **3. Place the camera on the tripod**

#### **4. Adjust the camera so the camera back or front of lens is parallel to the impression**

#### **5. Attach the sync cord between the camera and the flash**

6. Set the focal length to 30-35mm if using a cropped frame sensor or 50mm if using a full frame sensor
  7. Focus on the impression by adjusting the tripod, not the lens
  8. Hold flash at arm's length, at an angle to the impression
  9. Take at least three photos with the flash from at least three different orientations
- Ex: from 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, etc. with the angles of light from the flash, at the hip, knee, and ankle level
  - Make sure the tripod legs do not obstruct the flash