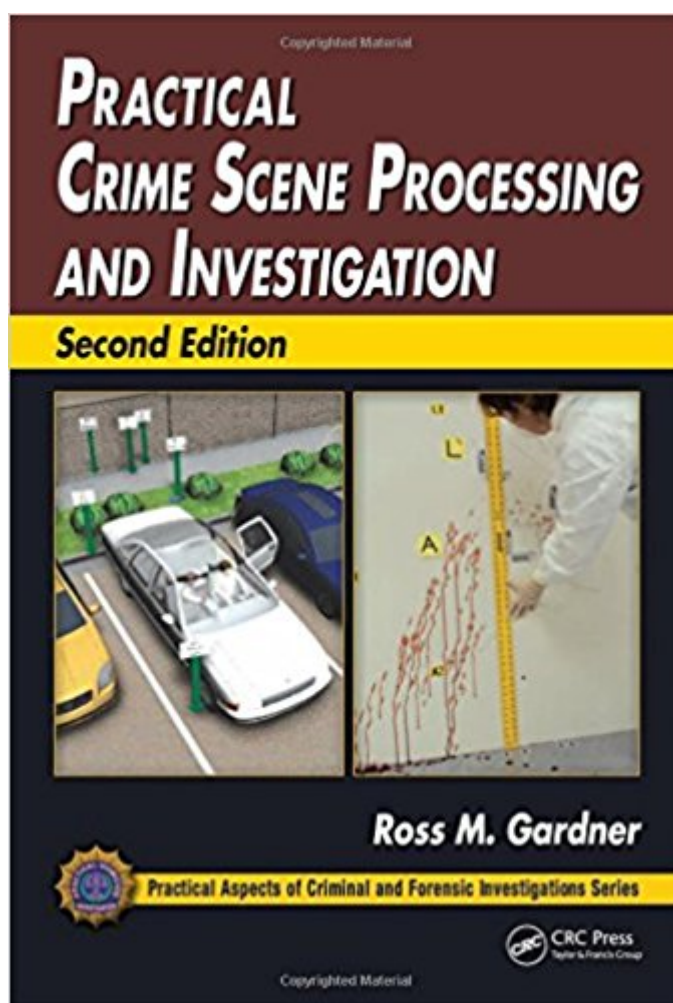


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# Practical Crime Scene Processing And Investigation, Second Edition (Practical Aspects Of Criminal And Forensic Investigations)



## Synopsis

All too often, the weakest link in the chain of criminal justice is the crime scene investigation. Improper collection of evidence blocks the finding of truth. Now in its second edition, *Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation* presents practical, proven methods to be used at any crime scene to ensure that evidence is admissible and persuasive. Accompanied by more than 300 color photographs, topics discussed include: Understanding the nature of physical evidence, including fingerprint, biological, trace, hair and fiber, and other forms of evidence Actions of the responding officer, from documenting and securing the initial information to providing emergency care Assessing the scene, including search considerations and dealing with chemical and bioterror hazards Crime scene photography, sketching, mapping, and notes and reports Light technology and preserving fingerprint and impression evidence Shooting scene documentation and reconstruction Bloodstain pattern analysis and the body as a crime scene Special scene considerations, including fire, buried bodies, and entomological evidence The role of crime scene analysis and reconstruction, with step-by-step procedures Two appendices provide additional information on crime scene equipment and risk management, and each chapter is enhanced by a succinct summary, suggested readings, and a series of questions to test assimilation of the material. Using this book in your investigations will help you find out what happened and who is responsible.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I am convinced it is essential that all officers and investigative personnel have a solid

understanding of professionally accepted crime scene protocols in order that their agency can take full advantage of today's sophisticated laboratory techniques and technologies. This book can play a significant role in helping responsible, concerned individuals realize that objective." •Eugene R. Cromartie, Deputy Executive Director/Chief of Staff, International Association of Chiefs of Police Major General (Ret.), United States Army Criminal Investigation Command

Ross Martin Gardner worked in law enforcement for nearly 29 years. The vast majority of that period was spent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, performing duties as a special agent and command sergeant major. In 1999, SA Gardner retired from the military to take a position as a chief of police in a small suburban Atlanta police department. He served in that position until 2003, when he quit public service to become a full-time consultant and instructor. Ross is currently the vice president of Bevel, Gardner and Associates, a forensic education and consulting group.

