

EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

By

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DECLARATION

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I, Refilwe Juliet Phago, declare that “Evaluation of the role of the first responder at the crime scene” is my own work and that all the sources used in this study have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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2017-12-21

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Date

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I thank the Almighty God, for His grace and for granting me the opportunity and the strength to complete this research.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to evaluate the role of the first responder at the crime scene, focusing on visible policing members at Ivory Park Police Station situated in Gauteng Province. A qualitative approach was employed in which the multiple data sources of literature, documents (SAPS directives) and structured interviews were compared in an attempt to substantiate the research findings. The interviews were conducted with visible policing members who attended to crime scenes as first responders and with detective branch commanders.

This research discussed a number of key concepts: crime scene, criminal investigation, first responder, Locard's Principle and physical evidence. It explained that criminal investigation is a logical and systematic process of gathering, locating and collecting evidence and the subsequent apprehension of perpetrators of crime in an attempt to secure a conviction. The objectives of criminal investigation are to detect crime; locate and identify possible offenders; gather, collect and process evidence; arrest offenders; recover stolen property; and bring the perpetrators before court to secure a conviction. The basic purpose of investigation is to prevent crime. Locard's Principle, also known as the "the contact theory", is that every contact leaves a trace. This research also suggests the processes that must be followed when crime is reported, the meaning of preliminary investigation, and the basic considerations during preliminary investigation, the main mistakes made by the first responder and the solutions to the identified mistakes.

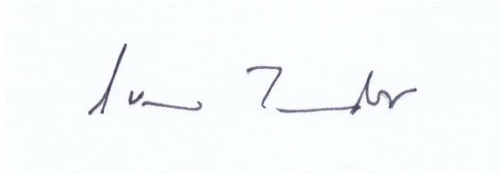
It is imperative that visible policing members familiarise themselves with the purpose of investigation and develop an understanding of the term "Locard's Principle", the process that must be followed when crime is reported, the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime and the main mistakes made by the first responders at the scene of crime, as these carry significant weight in the execution of their daily duties. These must be understood by the first responder as they contribute to the successful investigation and prosecution of offenders. This research hopes to assist in securing convictions and decreasing the number of repeat offenders who commit crimes.

KEY CONCEPTS

Crime scene, criminal investigation, first responder, Locard's *Principle*, physical evidence.

CERTIFICATE BY EDITOR

I, Susan van Tonder, MA Linguistics, ID 6009160072083, hereby declare that I have conducted an English proofreading and grammar edit on the draft dissertation entitled “Evaluation of the Role of the First Responder at the Crime Scene” by Refilwe Juliet Phago. Ms Phago is responsible for the quality and accuracy of the final submission.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Susan van Tonder', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Susan van Tonder

27 November 2017

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIU	Appropriate Investigating Unit
CAS	Crime Administrative System
CSC	Crime Scene Commander
CSI	Crime Scene Investigator
CSM	Crime Scene Management
CST	Crime Scene Technician
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
FOA	First Officer Attending
GP	Gauteng Province
GIS	Geographical Information System
IO	Investigating Officer
MO	Modus Operandi
NI	National Instruction
OIC	Officer in Charge
SA	South Africa
SAPS	South African Police Service
SITREP	Situation Report
SOCO	Scenes of Crime Officer
Unisa	University of South Africa
Vispol	Visible Policing

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL ORIENTATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The crime rate in South Africa (SA), as indicated in the South African Police Service (SAPS) crime statistics, is very high (Gupta & Guttman, 2014:6). Serious and violent crimes in SA are escalating as mentioned in the South African Police Service Crime Statistics 2016/2017 financial year, where there is a rise of 22.3% of murders as opposed to 2011/2012 statistics. It is necessary for the SAPS to use every method and technique available to it to solve these crimes. One such method is to make use of any information found on the scene of crime.

All crime that is reported is required to be investigated. When a crime is committed, police officers respond by going to the scene of crime. Information found at the scene of crime is often valuable for the investigation of the case. This suggests that all steps taken in crime scene responses should be calculated and methodological to ensure that this information is discovered and preserved.

The first responding officer should arrive at the crime scene safely, defuse any dangerous situations, provide medical assistance, apprehend any suspects, secure the scene and identify witnesses. The initial actions taken at the crime scene by the first responder at the outset of the investigation are of such vital importance that they often determine the outcome of the investigation (Camp, 2011:1), see United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2009:4).

Unfortunately, complaints have been received from investigating officials that the first responding officers that attend scenes of crime before the detectives arrive destroy and contaminate evidence in an attempt to help the victims and to find out what happened on the scene. This study thus evaluates the role of the first responder at the crime scene.

This chapter provides the general orientation of the study, the aim of the study, purpose of the study, the research questions under study, key theoretical concepts, research design and approach, target population and sampling, data collection and data analysis, methods taken to ensure validity, methods taken to ensure reliability, ethical considerations and the research structure.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The research problem or question is the axis around which a whole research study revolves. The statement of the problem must first be expressed with the utmost precision; it should then be divided into more manageable sub-problems (Leedy & Ormrod, 2010:44).

During the 2014/2015 financial year, the SAPS Geographical Information System (GIS) (GIS is an electronic version of crime mapping used as a daily report database) indicates that 5,684 cases were reported at Ivory Park Police Station and put on the roll at Tembisa Magistrates Court. Of these cases, 1,238 were withdrawn from court due to insufficient evidence, while the remaining 4,446 dockets were still under investigation. Detectives complain that first responders to crime scenes tamper with evidence at the scene of crime, that they do not give statements in detail about the chain of evidence or the conditions of how the crime scene was found, and that they walk around and touch evidential exhibits at the crime scenes. As a result, they lose cases against the suspected criminals in the court of law. This problem was identified at several police stations in the North Rand area in Gauteng Province (GP) and can be expected to affect South Africa as a whole because criminals are acquitted and continue to commit aggravated crimes in the communities.

When a crime is committed, the perpetrator leaves traces of evidence, or takes something from the scene of crime, in accordance with Edmund Locard's Principle that every contact leaves a trace (Trimm, 2003:6). However, this does not apply to offenders only, but also to all people entering the scene of crime: medical emergency personnel, security officials, members of the public and other police officials.

It is therefore imperative for first police responders to understand their roles at the scene of crime and that they must be careful when walking around a scene of crime in order to keep the integrity of physical evidence and preserve the crime scene.

Because of the problems identified with the mistakes made by first responders at crime scenes, the researcher decided to conduct a study to establish the duties and functions of first responders so that they can be informed of their roles at the scene of crime. In most cases visible policing officials arrive first at crime scenes before detectives; therefore, they must adhere to the protocols of the role of first responders to crime scenes.

1.3 AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The research aim refers to what the researcher wants to achieve at the end of their study. An aim can be described as a general statement of what the researcher sets out to achieve (Wilson, 2014:43). The aim of this research is to evaluate the role of the first responder at the crime scene.

1.4 DEMARCATION

In this study, the first responder is demarcated as SAPS members from the Division: Visible Policing (Vispol) (uniform police members) only, as set out in the SAPS National Instruction (NI) 1/2015 on Crime Scene Management (CSM) (SAPS, 2015:3). The purpose of the above-mentioned NI is to regulate the management of crime scenes to ensure that crime scenes are properly controlled, managed, documented and investigated, and that the integrity of items with potential evidential value is maintained.

For the purpose of this study, the researcher focused on evaluating the role of uniform members as first responders at the crime scene at Ivory Park Police Station, located in GP.

1.5 PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

According to Oates (2006:16), the purpose of research is that the researcher intends to add more to what is known about a particular subject.

The main drive behind a piece of research is the desire to solve a practical problem and to improve procedures (Denscombe, 2002:27).

The purpose statement summarises concisely the purpose of the study, specifically what it is intended to achieve; it outlines the specific scholarly contribution the researcher intends to make and how this will help students and fellow academics (Wang, 2015c:7).

Denscombe (2002:22) states that research can serve many purposes, such as to explore, evaluate, apply new knowledge and empower. Following Denscombe (2002:26), the purpose of this research is to:

- Evaluate: The researcher interviewed SAPS visible policing members to determine their viewpoints on the role of the first responder at crime scenes, their strengths and their weaknesses, with the aim of turning their weaknesses into strengths.
- Explore: The researcher explored literature and conducted interviews with experienced visible policing members to determine what the latest literature on the first responder and experienced members on the ground identify as pitfalls to avoid and effective practice.
- Develop good practice: out of the interviews, literature and documents, the researcher recommended steps for good practice to first responders.
- Empowerment: the researcher intends to write articles and present lectures to police officials and members of the public to educate them about the value of protecting physical evidence at crime scenes as first responders to the crime scenes.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS UNDER INVESTIGATION

According to Mouton (2006:53), research questions are formulated to focus on a research problem that has been identified. Leedy and Ormrod (2014:39) are of the opinion that research questions provide guidance regarding the kinds of data the researcher should collect; they also suggest how the researcher should analyse and interpret those data.

The researcher identified these research questions:

- What are the objectives of investigation?
- What is the role of the first responder at a crime scene?

1.7 KEY CONCEPTS

As mentioned by Leedy and Ormrod (2010:119), the purpose of defining key concepts is to prevent any misunderstanding among readers of a research report. For the purpose of this study, the following concepts were defined.

1.7.1 Crime Scene: A crime scene is a place where direct or indirect evidence of a crime or an allegedly committed crime can be found. The term refers to an area where a crime took place (Fisher, 2004:54; Swanson, Chamelin & Territo, 2003:35).

1.7.2 Criminal Investigation: a criminal investigation is the process of discovering, collecting, preparing, identifying and presenting evidence to determine what happened and who are responsible for committing a crime (Bennett & Hess, 2004:4).

