

Forensic Research & Technology

October 31-November 02, 2016 San Francisco, USA

Police determination of suspected foul play in death cases involving a body that is found at the death incident site: A case series

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Researchers are increasingly studying the ways in which the police determine foul play in cases involving death, arson, missing persons, abuse and neglect, and other possible crimes. Using the results of The Police Classification of Foul Play Project, the following study relies on a case series of death incidents in which a body is found at the site of the death incident. The results from the case series reveal that the police are more likely to classify a death incident as involving suspected play rather than due to natural causes when a body is found at the death incident site. This study analyzes other socio-demographic, psychological and physical factors that may affect the ways in which police suspect foul play in death cases related to bodies that are found at death incident sites.

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Insect-driven forensics: Homicide investigation

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Insects are practically everywhere on Earth except the ocean and these hexapods are closely associated with humans. That makes important forensic bedfellows, whereas homicide involves two humans at a site, either indoor or outdoor. Aside relatively common indoor environment the outdoor scene and surrounding areas or natural settings are usually inhabited by good numbers of flying insects, particularly adult flies, namely blowflies (Diptera: Calliphoridae), each waiting for specific habitat in human environment to start a colony, as blooded or decomposing cadaver is located at the scene. That attracts surrounding flies and they find a suitable microhabitat in a short timeframe where eggs are laid. These eggs are then hatched and larval development begins after incubation and whose timeframe varies by species and ambient temperature at the scene. At this point, forensic investigation is to closely study and collect live samples that then fixed in standard preservatives. These samples become the forensic pivot for determining the time of death. However, it is often bypassed or missed of collecting necessary samples with proper labeling that include detailed description of the larval development. That must become a standard aspect of scene investigation and is closely linked to and becomes a part of forensic autopsy and likewise needs to be included in training for forensic investigation. This presentation includes some other basics including the intricacy of forensic entomology that could advance the core of forensic investigation.

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