It sounds like Mr. Gardner is an excellent crime scene technician with years of experience and expertise to pass on to students and anyone interested in learning more about crime scene processing. However, a true editor could have done a lot of good with this book. I was surprised, after just reading the first ten pages, how poorly written this book was. It reads like a rough draft. I decided to research the editor of this book, Vernon J. Geberth. Vernon J. Geberth is actually not an editor, but is a retired Lieutenant-Commander of the NYPD. After reading that, it all made sense. It appears that no actual editor was used in the creation of this book, and it was desperately needed. I'm sure, just like Mr. Gardner, that Vernon Geberth is an excellent investigator, with loads of wisdom to impart onto others. However, that does not make him an editor. His knowledge might make him a contributing author, or a mentor to Mr. Gardner during his writing of this book. Editor Beth Hill writes, "An editor polishes and refines, he directs the focus of the story or article or movie along a particular course. He cuts out what doesn't fit, what is nonessential to the purpose of the story. He enhances the major points, drawing attention to places where the audience should focus." (<http://theeditorsblog.net/2011/02/01/duties-of-an-editor-how-editors-help-writers/>). While Mr. Gardner's book appears to be technically accurate, as a student, it is often difficult to trudge through the poor writing. Throughout reading this book, it really bugs me how Mr. Gardner comes off as being arrogant, and whether he feels this way or not, it reads as though he completely detests any lawyers, DAs, or anyone who is not as skilled and experienced as he is in the field of crime scene investigation. He frequently refers to himself in the third-person in anecdotal stories where he seems to always have known better than anyone else (lawyers, DAs, experts, and even other crime scene

technicians) about whatever it is he was doing. I am beginning to wonder if the author thinks there is anyone who is not beneath him. There are also several times when he seems to "go off" on "bunny trails" that have nothing to do with the chapter. The compilation of the book itself also needs some help. As a student, if you are trying to flip to different chapters to search for specific subjects you need to study, unless you have memorized the name of each and every chapter, you will have a difficult time finding what you need. There are NO chapter numbers at the top or bottom of any of the pages. The only time a chapter number is written is on the very first page of that chapter. The chapters also seem to be broken up rather oddly. Instead of having chapters that are about the same length, some of the chapters will have maybe 10 pages on a very particular topic, and other chapters will have over 60 pages and cover a very wide range of topics. For example, instead of having a chapter for fingerprinting, a chapter for impressions, etc., there is one, 62-page, chapter for "basic skills for scene processing", which includes multiple, very detailed, important aspects of crime scene processing. The chapter just before it is a mere 24 pages. I think as a teacher this can make things more complicated, because they end up having to break down chapters, assign specific pages, and tailor their quizzes and assignments to which section of a chapter, rather than which chapters. Not a huge deal, but again, I think the addition of a skilled editor to the team of people working on this book could have helped make this book more user-friendly. Again, Mr. Gardner sounds like he has a wealth of knowledge and it's wonderful that he wants to pass that on to others. However, the investment of a good editor would be an invaluable addition to the next edition.

I have been a criminal investigator for a small department for several years. I found this book to be VERY informative for anyone who processes crime scenes. It is as useful for the investigator in the smallest department as well as the larger ones. I learned a lot in just the first few pages, and found it difficult to put down. Whether you are a new detective, or a seasoned veteran, a crime scene analyst for a major metropolitan police department, or a "catch-all" detective for a tiny department, you'll probably do well to read this book.

A textbook used for International Association for Identification (IAI) certification (at least a couple of years ago). I believe there is a new edition out now. Practical information for CSIs or Law Enforcement Investigations. Ultimately, in the case of most professions, the best training/information comes from OJT.

Top notch teacher with a top notch book. The author is thoroughly knowledgeable and definitely writes

with working users in mind. Absolutely nothing but good to say about this and this book, which takes you step by step how to make sure and cover every aspect of the crime scene investigation.

Book came as described, with some writing and highlighting inside, but nothing that was unexpected or impedes using it.

Read the 1st Edition in 2009 and the 2nd Edition of the book is even better. I would recommend this to anybody working in the field of Crime Scene Investigation.

Happy with purchase

I use the text book along with the workbook to assist me in my position. I also am a Instructor and use the material to assist in developing intruactional material

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