1.7.3 First Responder: refers to the first member, irrespective of his or her unit, who is dispatched to the crime and arrives first at the crime scene (SAPS, 2005:2).

1.7.4 Locard's Principle: According to Trimm (2003:6), the Locard's Principle explains that every contact leaves a trace, with the more violent the crime, the more likely that the trace evidence has been transferred between the victim and the perpetrator.

1.7.5 Physical Evidence: Physical evidence is any material object (such as fingerprints, tyre marks, footprints, fibres) used to prove that a crime has been committed or to establish the key elements of a crime; physical evidence can also place the suspect in contact with the victim or with the crime scene (Fisher & Fisher, 2012:1).

1.8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the scientific method chosen by the researcher for conducting their research using a rigorous, impersonal mode of procedure that is based on the demands of logic and objectivity (Leedy & Ormrod, 2014:74).

1.8.1 Design

The research design is the specific framework that the researcher uses to collect data, organise the data, and analyse it for the intended result. It can be considered as a

blueprint of those procedures adopted by the researcher for testing the relationship between the dependent variables (what the researcher is interested in) and the independent variables (variables believed to affect the dependant variable) in the study (Maxwell, 2013:64). According to Mouton (2006:107), a research design is defined as a set of guidelines and instructions to be followed in addressing the research problem. The main function of the research design is to enable the researcher to anticipate what the appropriate research decisions should be so as to maximise the validity of the eventual results. (See Section 1.14 on the steps taken to ensure the validity of this study.) The function of a research design is to ensure that the evidence obtained enables the researcher to answer the research question as unambiguously as possible (Henning, 2005:146). Maxwell (2013:2) in addition defines a design as “a plan or protocol for carrying out or accomplishing something (esp. a scientific experiment)”.

An empirical design was used in this research as the focus was on human behaviour, in accordance with the advice given by Mouton (2001:55). Denscombe (2014:18) describes empirical research as: “*the getting out of the chair, going out of office and purposefully seeking for the information out there*”. In empirical research, it is necessary to get at facts first-hand, at their source, and actively to go about doing certain things to stimulate the production of desired information (Kraska & Neuman, 2012:21).

This study took the form of empirical research as the researcher made use of interviews and analysed secondary data sources. The researcher opted to use empirical research, which involved conducting interviews, because she realised that data collected from literature alone would not answer the research questions completely.

The researcher physically conducted interviews in an attempt to find answers to the research questions; this was achieved by using questions in an interview schedule that she drew up on the basis of information obtained from the literature studied.

1.8.2 Approach

It is considered advisable to use a qualitative approach if the study involves human behaviour (Welman & Kruger, 2000:178). The researcher was concerned with evaluating the role of first responders to crime scenes in the Ivory Park policing area, and for this reason decided to use a qualitative approach for this purpose. The researcher interviewed uniform members at Ivory Park Police Station in order to obtain a better understanding of the identified problem. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2010:135), a qualitative study focuses on phenomena that occur in their natural “real world” setting; it involves the study of phenomena in all their complexity.

The qualitative approach determines the design used in the study, the sampling method and type of sample, and the overall data-collection and recording procedures. It further specifies the data analysis steps and the methods used for presenting data and interpreting it, and validating and indicating potential outcome of the study (Creswell, 2014:184). The qualitative approach involves the gathering, interpreting and reporting of information (Gravetter & Forzano, 2012:158).

In this study, the researcher opted to use a qualitative approach mainly because this it is a multi-method in focus, involving interpretive and naturalistic approach (Creswell, 1998:15).

1.9 TARGET POPULATION

Houser (2014:178) in the context of research defines “population” as a group to which the researcher intends to apply his or her results and that is identified by clearly defined characteristics of interest. He quotes Creswell (2013:142), who defines “population” as “a group of individuals who have the same characteristics”. According to Mouton (2006:134), a population is “a collection of objects, events or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying”.

The ideal population for this study should have been all uniform members in the SAPS, but because of the numbers involved, and the limited time available for this research, the researcher narrowed the population and used a target population.

Another reason for exclusion of the above-mentioned personnel is their heterogeneity of training backgrounds.

A target population is defined as all individuals or objects the researcher is interested in and to which the study results are applied (Houser, 2014:178). According to Gupta and Guttman (2014:13), the target population is the population about which the researcher intends to make inferences, based on the information contained in a sample of that population. The target population for this research was uniform members who attend to crime when it is reported and experienced detective commanders at Ivory Park Police Station. The selected police station is situated in the Province of Gauteng and consists of 140 uniform members. The researcher chooses this particular police station as it was cost effective, because the researcher resided in the area, and as it was the station where the problem was identified.

1.10 SAMPLING

According to Kumar (2011:164), sampling is the process of selecting a few from the bigger group to become the basis for estimating or predicting the prevalence of an unknown piece of information, situation or outcome regarding the bigger group. Goddard and Melville (2005:35) suggest that a sample must be representative of the population being studied, otherwise no general observations about the population can be made from studying the sample. Unrau, Gabor and Grinnell (2007:279) mention that a sample comprises elements of a population considered for actual inclusion in the study, or it can be viewed as a subset of measurements drawn from a population in which the researcher is interested. The researcher understood that a sample is studied in an attempt to understand the population from which it has been drawn.

This research consisted of two samples, both from Ivory Park Police Station, which are:

- Sample A: Visible policing members
- Sample B: Detective commanders

1.10.1 Simple Random Sampling

“Simple random sampling is a subset of a larger population created in such a way that each element of the population has an equal probability of being selected to the subset” (Chambliss & Schutt, 2012:86). Peck and Devore (2013:40) state that a simple random sample is a sample chosen using a method that ensures that each different possible sample of the desired size has an equal chance of being the one chosen.

A sample of visible policing members at Ivory Park Police Station was selected as Sample A using the simple random sampling technique. There are 140 visible policing members at Ivory Park Police Station. The researcher requested and obtained a name list of all the visible policing members and selected 50 members with 10 years of experience. To ensure representatively, the researcher selected 50% of the members with 10 years of experience and in total 25 participants were chosen to participate in the study, with all of these participants interviewed as Sample “A”.

Probability sampling ensures that a representative sample is drawn from the target population, where each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected (Welman & Kruger, 2002:47). To ensure this, the researcher used a simple random sampling technique. The researcher followed the procedure of writing down the name of each visible policing member with ten years of experience on a separate piece of paper of a standard size. Each piece of paper was put into a bowl. The bowl was shuffled, and pieces of papers were drawn out blindly. The names of a total of 25 visible policing members were drawn. This ensured that each member stood an equal opportunity of being selected and that representativeness was achieved.

The issue of bias was dealt with based on the fact that the researcher was also a member of the SAPS. It was envisaged that participants would willingly and without any pressure express their opinions and their viewpoints were reported purely as mentioned without being biased. The researcher also took a neutral stand in relation with the data which was collected during the data-collection stage.

1.10.2 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, also known as “judgemental sampling”, is described as a random selection of samples within the population with the most information on the characteristic of interest (Guarte & Barrios, 2006:277). In order to obtain rich information that would provide answers to the research questions, the researcher used her own judgement in selecting three experienced detective commanders from Ivory Park Police Station as Sample “B” (Mouton, 2001:69). The researcher purposefully selected the members of Sample B from Ivory Park Police Station as they were more experienced in investigation and they were all detective group commanders at the aforesaid police station.

1.11 REPRESENTATIVITY

A representative sample is a sample that reflects the population accurately, so that it is a microcosm of the population (Bryman, 2001:507). It relates to whether the findings of the researcher are likely to have broader applicability beyond the focus of the study. Bryman (2001) states that if the researcher has carried out a detailed study of a specific institution, group or individual, that researcher should be able to determine whether the findings are relevant beyond that specific institution, group or individual.

To ensure that studies are representative, researchers need to draw appropriate samples – which may require considerable effort (Flick, 2011:181). According to Flick (2011:181), one approach for evaluating qualitative research is to ask what measures the researcher has taken to define or extend the area of validity of the empirical results. The generalisability of the results is often linked to the way the sample has been obtained. Samples are chosen by the researcher, on the basis that they are representative of the population as a whole. This means that the sample’s main characteristics are similar or identical to those of the population.

Leedy and Ormrod (2010:100) state that the participants in a research study must be a representative sample of the population about which the researcher wishes to draw conclusions.

The researcher considered visible policing members from Ivory Park with 10 years of experience as an appropriate sample and randomly selected 25 of these members as a representative sample. The researcher considered them as the most suitable for this

study because these members had 10 years of experience in attending crime scenes as first responders.

1.12 DATA COLLECTION

According to Beri (2010:11), the term “data” means “facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis”. For Leedy and Ormrod (2005:88), data is not the absolute reality that underlies all the phenomena researchers observe. Rather, data is a manifestation of that reality. There are two different types of data: primary and secondary data. Primary data is often considered the most valid, the most illuminating and the greatest manifestation of the truth (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:88). Blaikie (2003:18) writes that primary data, also known as “new data”, is used to answer specific research questions. Primary data is recognised by the fact that it is the outcome of direct contact between the researcher and the data source. Primary data is generated by the researcher, who is responsible for the research design of the study, the collection and analysis of the data and the reporting of the study. Secondary data is information collected by individuals, or agencies and institutions other than the researcher (Welman & Kruger, 2005:149). Mouton (2006:142) provides as examples of secondary data newspaper articles, magazines and training manuals, and personal documents such as diaries, autobiographies, reports and letters. In this study, the researcher opted to use both primary and secondary data (such as training manuals, SAPS policies and directives), since it is used to answer specific research questions.

The researcher compared multiple data sources in an attempt to substantiate the research findings by triangulating the data sources (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:88). Triangulation is the use of multiple and different sources and methods such as a literature review, interviews and observations (Creswell, 2013:251). In an attempt to increase the trustworthiness of this research, the researcher used three different methods of data collection to validate the findings of this research.

