

BASIC INVESTIGATIVE TRACKING

Course Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Tool for investigative use
- B. Leads to suspects, evidence, or witnesses

II. Sun angles

- A. Angle of sun changes ability to view impression
- B. Artificial lighting to view impressions

III. Stride and Step

- A. Normal walking
- B. Different paces

IV. Tracking Stick

- A. Setting up the tracking stick
 - 1. shoe measurements
 - 2. Stride and step intervals
- B. Use in difficult terrain
- C. Linking small indications of track
- D. Marking tracks
 - 1. Step by step
 - 2. Maintaining reference points

V. Sketching tracks

- A. Measurements
- B. Tread details
- C. Wear pattern details
- D. Step and stride intervals

VI. Track preservation

- A. Sketches and photography
 - 1. Photography
 - 2. Measuring devices
 - 3. Film
 - 4. One to one comparison
- B. Separation of suspect tracks
 - 1. Marking
 - 2. Covering

VII. Crime Scene Preservation

- A. Approach
- B. Identification and elimination of tracks
- C. Briefing to other officers
- D. Marking tracks

VIII. Tracking teams

- A. Three-man teams
 - 1. Point man
 - 2. Flankers
 - 3. Relieving partners
 - 4. Armed suspects
- B. Solo tracking
 - 1. Rest periods
 - 2. Armed suspects

IX. Tracking awareness

- A. "Granny" tracks
- B. Partial tracks
- C. Substantiating evidence

X. Sign

- A. Any change inflicted by person's passage
- B. Four basic types
 - 1. Flattening
 - 2. Regularity
 - 3. Color change
 - 4. Disturbance
- C. Additional sign
 - 1. Shine
 - 2. Transfer
 - 3. Dew trails
 - 4. Interlaced vegetation
 - 5. Scuffed objects
 - 6. Broken twigs
 - 7. Cohabitants
 - 8. Information
 - 9. Vegetation injuries

XI. Terrain

- A. Desert
- B. Mountain
- C. City
- D. Swamp

XII. Downhill tracking

- A. Shortened stride
- B. Weight transfer
- C. Disturbance
- D. Heel marks
- E. Sliding
- F. Vegetation

XIII. Uphill tracking

- A. Weight transfer
- B. Disturbance
- C. Dig marks
- D. Vegetation

XIV. Side hill tracking

- A. Weight transfer
- B. Shelf effect

XV. Aging

- A. Effects of sun and wind
- B. Shine
- C. Floating of soil
- D. Appearance

XVI. Elements and track destruction

- A. Wind
- B. Passing vehicles
- C. Helicopters
- D. Rain
- E. Frost and dew

XVII. Track location

- A. Track traps

XVIII. Suspect movement

- A. Walking
 - 1. Stride
 - 2. Inclines
 - 3. Obstacles
- B. Running
 - 1. Stride
 - 2. Weight distribution
 - 3. Toe digs
 - 4. Disturbance and discoloration
 - 5. Scuff marks
 - 6. Deep sandy soil

- C. Stopping motion
 - 1. Parallel position of tracks
 - 2. Concentration of tracks
 - 3. Direction
 - 4. Location
- D. Flattened areas
 - 1. No obvious shape
 - 2. Body and torso extremities
 - 3. Clothing seams and fabric impressions
- E. Jump tracking
 - 1. Using track traps
 - 2. Leap frogging
 - 3. Solo tracking
 - 4. Locating lost tracks
 - 5. Sealing with track traps
- F. Two trails
 - 1. Tracks to a crime scene
 - 2. Tracks away from a crime scene
 - 3. Location of witnesses or suspects
- G. Perimeter cutting
 - 1. 360° search
 - 2. Location of suspect tracks
 - 3. Size of sweep
- H. Suspect linking
 - 1. Connecting two or more suspects
 - 2. Connecting suspects to vehicles

XIX. Geometric shapes

- A. Marks made by property
- B. Documentation
- C. Linking to suspects

XX. Dislodged objects

- A. Location
- B. Linking to other impressions
- C. Linking to suspects

XXI. Vehicle tracks

- A. Wheel width
- B. Wheel base
- C. Diagrams
- D. Photography
- E. Vehicle information from tracks
- F. Direction of travel

- XXII. Crime scene transfer
 - A. Vehicles, floor mats
 - B. Dwellings, counter tops, furniture
 - C. Tile and polished floors
 - D. Detecting
 - E. Eye level and lighting

- XXIII. Track traps
 - A. Commercial patrol, alleyways
 - B. Two passes at separate times
 - C. Rain and other factors

- XXIV. Untrackable surfaces / locking in
 - A. Proper tracking measurements
 - B. Surrounding track yielding area
 - C. Elimination of other possibilities

- XXV. Suspect interview

- XXVI. Reports

- XXVII. Diagrams
 - A. Crime scene
 - B. Track routes

- XXVIII. Notes

- XXIX. Court testimony
 - A. Thorough investigation
 - B. Accurate report
 - C. Court preparation
 - D. Diagrams
 - E. Overhead projections
 - F. Explanation of tracking process

- XXX. Preparation
 - A. Pre-trial conference
 - B. Strong and weak areas of investigation

- XXXI. Examination

- XXXII. Class Evaluation