

What to do and NOT to do if you discover a crime

- If you discover a crime, immediately call the Police and advise them a crime has occurred.
- If your home or place of work has been burglarized, do not enter the building. Allow the Police to secure it first.
- **Be a good witness.** If possible, obtain a detailed description of the suspect and of the suspect vehicle including a license plate number. Do not place yourself in potential danger in order to obtain this Information.
- Do not touch or move any items. Doing so could potentially destroy or contaminate Evidence jeopardizing the investigation.
- Fully cooperate with the Police during their investigation.



Watsonville PD Crime Prevention Unit encourages you to:

- Immediately report suspicious and criminal activity to the Police.
- Get involved in community activity. Volunteer!
- Get to know your local police officers. We are here to serve you. Let's keep a positive relationship between the community and local law enforcement.

Watsonville Police Department

215 Union Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Business Phone: (831) 768-3300
Non-Emergency Dispatch: (831) 471-1151



Watsonville Police Department



Crime Scene Investigation

CSI

The Watsonville Police Department employs Police Service Specialists (PSSs) who are specially trained in Crime Scene and Evidence processing.



Watsonville Police PSS duties include:

- Responding to Crime Scenes to assist Patrol Officers and Detectives.
- Photographing Crime Scenes and Evidence.
- Processing Crime Scenes to locate potential Evidence.
- Collecting, processing and preserving Evidence.
- Taking measurements and drawing Crime scene diagrams.
- Testifying in court.



Common Types of Evidence

- **Fingerprints:** A suspect's fingerprints and palm-prints can sometimes be found at a Crime Scene.
- **Shoe Impressions:** Suspect sometimes track dirt and liquid substances onto floors and windowsills.
- **Hair and Fibers:** Suspects often leave their hair or fibers from their clothing at a crime scene.
- **DNA:** Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) can be found in saliva, blood and other bodily fluids.
- **Contraband:** Illegal drugs and illegal weapons are often found at crime scenes.
- **Tool Marks:** When tools are used to pry a door open or strike an object they usually leave a unique impression.
- **Property:** Suspect may forget their burglary tools, weapons or other items at a crime scene.
- **Video:** Surveillance Video can be very helpful in the identification of a suspect or a suspect vehicle.



CSI Myths

Not EVERYTHING you see on TV shows is realistic.

- MYTH:** Crimes are always solved quickly.
- FACT:** Contrary to what is portrayed on TV, it can take several weeks or even years to solve a crime.
- MYTH:** CSIs use all the latest state of the art equipment.
- FACT:** Most police departments do not have the budget to purchase the latest state of the art equipment. Some equipment seen on TV is for the purpose of entertainment and does not even exist.

- MYTH:** Fingerprints are located at every crime scene.
- FACT:** Depending on the surface and weather conditions, fingerprints may not be located at a crime scene. Even if a clear fingerprint is located, it is still rare for a match to be made.



- MYTH:** Every suspect can be identified using DNA.
- FACT:** Usable DNA is not left at every crime scene. DNA evidence is fragile and easily contaminated or destroyed.