The researcher combined, and analysed data collected from interviews, literature and documents to validate the findings. Mouton (2001:98-105) indicates that frequently used data-collection methods in qualitative research are observation, interviews, literature and

documents. In this study, the researcher used interviews, a literature study and document analysis as data-collection methods as outlined below.

1.12.1 Interviews

In order to gather data that would help to answer the research questions with regard to the problem identified, the researcher conducted structured interviews with selected participants. According to Scott (2014:30), a structured interview is an interview in which all participants are asked a standard list of questions from a previously compiled interview schedule in a standard order. It is said that this type of questioning enhances the quality and also increases reliability of data collected. In a structured interview, the interviewer puts the standard questions to a participant face to face and reports the participant's responses (Welman & Kruger, 2000:166). In the current research, the interview schedule contained some precise questions and their alternatives or sub-questions, depending on the answer to the main questions. The questions were determined by the identified problem (as set out in the problem statement) as it was anticipated that they would elicit answers and solutions to the identified problem.

A structured interview was used to help to determine certain facts. The researcher opted for structured interviews because the questions of the interview are detailed and developed in advance, and they ensure consistency because all participants are asked same questions. One interview schedule was compiled for both samples.

The researcher made use of a pilot study to test whether the questions were understandable. When a new measurement instrument is developed, it is useful to "test it out" before administering it to the actual sample (Welman, Kruger & Mitchell, 2005:148). The researcher ensured that all questions of the interview schedules were tested on five uniform members and one detective commander at Rabie Ridge Police Station to ensure that the questions were understandable and to test whether they would elicit the desired data and to identify any shortcomings.

Where shortcomings were identified, they were corrected before the final interview schedules were drafted. The interview schedules were tested on people that were not the actual participants in this research.

No formal technique was used to select these people; selection depended on the availability of willing members. After the pilot study had been conducted, the tested interview schedules were sent to the researcher's academic supervisor for reading and approval.

Leedy and Ormrod (2005:147) suggest the following guidelines when conducting interviews.

- *Identify some questions in advance.*

Interview schedules were compiled for the interviews and contained open-ended questions that were based on the research questions. Interviews were conducted in the interviewees' conference room at the police station, in order to make them feel comfortable by being in their own surroundings and to make sure that they were not required spending money on travelling to an independent venue.

- Get written permission.

The letter granting consent and attached as Annexure A is signed by the "Divisional Commissioner". Consent from each participant was granted before the interview commenced by signing the schedule (see Annexures B).

- Information gained from the interviewees is given as received from them.

Information was reported as it was gained. The researcher did not fabricate any information.

- Focus on the actual rather than on the abstract or hypothetical.

The researcher asked the interviewees what they would do in a specific situation rather than asking them leading questions.

- Do not put words in people's mouths.

The researcher let the interviewees express their own thoughts in their own way and did not try to interfere while a participant was answering.

- Record responses verbatim.

While participants were answering questions, the researcher took down notes and also recorded all conversations using an audio recorder. The researcher transcribed all the recordings personally.

- Keep your reactions to yourself.

The researcher adopted a neutral expression during the interviews. This meant that she did not intimidate the interviewees during the interview with any facial expressions or body language that could have prevented the interviewees from giving their own personal opinions.

1.12.2 Literature Study

Terre Blanche, Durrheim and Painter (2010:19) state that a literature study is used in the widest range of concepts, and involves the identification and analysis of information resources and/or literature related to a person's research project. The researcher conducted a literature study in order to find answers that related to the identified problem.

The researcher used the Pretoria University of South Africa (Unisa) library and Unisa e-resources in an attempt to find literature that was relevant from publishers, community libraries and the internet (Google Scholar, which can be found at www.google.com) to check under key words relevant to the topic, for previous dissertations and for local and international sources to identify any related research topic. Unfortunately, no literature on the exact topic was found. The researcher broke down the topic into relevant concepts in an attempt to find material related to the topic. The researcher reviewed literature that focused on the topics of criminal investigation, the crime scene, Locard's Principle, first responder and identification, and that was expected to give answers to the research questions. The researcher extracted relevant information from the sources and analysed content by comparing data to establish whether different authors' views and findings and recommendations on the same topic agreed or disagreed.

1.12.3 Documents

In this research, the documents analysed were SAPS official directives such as the Circulars, National Instructions, Standard Operation Procedures, Training Manuals and Standing Orders that regulate the role of the first responders at the crime scene. These directives were perused in relation to the research questions to extract the required information that would give answers to the identified problem, from which conclusions were drawn. The researcher made use of all the documents that were found to be applicable to the research and these were properly acknowledged.

According to Robson (2000:100), documents can be defined as sources of information such as paper, production proposals, memoranda, minutes of meetings, and so forth that are likely to be already in existence in the organisation and that are available and relevant to one's evaluation.

The researcher adhered to the principles of document analysis as highlighted by Mills (2014:40-44). As such, the researcher compiled a schedule to abstract specific information from the documents, which comprised several questions in relation to the research topic and research questions.

The following questions were compiled:

- What are the processes that must be followed when a crime is reported?
- What is the meaning of "preliminary investigation"?
- What are the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime?
- What is the meaning of the crime scene?
- What is the purpose of visiting a scene of crime?
- What is the meaning of "first responder"?
- What is the role of the first responder at the crime scene?

1.13 DATA ANALYSIS

Maxfield and Babbie (2005:107) and Welman and Kruger (2001:195) point out that content analysis by means of decoding is the most suitable data-analysis technique for qualitative research. Creswell (2014:195) states that the intent of data analysis is to make sense out of text and image data, which involves segmenting and taking apart the data

as well as putting it together. Leedy and Ormrod (2015:315) describe the four steps of their data-analysis spiral. The researcher applied these steps during the analysis of the collected data:

(i) Organise data

The researcher organised the collected data that had been obtained from literature, interviews and documents. Data was broken down into smaller components by grouping together individual or wording similarities and specific points that carried the same meaning.

(ii) Peruse the entire data body

The researcher perused the collected data in order to get an overall impression of what was contained as a whole and wrote down the names that suggested possible categories. She then assessed the whole set of data to establish any applicability or irrelevance of particular items to these categories.

(iii) Identify general categories or themes

The researcher identified general themes and subthemes and subsequently classified each piece of data accordingly to get a general sense of what the data meant.

(iv) Integrate and summarise data for readers

The researcher integrated and summarised the data by providing explanations for the possible relationships amongst the categories. Different themes were analysed through some viewpoints from both the participants and the literature respectively, on each issue.

1.14 METHODS TO ENSURE VALIDITY

Generally, validity relates to the data and the analysis used in the research. Denscombe (2014:143) states that validity concerns the accuracy of the questions asked, the data collected, and the explanations offered. To ensure validity, the researcher followed the steps outlined below.

The researcher used interviews, a literature review and document analysis as data-collection techniques. The research aims, and questions determined the list of questions used in the interviews and document analysis to make sure that the data that was collected was genuine and real. Data obtained from different authors and literature such

as SAPS training manuals, articles from local and international journals and internet sources such as www.google.co.za (Google Scholar) and interviews were compared to validate the findings, as advised by Welman and Kruger (2001:33). The data collected from the literature study and data that was collected from the interviews and document analysis was used to answer all the questions in the list of questions and to establish whether the research aims had been met. This ensured that the questions measured what they were supposed to measure. The researcher referenced the literature in appropriate places to give validation to the accuracy of the findings.

To ensure the validity of the data obtained, the researcher used strategies as described by Bless, Higson-Smith and Sithole (2013:238) as follows:

- Adequate description of the sample and the sampling procedure

The researcher described the sampling procedure, the inclusion criterion for choosing participants, and the sampling strategy that was used to obtain the samples that participated in the research.

- Concurrent data collection and analysis

By analysing the data as it was being collected, the researcher refined the data-collection approach in relation to the emerging results.

- Triangulation

The researcher triangulated the data collection by making use of the different sources and methods of a literature review, interviews and document analysis (Creswell, 2013:251). The researcher used the triangulation method to verify and increase the trustworthiness of this research. The researcher combined, and analysed data collected from the interviews, literature and documents to validate the findings.

- Methodological verification

The researcher requested her academic supervisor to ask other experienced researchers to verify the logic and implementation of each step of the methodology before submission

of this research for examination. Because qualitative research is relatively flexible, it often happens that important changes take place after the study has begun.

- Ensuring data saturation

The researcher ensured that enough data had been collected to reflect the full range and depth of the topic of the research. The researcher knew that data was saturated when during the interviews, she received the same answers over and over again from participants.

- Participant validation

The researcher presented the results to the participants so that they could confirm that the findings reported in the study were exactly what they had said.

- Use of sufficient verbatim quotations

By including many direct quotations from the original data in the research report, the researcher allowed readers to “hear” exactly what participants had said and how the researcher had interpreted that information.

- Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness in qualitative research is evaluated in terms of how much trust can be given to the research process and findings (Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee, 2000:236). The researcher engaged in three methods of data collection, which enabled her to consider the data as trustworthy. She also involved several investigators and peer researchers to assist with the interpretation of the data to enhance the trustworthiness. This step is supported by Creswell, Ebersohn, Eloff, Ferreira, Ivankova, Jansen, Nieuwenhuis, Petersen, Plano Clark and Van der Westhuizen (2011:80).

1.15 METHODS TO ENSURE RELIABILITY

Babbie (2010:150), Gravetter and Forzano (2012:114), and Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee (2000:150) agree that reliability is a matter of whether a particular technique, if applied repeatedly to the same object, will yield the same results every time.

To ensure reliability of the data collected, a list of questions was compiled by referring to the research questions. The research questions were broken down into sub-questions to ensure that the questions were answered fully, and to ensure that should a different researcher conduct the same research and use the same list of questions derived from the research questions the same results would be obtained. Reliability was enhanced by obtaining detailed field notes and by employing a good-quality tape recorder and transcribing the taped interviews. Transcribing the interviews also meant that the trivial, but often crucial, pauses and overlaps were indicated (Creswell, 2013:251).

In qualitative research, “reliability” often refers to the stability of the responses of multiple coders of data sets (Creswell, 2013:251). The researcher focused on *inter coder* agreement, based on the use of several coders to analyse the transcript data.

One of the key issues regarding reliability of data is determining what exactly the coding is agreeing on, whether data seek agreement based on codes, themes, or both codes and themes (Creswell, 2013:251). After coding a few transcripts, the researchers then sat and examined the codes, transcript names, and the text segments that had been coded. The researcher developed a codebook of the major codes. This codebook contained a definition of each code and the text segments that had been assigned to each code, as advised by Creswell (2013:254).

1.16 METHODS TO ENSURE BOTH VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Qualitative data can be tested for accuracy using constructs such as trustworthiness and authenticity (Van As & Van Schalkwyk, 2004:63). Qualitative researchers evaluate the trustworthiness of their data along with its consistency, neutrality, dependability, confirmability, transferability and applicability to test for accuracy in the data (Mason, 2002:89; Van As & Van Schalkwyk, 2004:63).

Creswell (2014:251) also describes these strategies as being useful to ensure validity. According to Guba and Lincoln (in Kumar, 2011:184), trustworthiness in a qualitative study is determined by four indicators: credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability. These four indicators reflect both validity and reliability in qualitative research.

- Credibility

According to Trochim and Donnelley (in Kumar, 2011:185), credibility involves establishing whether the results of qualitative research are credible or believable from the perspective of the participant in the research. Kumar (2011:185) explains that because qualitative research studies explore people's perceptions, experiences, feelings and beliefs, study participants are in the best position to judge whether or not the research findings have been able to reflect their opinions and feelings correctly.

Suter (2012:363) states that the term "credibility" refers to the believability of the findings. Credibility is enhanced by evidence such as confirming evaluation of conclusions by research participants, convergence of multiple sources of evidence, control of unwanted influences, and theoretical fit. The credibility of qualitative research can be increased through prolonged engagement with participants and persistent observation in the field, triangulation of different methods, making use of formalised qualitative methods, and member checks. Creswell and Miller (2000:127) also indicate that the criteria for credibility involve long and mixed field experiences, reflexivity, member checking, triangulation and peer review.

By spending more time in the field while collecting data, interacting with different research participants and checking with participants that the data provided had not been misrepresented, the researcher was able to ensure that the research remained credible. In addition, the methodological triangulation of more than one data-collection method and the peer review by the researcher's academic supervisor and the different examiners further attest to the credibility element built into this study.

- Transferability

Suter (2012:363) indicates that "transferability" refers to evidence supporting the generalisation of findings to other contexts – across different participants, groups, situations, and so forth. The criteria for transferability speak directly to the sampling procedures used and to obtaining in-depth descriptions (Creswell & Miller, 2000:127). In

this research, the simple random sampling technique was used to source participants for Sample A.

To ensure transferability in this study, the researcher extensively and thoroughly described the research processes adopted for others to follow and replicate, such as the sampling strategy and data-collection methods. She also detailed the challenges encountered in this study. The theoretical knowledge of this study was ensured through extensive descriptions of the sample and research setting.

- Dependability

The construct of dependability is applied to establish consistency in qualitative research. According to Trochim and Donnelley (in Kumar, 2011:185), dependability is concerned with whether one would obtain the same results if one observed the same thing or conducted the same research twice. The criteria used to determine dependability also involve reviews and intense descriptions (Creswell & Miller, 2000:127). Suter (2012:363) provides that, in this case, the qualitative researcher gathers evidence to support the claim that similar findings would be obtained if the study were repeated. The descriptions in this study were drawn from the different views of visible policing members working at Ivory Park Police Station. To increase dependability, some of the insights drawn from the participants were corroborated by data from literature.

To ensure dependability in this research, the researcher kept an extensive and detailed record of the process followed for others to replicate, such as posing standardised questions to participants and storing their responses electronically. The researcher also followed a member-checking process after the face-to-face interviews with participants in order to verify whether participants' answers were a true reflection of what they had intended to say.

In addition, a detailed explanation of the researcher's choice of research methodology in this study was provided. This ensured that the linkages between the data and reported findings were coherent.

- Confirmability

“Confirmability” refers to the degree to which the results could be confirmed or corroborated by others. Confirmability is only possible if later researchers follow the process adopted by the first researcher in an identical manner for the results to be compared (Kumar, 2011:185). This concept is used to attain neutrality in qualitative research and that there is truth made in qualitative research (Creswell & Miller 2000:127). Suter (2012:363) explains that “confirmability” refers to objectivity (neutrality) and the control of research bias. In this research, confirmability was attained through peer review and triangulation of the sources used in the literature review. Reporting and recording data as it was received and eradicating biases in this research facilitated neutrality and thus an element of confirmability in the research.

1.17 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Leedy and Ormrod (2013:104) state that whenever human beings or other creatures with the potential to think, feel, and experience physical and psychological distress are the focus of investigation, researchers must look closely at the ethical implications of what they are proposing to do. When studying any form of human behaviour, ethical concerns are vitally important (Babbie, 2010:71). During this research, the researcher took cognisance of the research ethics guidelines provided in the UNISA Policy on Research Ethics 2012 and adhered to them. The researcher adhered to the following ethical principles, as advised by Leedy and Ormrod (2005:101-103), since most ethical issues in research fall into one of these categories:

- Permission: The researcher obtained permission from the SAPS Headquarters before she embarked on the research.
- Informed consent: Participants were informed that they were not obliged to participate in this research and that participation was voluntary. The researcher obtained written consent to participate in the study from participants.
- Honesty: The researcher gave credit to the authors of the work utilised in the report by engaging in an adequate referencing system. All sources used in this report are acknowledged, as recommended by Leedy and Ormrod (2005:102) Also, the researcher signed a declaration at the beginning of the dissertation that she has acknowledged all her sourced mentioned in this research.

- **Anonymity:** The identity of all people and participants consulted in the course of this research was protected and the researcher encouraged the participants to answer frankly in response to the questions posed to them. No responses by any participant should be disclosed in a manner that exposes the specific participant, unless the participant agrees in writing to disclosure. The researcher allocated a code number (in vivo quote) to each of the participants instead of using their real names, to protect their privacy.
- **Honesty with professional colleagues:** The researcher did not fabricate data to support a specific finding. The researcher recorded and took down information as it was provided by the study participants.
- **The right to privacy should be respected:** The researcher made sure that the interviews with the participants were held in a private room that was lockable.
- **Protect the participants from harm:** The researcher conducted interviews in a room that was free from hazards and ensured the participants' safety during the interviews. Interviews were conducted in the conference room at Ivory Park Police Station.
- **Respect:** The researcher assured the participants that if at any time they felt that they did not want to continue with the interview, the researcher would stop the interview immediately.

The researcher's findings were reported with honesty.

1.18 RESEARCH STRUCTURE

The chapter layout of this dissertation has been arranged as follows:

- **Chapter 1:** General orientation

This chapter explains the problems that are identified with the mistakes that are made by the first responders at the crime scene. The aim of the research is to evaluation the role of the first responder at the crime scene. The aim was achieved by answering the following questions:

What are the objectives of criminal investigation?

What is the role of the first responder at a crime scene?

- **Chapter 2:** Objectives of criminal investigation

This chapter addresses the objectives and purpose of criminal investigation. The meaning and purpose of the crime scene is also discussed in this chapter along with Locard's Principle and the meaning of identification.

- **Chapter 3:** The role of the first responder at the crime scene

This chapter focuses on the role that the first responders play at the crime scene and the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime.

- **Chapter 4:** Findings and recommendations

This chapter presents the researcher's findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER 2

OBJECTIVES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The SAPS have an obligation to prevent crime and to investigate any crime that has been committed and bring its perpetrators to justice. One of the Police Minister's priorities is the prevention and investigation of crime. Section 205 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), gives a mandate for the police to prevent and investigate any criminal activities within the Republic of South Africa. Proactive policing in SA is aimed at preventing any occurrences of criminal activities. However, it is impossible to absolutely prevent crime from happening. For this reason, the police are bound to investigate crime that has already been committed. Stelfox (2013:2) indicates that there has been a radical change in the objectives of criminal investigation. Criminal investigation, at one point, was aimed at bringing perpetrators to justice, identifying possible offenders and gathering evidence in an attempt to secure a prosecution in court. Nowadays, the fundamental objectives of criminal investigation include providing support to victims, community reassurance, intelligence gathering, distraction of criminal activities and networks, and managing crime risks and threats (Stelfox, 2013:2).

This chapter will endeavour to answer the following questions, which are related to Research Question 1: What are the objectives of criminal investigation?

- What is the meaning of criminal investigation?
- What is the objective of criminal investigation?
- What is the purpose of criminal investigation?
- What is the meaning of a crime scene?
- What is the purpose of visiting a scene of crime?
- What is the meaning of Locard's Principle?
- What is the meaning of identification?

The interview schedule consists out of three sections: the first section covers the historical details of the participants; the second section, section B covers the first research question, and was only put to Sample “A”; questions in section C, covers the second research question, and was put to both samples.

2.2 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

According to Stelfox (2013:1), criminal investigation involves locating, gathering and using information to bring offenders to justice, or to achieve one of the other objectives set for it by the police service, such as victim care, intelligence gathering or managing crime risks. Orthmann (2004:3) explains criminal investigation as an enquiry that involves the process of discovering, collecting, preparing, identifying and presenting evidence to determine what happened and who is responsible. For Gilbert (2007:33), criminal investigation is a logical, objective, legal inquiry that involves a possible criminal activity. The results of the enquiry, if successful, will answer the following questions (Gilbert, 2007:33; Orthmann, 2004:3):

- (1) Did a crime happen (are all the elements of crime present)?
- (2) When and where did the crime happen?
- (3) Are the perpetrators known?
- (4) Are any identified witnesses present?
- (5) Is there any direct or indirect evidence?
- (6) Are there any objects that were used in the commission of the crime?
- (7) Is there any evidence that can be used to link the perpetrator with the crime in order to secure a prosecution?

Palmiotto (2013:4) states that criminal investigation is a thinking and reasoning process. He goes on to explain that criminal investigation is a process whereby the investigator assembles documents and evidence and reviews the facts, evaluating every detail of the crime scene carefully and systematically. It is a process of determining which ‘apparent’ facts are ‘real’ facts, which factors are not relevant to the crime, and how the facts are interrelated.

For Osterburg and Ward (2010:5), criminal investigation is “the collection of information and evidence for the identifying, apprehending, and convicting of suspected offenders”. The South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene training manual (SAPS, 2013:1) defines criminal investigation as a systematic search for the truth in respect of a crime or alleged crime.

In response to the question “What is the meaning of criminal investigation?” sample “A” participants replied as follows:

- Fourteen participants: refers to the investigation of a crime by the police when a crime is reported, to find out the truth if indeed crime incidents had occurred, and to secure prosecution of alleged perpetrators.
- Eight participants: it is the process of gathering evidence/information to link the suspects with the alleged crime that has already been committed with the intention of arresting the suspects and bringing them to justice.
- Two participants: is the process of arresting and detaining suspects.
- One participant: is the investigation of crime patterns to determine criminal behaviour and crime patterns in the area, and to prepare case dockets for court.

The viewpoints of the participants indicated that they had an understanding of the meaning of criminal investigation even though their responses presented a slight difference from the literature and documents analysed. Their understanding, in general, did not differ significantly from those of the different authors in the reviewed literature. The similarities in their answers to information obtained from the reviewed literature were the points that after it has been established that a crime has been committed, the perpetrators must be located and arrested and that subsequently the investigator needs to collect and gather information that will link the alleged perpetrators to the crime, and present evidence in court to secure a conviction. In view of the above-mentioned points, the researcher is of the opinion that the participants’ viewpoints were similar to the reviewed literature in that they concluded that criminal investigation is a logical and systematic process of gathering, locating and collecting information and evidence in order to

apprehend perpetrators of crime in an attempt to secure a conviction in court (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:5; Orthmann, 2004:3; Gilbert, 2007:33; Stelfox, 2013:1).

2.3 THE OBJECTIVES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The main objectives of criminal investigation are the collection of evidence, in strict accordance with the provisions governing the process, which can serve as evidence before a court of law, through which an accuser's involvement in the commission of a crime can be proved (SAPS, 2013:1).

According to Lyman (1999:169), the objectives of criminal investigation are:

- (1) To find out if a crime has happened;
- (2) To determine the jurisdiction of the crime;
- (3) To obtain evidence within the legal provisions;
- (4) To identify the perpetrators of crime;
- (5) To arrest the offenders;
- (6) To recover stolen property;
- (7) To identify syndicates;
- (8) To present evidence in court; and
- (9) To give testimony in court.

For Palmiotto (2013:4), the modern investigator's primary objective is to gather facts about a criminal situation. This objective is accomplished by collecting all the accurate information available pertaining to a specific act of crime. Palmiotto (2013:5) states that any conclusion must be based on reasoning, factual information and evidence. To maintain the integrity of the investigative process, the investigator must remain objective and control any preconception or prejudices. Crime is investigated to (Palmiotto, 2013:5):

- (1) Establish a case of a reported incident as an instance of a specific crime or as otherwise warranting investigation;
- (2) Identify a suspect;
- (3) Locate the suspect;

- (4) Learn that the suspect can show irrefutable evidence of innocence, in which case the detective will have to start all over again trying to identify a more likely culprit;
- (5) Dispose of the case in one of several ways).

Osterburg and Ward (2010:8) are of the opinion that although the primary goal of investigation is to identify the alleged suspects and bring them before justice; it all depends on the admissible evidence for prosecution. Admissible evidence may take many forms, such as physical evidence that may link the suspect with a crime; possession of evidence that was removed from the crime scene; eye witnesses; and the *Modus Operandi (MO)*, and is considered highly reliable in linking the perpetrator with a crime (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:8). Du Preez (1996:4-7) supports this view and includes in the objectives of criminal investigation the identification of crime, gathering of evidence, individualisation and arresting of the suspects, recovery of stolen property and ensuring of a prosecution. Lyman (1999:169) adds to this list the objective of identifying, locating and apprehending the person responsible for the perpetration of the crime.

Becker and Dutelle (2013:17) list seven objectives of police investigation for the first responder:

- (1) Crime detection

On arrival at the scene of crime, the first responder must establish if a case of a reported incident is an instance of a specific crime or in some other way requires an investigation.

- (2) Identify the possible suspects

The first responder must ensure that possible suspects are identified at the scene of crime.

- (3) Locate, record and process evidence while observing all constitutional considerations.

The first responder is responsible for ensuring that physical evidence is located, secured and protected against tampering and contamination by safeguarding and cordoning off the crime scene.

A chain of custody must be maintained at all times. If the chain of possession is compromised, such evidence may be inadmissible in court.

(4) Arrest perpetrators

Once the suspects are identified by the first responder, they must immediately be arrested and detained in terms of section 39 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 57 of 1977).

(5) Recover property

The first responder is mandated to locate and discover stolen property in terms of section 205(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No 108 of, 1996).

(6) Prepare dockets for trial

Once all necessary evidence is gathered, the docket must be prepared to be presented at court for trial.

(7) Secure a conviction

The first responder must attend to all crime scenes with the objective of securing a conviction in mind. All evidence legally gathered must be presented in court to secure a conviction.

In response to the question “What are the objectives of criminal investigation?” the participants from Sample “A” provided the following answers:

- Seventeen participants indicated that the objectives of criminal investigation are to:
 - identify, locate and arrest suspects;
 - gather information and link suspects with the committed crime;
 - bring suspects before court to secure a conviction; and
 - prevent similar offences.
- Four participants mentioned that the objectives of criminal investigation are to find out the truth about a crime that took place and arrest perpetrators.
- One participant mentioned that the objective of investigation is to minimise or control criminal activities.
- One participant stated that it is to ensure that justice is served against those who do not obey the law.

- One participant explained that the objective of criminal investigation is to prove a case in court.
- One participant said it is to help victims and complainants and ensure that we do not detain and convict innocent people.

The literature reviewed reveals the objectives of criminal investigation as being to detect crime; locate and identify possible offenders; gather, collect and process evidence; arrest offenders; recover property; bring offenders before court; and secure a conviction (Lyman, 1999:169; Stelfox, 2013:2; Du Preez, 1996:4-7; Osterburg & Ward, 2010:8; Becker & Dutelle, 2013:17).

The objectives of criminal investigation mentioned by 17 participants from Sample “A” varied slightly from those listed in the literature and documents. However, the dissimilarities in their responses were minimal, which allowed the researcher to conclude that the participants had an understanding of the objectives of investigation, but were not able to articulate them clearly. They shared a common understanding that the objectives of criminal investigation are to identify, locate and arrest suspects; gather information; link suspects with the committed crime; bring suspects before court to secure a conviction; and prevent the occurrence of similar offences. It is, however, very important that the other eight participants expose themselves to the objectives of criminal investigation in a broader sense since their understanding of the objectives as revealed by their answers seemed limited and the prosecution of perpetrators relies on them. Regardless of the slight variations between the literature and the participants, it can be concluded that the participants understand the objectives of criminal investigation as explained in the literature (Stelfox, 2013:2; Du Preez, 1996:4-7; Osterburg & Ward, 2010:8; Becker & Dutelle 2013:17).

2.4 THE PURPOSE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The ultimate purpose of criminal investigation is the prevention of crime (Du Preez, 1996:1). Lyman (1999:169) is of the opinion that criminal investigation uses three types of measures to achieve this purpose:

- (i) Reactive measures – to follow up on the criminal activities that have previously occurred;
- (ii) Proactive measures – to monitor crimes as they occur; and
- (iii) Preventive measures – to prevent the commission of certain crimes.

After crimes have been committed, visible policing members react to and follow up on the incidents to establish what happened. The proactive measures are then activated and put in place to mitigate the situation and monitor crimes as they occur in an attempt, along with preventive measures, to prevent the further commission of crimes. It can be concluded from the objectives of these measures that the purpose of investigation is to prevent crime (Du Preez, 1996:1; Lyman, 1999:169).

To the question “What is the purpose of criminal investigation?” Sample “A” participants responded as follows:

- Twenty-one participants mentioned that the purpose of criminal investigation is:
 - to find out the truth about the alleged crime if it really happened;
 - to find out who committed the crime for the purpose of arresting the criminals;
 - to ensure that enough evidence is gathered;
 - to determine the MO of the criminals;
 - to arrest suspects; and
 - to bring suspects before court and ensure that they are reprimanded and convicted.
- One mentioned that it is to curb crime and secure a conviction.
- One mentioned that the purpose of investigation is to determine the causes of criminal activities, not only for conviction but also to help criminals to change their criminal behaviour.
- Two participants did not know the purpose of criminal investigation.

From the literature, the researcher found that the basic purpose of criminal investigation is to prevent crime (Du Preez, 1996:1; Lyman, 1999:196). From the participants’ responses, it was clear that the purpose of criminal investigation is not understood. From

their responses, it can be concluded that they relate the purpose of criminal investigation to the objectives of criminal investigation.

2.5 THE MEANING OF A CRIME SCENE

For Palmiotto (2013:98), a crime scene begins where the criminal initiated the action of the crime and follows through to the escape route and places where the criminal may have got rid of any evidence. It serves as the initial point of a criminal investigation and contains evidence that connects suspects with the crime. Stelfox (2013:126) writes that the term “crime scene” is used to describe any location in which a significant activity related to a crime takes place. It is not confined to the location where the crime took place. A crime scene can be any of the following (Stelfox, 2013:126):

- (1) places used to plan the crime
- (2) places where encounters between a victim and offender took place
- (3) places where the offender attacked the victim
- (4) places where the offender detained the victim
- (5) vehicles or other forms of conveyance used in the crime
- (6) body deposition site, in the case of homicide
- (7) weapons
- (8) weapon deposition sites
- (9) places used to clean, or discard material used in or obtained during the offence
- (10) routes to and from any scene
- (11) people who have come into contact with a suspect or a scene, including witnesses, victims and suspects and their homes, workplaces and vehicles.

According to Gilbert (2007:79), a crime scene is a location at which a suspected criminal offence has occurred. Processing the crime scene is normally one of the most important phases of the investigation. At the crime scene the investigator focuses on the search for physical evidence. All crime scenes contain some physical evidence. This may be visible to the naked eye or may be microscopic. For Osterburg and Ward (2010:91), the crime scene encompasses all areas over which the actors in the crime (victim, criminal and eyewitness) move during the commission of a crime.

Usually it is one readily defined area of limited size, but sometimes it comprises several sites (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:91). According to the South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:2), “crime scene” means the place, including the surrounding area, where an alleged offence was committed or where items with potential evidential value may be collected.

To the question “What is the meaning of a crime scene?” the Sample “A” participants responded as follows:

- Fifteen participants: is a place or area where crime was committed.
- Four participants: is an area where a person was murdered.
- One participant: is a place where an alleged crime took place.
- One participant: explained that if a person is killed and the police attend to the scene to investigate, that location is a crime scene.
- One participant: crime scene can be a room, a house or any place where criminal activities took place.
- One participant: if a criminal activity took place in one place, and then criminals moved to another place, both places are crime scenes.
- One participant: is a place where something happened, things like an accident or murder.
- One participant: is a place where crime has happened.

The participants’ answers indicate that they understand the meaning of a crime scene as mentioned in the literature. From the literature reviewed, the documents analysed and participants’ responses, it is clear that a crime scene is a location where criminal activity took place. This was understood by the participants and supported by Gilbert (2007:79), who indicates that a crime scene is a location in which a suspected criminal offence has occurred.

One participant mentioned the crime scene as specified by Osterburg and Ward (2010:91), that the crime scene, although usually one site, encompasses all areas over which the actors move during the commission of a crime and can sometimes comprise several sites.

This statement is also supported by Palmiotto (2013:98) and Stelfox (2013:126), who states that the term “crime scene” is used to describe any location in which a significant activity related to a crime takes place rather than being confined to the location where the crime took place. The researcher concluded that a crime scene cannot be solely limited to a location where crime took place, but also involves any other sites into which criminals move and where significant activities have taken place during the commission of that specific crime.

2.6 THE PURPOSE OF VISITING A SCENE OF CRIME

For Palmiotto (2013:99), the purpose of visiting and searching a crime scene is to locate, collect and preserve physical evidence for the purpose of solving a crime and securing a conviction in court. Obeying the following general rules is recommended in conducting a crime scene search (Palmiotto, 2013:99):

- (1) Any evidence that is at risk of being significantly deteriorated by the elements over time has first priority;
- (2) All of the major evidence items are examined, photographed, recorded and collected, in an order that is most logical, considering the requirements to protect evidence from contamination. Casts are made, and latent prints are lifted from the objects that need to be moved from the scene. Items should not be moved until they have been examined for trace evidence (any materials that could be transferred during the commission of a crime e.g. hair, fibres, fabric) and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) evidence. Fingerprints should be taken, or at least developed and covered with a tape, before an object is removed;
- (3) When a (clearly) deceased person is involved, the evidence items lying between the point of entry to the scene and the body are processed. Then a detailed search of the deceased is conducted. After the search, the body should be removed, and the processing of obvious evidence continued;
- (4) After the more obvious evidence has been processed, the search for and collection of additional trace material should begin. Trace and DNA evidence should be looked for before any fingerprint dusting;
- (5) After the trace materials have been collected, other latent prints are lifted;

- (6) When sweeping or vacuuming, investigators should divide up surface areas, pack the sweepings from each area separately and note the location of each point of recovery; and
- (7) Normally, elimination fingerprints and physical evidence standards are collected after the above actions have been taken.

For Stelfox (2013:16), investigation of a crime scene is usually the only chance for the investigator to identify and collect the material needed by the courts as evidence. If material is not identified during the investigation, it is unlikely that it can be recovered later. Most forensic evidence, particularly, is likely to degrade if it is not located soon after the crime. Even in the case of evidence such as witness accounts, if investigators fail to identify witnesses during the investigation phase, it is unlikely that they will become available later. Even where they do, it may be difficult for courts to assess their quality because of the time that has elapsed between the events and the witness's account of them (Stelfox, 2013:16).

Pepper (2010:1) states that there is only one opportunity for the crime scene investigator to recover forensic evidence from the crime scene. The evidence may be of a scientific nature such as DNA or unique marks on bullets; it may be minute such as fibres, hairs or paint flakes, or even obscure such as knots. If such evidence is not recovered from the scene, then a forensic specialist cannot identify from where and from whom it came.

The true challenge of the crime scene is that it is difficult to work out which area of detection. Evidence that could solve the crime will often be present at the scene. Successfully finding this evidence is essential, as tracing clues can often help to locate the perpetrator of the offence. The evidence may also help investigators to determine the type of criminal offence that has taken place. Lastly, the evidence may identify the victim, if the victim's identity is not known. Physical evidence can also be found on the victim or suspect or within their immediate environment (Gilbert, 2007:79).

Osterburg and Ward (2010:96) are of the opinion that the purpose of searching a crime scene is to find out what happened, how it happened and when and where it happened.

A crime scene can also be searched for the following reasons (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:96):

- (1) To determine the psychological profile and the motive of the crime;
- (2) To identify and individualise the object used in the commission of a crime; or
- (3) To recognise a perpetrator's MO.

The researcher asked the participants from Sample "A": "What is the purpose of visiting a crime scene?" and they replied as follows:

- Ten participants: to gather physical evidence from the scene;
- Eight participants: to interview eyewitnesses and to locate suspects;
- One participant: to find out the object that was used in the commission of a crime;
- One participant: to get a clear understanding of what happened at the scene;
- One participant: to collect evidence for investigation purposes;
- One participant: to secure and gather evidence that is relevant for court purposes;
- One participant: to find certain clues pertaining to the alleged crime that will be used to link suspects with the crime;
- One participant: to conduct interviews with witnesses in order to locate the suspects and obtain certain clues pertaining to the crime that was committed;
- One participant: to gather information to have statistics, crime trends and crime patterns in the area.

Twenty-four participants mentioned that the purpose of visiting a crime scene is to gather evidence at the scene of crime to solve a crime and to obtain a conviction in a court of law; this is supported by the documents and the literature (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:96; Gilbert, 2007:79; Stelfox, 2013:16; Palmiotto, 2013:99; Pepper 2010:1). Palmiotto (2013:99) adds that the crime scene must be visited while it is still fresh before the physical evidence deteriorates. Stelfox (2013:16) also emphasises that if material is not identified during the investigation at the crime scene, it is unlikely that it can be recovered later. This is certainly the case with most forensic evidence, which will potentially degrade if not located quickly after the crime events.

One participant did not share a common understanding with regard to the purpose of visiting a crime scene. The participant mentioned that the purpose of visiting a crime scene is to gather information for statistical purposes, and the analysis of crime trends and crime patterns in the area. It is quite evident that the participant did not understand the purpose of visiting a crime scene as outlined in the reviewed literature.

2.6.1 *Modus Operandi* (MO)

The criminal's MO, or method of operation, is also an important consideration in criminal investigation (Osterburg & Ward, 2010:8). The choice of a particular crime to commit and the selection of a method of committing it are defined as the MO of a criminal. Although not all criminals have a particular MO, enough of them have distinctive methods of operation to justify classifying crimes by their similar characteristics. The MO of a criminal is his or her signature. Past offences and the way they were committed must possess a number of common features with a crime under investigation for the inference to be made that if a suspect committed the other acts, he or she must have committed the act being investigated (Lushbaugh & Weston, 2012:113).

Van der Westhuizen (1993:32) states that MO means that offenders use the same method of operation over and over during the commission of a crime. He further explains an MO as a system used to identify a perpetrator who commits a crime and leaves behind his or her trademarks at the crime scene. The value of identifying the MO is that it reveals the identity of the perpetrator, which relates to a series of identifications from the time the crime is committed until a court's guilty verdict (Van der Westhuizen, 1993:32). According to the South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:6), MO means a unique characteristic method used by someone to achieve something.

A crime scene is visited for the purpose of searching for, locating, collecting and preserving physical evidence to solve a crime and obtain a conviction and to understand the MO of perpetrators (Palmiotto, 2013:99; Osterburg & Ward, 2010:96). It can be concluded that the MO can be used to identify individuals according to their method of operation when committing crimes.

However, their MO cannot be used to identify specific perpetrators that commit similar offences of the same nature. It is therefore very important that investigators study and analyse the MO of perpetrators extensively at crime scenes to be able to link them with crimes.

2.7 THE MEANING OF LOCARD'S PRINCIPLE

Fish, Miller and Braswell (2011:110) Edmond Locard is credited with recognising the theory of exchange. Locard stated very accurately that every contact leaves a trace. Also referred to as "Locard's theory of exchange", the concept supports the following three statements (Fish et al., 2011:110):

- (1) Traces of the victim and the scene will be carried away by the perpetrator.
- (2) Traces of the perpetrator will remain on the victim, and the victim may leave traces of him or herself on the perpetrator.
- (3) Traces of the perpetrator will be left at the scene.

Any item can and may be physical evidence that a crime has occurred. Trace evidence can provide valuable leads for the investigator, but first it must be recognised as evidence by the Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) (known as Forensic Crime Scene Analyst in South Africa) (Fish et al., 2011:110).

Pepper (2010:6) writes that as early as 1910 Edmond Locard established the first real police forensic laboratory to compare evidence recovered from the crime scene with that from the suspect. His principle, first published in 1920, that when one object comes into contact with another something is exchanged between and taken away by both objects has become the basis of the transfer and recovery of all forensic evidence. According to Osterburg and Ward (2010:92), criminals inadvertently transfer or take physical evidence to the crime scene during the commission of a crime, such as objects used in the crime, fingerprints, shoe prints, tool marks, blood spatter and bullets.

For Palmiotto (2013:99), criminals usually leave some kind of clue, and it is the responsibility of the CSI to reconstruct the crime and make a case against the criminal.

Fisher (2004:149) mentions that when an individual comes into contact with a person or location, certain small and seemingly insignificant changes occur. Small items such as fibres, hairs and microscopic debris may be left by the person or picked up from contact with the environment without changing it in some small way or by adding to it or taking something away from it. This concept of transfer is referred to as the Locard's Exchange Principle and is the basis for studying trace evidence. The importance of the exchange of evidence is that it links suspects to victims or locations. It is physical evidence of contact and, although microscopic, can become a significant part of an investigation (Fisher, 2004:149).

Gilbert (2007:23) states that Locard's Principle "every contact leaves a trace" is well worth remembering by all criminal investigators. Gilbert (2007:81) advises investigators to keep in mind that whenever anyone enters a scene, he or she brings something to the scene and when leaving takes something away. He refers to this as the theory of transfer and suggests that while the transfer of objects or materials helps to establish the movements of criminal suspects, it is a disadvantage for the investigator in an unprotected crime scene (Gilbert 2007:81). For the South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:8), "Locard's Principle" means that there is a reciprocal transfer of traces whenever two objects or persons come into contact with each other.

The question "What is the meaning of the "Locard's Principle?" was asked, and the Sample A participants responded as follows:

- Seventeen participants did not know the meaning of "Locard's Principle".
- Three participants stated that "Locard's Principle" is a pattern of walking around the scene to search for and ensure that no evidence is left at the scene.
- One participant said it is the preservation of information and clues (chain of evidence).
- One participant indicated that it is the feedback to the complainant.
- One participant explained that it is the collection of fingerprints/cigarette butts/saliva, or any physical evidence found at the scene of crime which can help to link the suspect with a crime.

- One participant mentioned that it is the chain of evidence pertaining to the crime committed and obtaining statements from witnesses.
- One participant mentioned that “Locard’s Principle” is the exchange principle, when criminals who come to the scene bring something and leave the scene with something.

Seventeen participants responded that they did not know the term “Locard’s Principle”. The researcher then explained to them that the most prevalent use of “Locard’s Principle” is in the taking of fingerprints. The principle is used daily when fingerprints are lifted from crime scenes, and fingerprints are taken from suspects to have them matched to crime scenes. When the suspect enters and exits the crime scene, some traces of the suspect will be transferred from him or her to the scene and vice versa. After the explanation, they admitted that this was the first time they had heard the term “Locard’s Principle”.

Seven participants’ responses did not contain any similarities to the information obtained from the analysed documents and literature. It can be concluded that these participants did not have a clear understanding of “Locard’s Principle”. Only one participant explained “Locard’s Principle” as it is mentioned in the literature. This participant understood “Locard’s Principle” to be the “exchange principle”, which means that “every contact leaves a trace” as indicated in the reviewed literature.

The researcher concluded that the other 24 Sample “A” participants did not have an understanding of the term “Locard’s Principle”. This is quite alarming since all the participants had 10 or more years of experience in attending crime scenes as first responders. The issue of inadequate training could also be ruled out since a total of 20 participants had received formal police training in terms of first responder to crime scene and crime scene management (CSM) as follows:

- Eighteen of these participants had attended the 1st Responder to Crime Scene course;
- Twelve had received training in CSM; and
- Ten had been trained in both 1st Responder to Crime Scene and CSM respectively.

The concept “Locard’s Principle” is covered in detail in both courses. With regard to the other five participants, it can be concluded that they did not understand the meaning of “Locard’s Principle” because they had not received formal training by attending the above-mentioned relevant courses.

2.8 THE MEANING OF IDENTIFICATION

For Osterburg and Ward (2010:8), identification may take many forms, such as physical evidence from the scene (property, fibres, hair); physical identification (tattoos, deformities, physical descriptors such as height, shape); and eyewitness descriptions, although these can be unreliable when the suspect is not known to the victims or witnesses. Osterburg and Ward (2010:36) further state that “identification” is a significant term in criminalistics and describes the classification process by which an entity is placed in a predefined, limited or restricted class. Pepper (2010:6) mentions that prior to 1840 the methods of identification of criminals were very limited and took the form of artists’ impressions with rough descriptions or the branding of repeat offenders (recidivists) with hot irons.

For Palmiotto (2013:32), there are a variety of ways to identify suspects, as follows:

- (1) Identification in court comes from having a witness pointing out the defendant, asking the eyewitness if he or she identified the defendant earlier, or having a third person testify that the witness identified the defendant on an earlier occasion.
- (2) A line-up requires eyewitnesses to identify a suspected offender from a number of people lined up along a wall.
- (3) A show-up usually occurs only at or near the crime scene, when the suspect is arrested or apprehended and immediately brought before eyewitnesses or victims for identification.
- (4) Spectrograph or voice identification or voiceprints are gaining acceptance in the scientific community in the United States, although some states have rejected voiceprints as unreliable.

- (5) Photo line-up – with the technology in use pictures can be located with similar characteristics, glasses, facial hair, tattoos and scars, and a line-up can be assembled efficiently and in a short time.

Fisher (2004:5) defines “identification” to mean that items that share a common source can be classified and grouped together with all other items having the same characteristics. According to Van Heerden (1994:187), identity is based on the theory that everything in the universe is unique as determined by its distinctive individual characteristics. Van Heerden (1994:188), along with the South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:4-7), outlines the different categories of identification that can be used in criminal investigation. These are summarised below.

- (1) Situation identification

The first responder uses his/her experience related to the crime, and tries to single out the factors that will throw some light on the crime situation under consideration.

- (2) Witness identification

The first responder ensures that witnesses are located at the scene of crime in an attempt to obtain their statements as soon as possible.

- (3) Victim identification

Usually the identification is based on appearance. It is the responsibility of the first responder to ensure that measures are taken to identify the victims at the scene of crime.

- (4) Imprint identification

The first responder must secure and protect any imprints found at the scene by ensuring that imprints are not tampered with.

- (5) Origin identification

A control sample is needed to determine the originality of the imprints. This is achieved by analysing organic and inorganic solids and fluids of the object in comparison with the control sample. First responders are obliged to ensure that direct and indirect evidence is protected against contamination until further processing by experts.

(6) Action identification

“Action identification” refers to the identification of human acts that are directly related to the crime or form its central element. This category becomes relevant for crimes such as murder, house breaking or rape. On arrival at the scene of crime, the first responder should be able to identify the human act and rule out natural causes.

(7) Culprit identification

Culprit identification involves proving that the alleged perpetrator was positively identified as associated with the crime.

(8) Cumulative identification

Although the various kinds of identification are highly relevant to their own special and distinct fields, their value only becomes apparent when they are considered within the frame.

The participants were asked “What is the meaning of identification?” and they responded as follows:

- Fifteen participants: identification is when victims and eyewitnesses identify a person/alleged suspect given physical features or description of the face, height and dress code.
- Five participants: it is to identify relevant perpetrators by means of pointing out by witnesses during the identification parade.
- Three participants: it is the identification of things (physical evidence) found at the scene of crime, in a form of pointing out, which must be done voluntarily.
- One participant: it is when you are looking for something to be able to explain it, more especially identifying suspects by means of fingerprints, hair, DNA samples.

- One participant: identification is to put aside the specific clues/description of something, to be able to separate things based on their specific description.

The participants presented an understanding of the concept of identification as outlined in the literature reviewed and the documents analysed. Five participants understood identification with reference to the identification parade, where witnesses or victims point out the alleged perpetrator during an identification parade. This supports the viewpoint of Fisher (2004:5) that identification means that items that share a common source can be grouped together with other items that share a common characteristic. The other 15 participants gave a similar definition of identification as being when victims or eyewitnesses identify a person/alleged suspect given physical features or a description of the face, height and dress code. The same applies to the other four participants' responses: they also mentioned the many forms of identification. In doing this they supported the claim by Osterburg and Ward (2010:8) that there are many forms of identification, such as physical evidence from the crime scene, physical identification and eyewitness description.

2.9 SUMMARY

Criminal investigation is a logical and systematic process of gathering, locating and collecting information and evidence in order to apprehend perpetrators of crime in an attempt to secure their conviction in court. The objectives of criminal investigation are to detect crime; locate and identify possible offenders; gather, collect and process evidence; arrest offenders; recover property; bring offenders before court; and secure a conviction (Lyman, 1999:169; Stelfox, 2013:2; Du Preez, 1996:4-7; Osterburg & Ward, 2010:8; Becker & Dutelle, 2013:17).

A crime scene is an area, a place or a location where crime took place. It cannot be solely limited to a location where crime took place, but also involves any other sites to which criminals move and where significant activities took place during the commission of that specific crime. It serves as the initial point of a criminal investigation and contains evidence that connects suspects with the crime. The purpose of visiting a crime scene is to gather evidence at the scene of crime to solve a crime and to obtain a conviction in a

court of law. It is emphasised that a crime scene must be visited and processed while it is still fresh to prevent physical evidence from deteriorating. Certain types of physical evidence need to be collected and processed before they degrade.

The MO of a criminal is a means of identification that is based on the fact that many offenders use the same method whenever they commit a crime. Locard's Principle states that "every contact leaves a trace". The concept of transfer embodied in the Locard Exchange Principle is the basis for studying trace evidence. The importance of exchange evidence is that it links suspects to victims or locations. Identification means that the items share a common source. The items can be classified as or placed into groups with all other items that have the same properties.

CHAPTER 3

THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

According to the South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:343), the scene of crime is the starting point of an investigation as this is the place where direct or indirect proof of the commission of a crime exists and the place where evidence can be found to solve it. The proper collection of evidence can only be achieved if the handling of a scene of crime occurs in an organised and objective manner. The first responder to crime scenes must know what is expected of him or her and must be familiar with the advantages of correct conduct and the disadvantages of incorrect conduct. Clues that are destroyed or damaged can never be replaced Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:343).

The South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:15) stipulates that it is essential that a crime scene be visited and cordoned off as soon as possible and it is the duty of the police official that first arrives at the scene to prevent the loss or contamination of any clues, evidence and exhibits. No hard and fast rules can be laid down for the procedures to be followed at a crime scene. This means that the police official's judgement and initiative influence his or her conduct. The SAPS has laid down certain regulations with regard to procedure at a crime scene, which must be adhered to by all SAPS members. To achieve a conviction of a perpetrator, it becomes increasingly important to focus on the recovery of physical evidence during the crime scene investigation (SAPS, 2013:15).

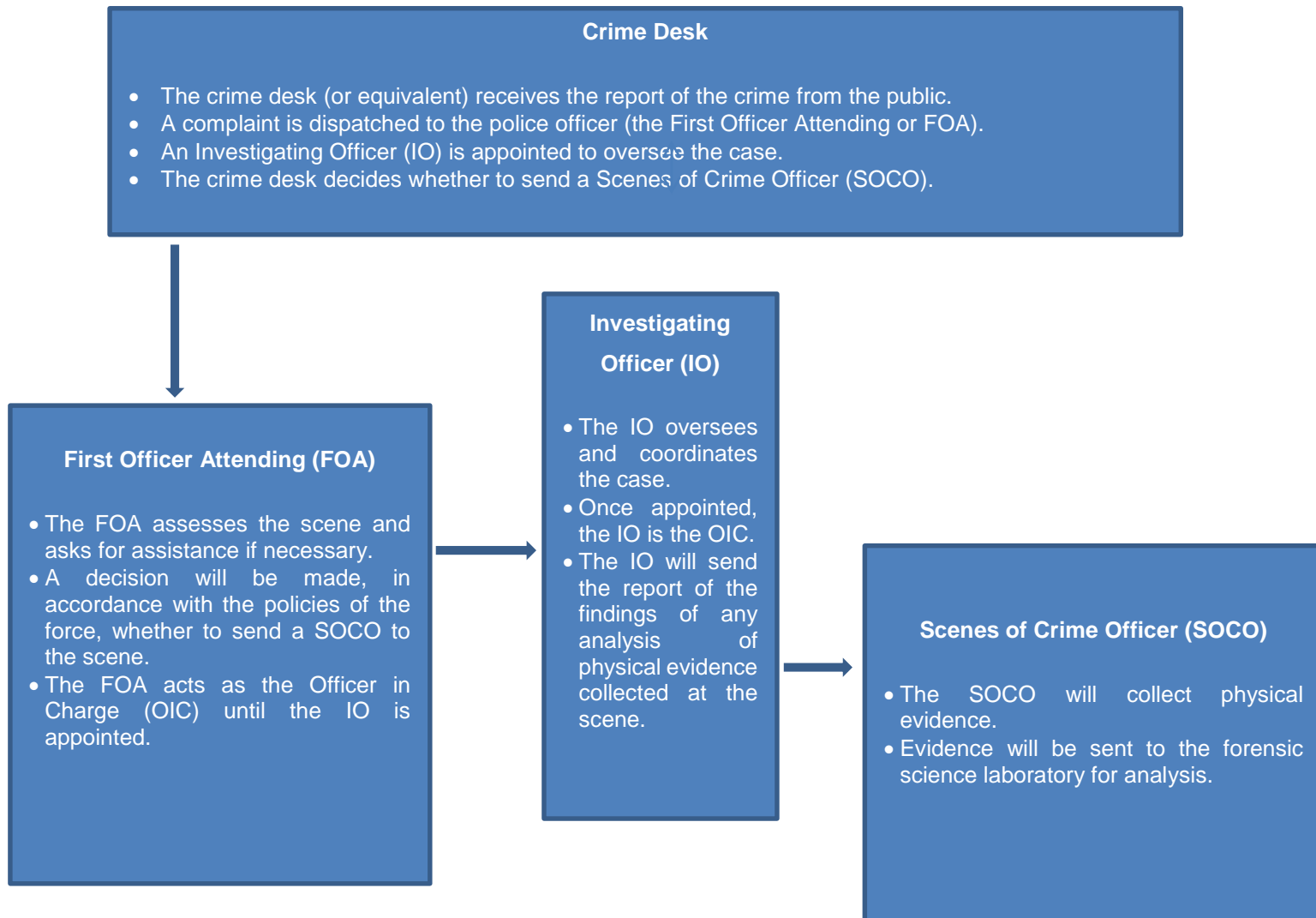
The questions below were presented to both Sample A and B, based on the second research question, which reads: What is the role of the first responder at a crime scene?

- What is the meaning of the first responder?
- What is the role of the first responder at a crime scene?
- What are the main mistakes made by first responders at a crime scene?
- What are the solutions to each of the identified mistakes?

3.2 THE PROCESSES THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED WHEN A CRIME IS REPORTED

Jackson and Jackson (2008:21) indicate the process that must be followed when a crime is reported as follows:

Figure 1: The process that must be followed when a crime is reported.



South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:21), South African Police Service: Policy 2 on Crime Scene Management (SAPS, 2005:19), and South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:15-23), supported by South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:388), highlight the process that must be followed when a crime is reported as 15 phases in the following sequence:

(1) The event

During an event, the public is usually involved and in the best position to stabilise the situation and take control of the scene.

(2) Reporting phase

- A member of the public reports the event to the SAPS call centre;
- The call taker must obtain all necessary information accurately and in as much detail as possible and hand over the information to the dispatcher.

(3) Activation phase

The dispatcher activates role players to the crime scene as required.

(4) Responding phase

The different role players respond to the crime scene, with due consideration to personal safety, while at the same time keeping a lookout for potential evidence and possible suspects.

(5) Controlling phase

The first responder must:

- Take care of the injured, as a first priority;
- Take the first handover of the scene from the public;
- Identify and establish a command centre and act as the Command Centre Commander until an official commander is appointed.

(6) Securing and protecting phase

The first responder:

- Provides a complete Situation Report (SITREP) to the dispatcher. The dispatcher determines who the Appropriate Investigating Unit (AIU) will be, according to the contingency plan;

- Cordons off the crime scene. Access routes into the crime scene are applied through access control to protect the crime scene and establish the command centre;
 - Hands over control of the scene to the Crime Scene Manager (who is provided by the AIU) on arrival.
- (7) First walk through
- The Crime Scene Manager, accompanied by the IO and the Crime Scene Technician (CST), conducts a detailed inspection to determine certain key aspects of the scene.
- (8) Planning
- The Crime Scene Manager and the crime scene team plan and agree on the crime scene investigation processing strategy and methodology to be followed.
- (9) Investigating
- The Crime Scene Manager appoints the IO, who is the principal investigator and has the responsibility of maintaining the case docket. The IO coordinates the investigating team.
- (10) Processing
- The Crime Scene Manager appoints the CST, who becomes the principal processing expert on the crime scene.
- (11) Final walk-through
- The purpose of the walk-through is to review the activities of the investigation and processing teams to ensure that the original plan has been executed.
- (12) Debriefing phase
- The Crime Scene Manager conducts a debriefing with all the key role players.
- (13) Restoring phase
- The Crime Scene Commander (CSC), assisted by the IO, must ensure that the crime scene is appropriately restored by removing any items or equipment used during the crime scene attendance and processing.
- (14) Releasing phase
- The CSC must identify the relevant party to whom the crime scene must be handed over.

(15) Evaluation phase

The Crime Scene Manager calls a meeting with all the relevant role players to evaluate the process for lessons learned, planning the ongoing investigation, commending successes and identifying mistakes.

The question “What are the processes that must be followed once crime is reported?” was asked of Sample “A” and the participants replied as follows:

- Ten participants mentioned the following:
 - Contact patrol/sector vehicle;
 - Interview the person to determine what happened;
 - Obtain their addresses;
 - Visit the scene;
 - Cordon off the scene;
 - Organise role players;
 - Open a Crime Administrative System (CAS) docket;
 - Contact members of the serious and violent crimes unit;
 - Report to cluster office;
 - Summon crime office to visit the scene to do preliminary investigation; and
 - Obtain witness statement.
- One participant mentioned: arrest and detain the suspect, ask the complainant if he or she can identify the suspect, visit the scene of crime, and arrest the perpetrators if they are still at the scene of crime.
- One stated: dispatch police officials to the scene, establish what happened, and open a CAS docket, and separate witnesses at the scene of crime from other bystanders.
- Two mentioned: visit the scene, cordon off the scene, locate witnesses, establish if witnesses are known and determine which weapons were used to commit the crime.
- One answered: call an ambulance to declare the person dead or alive.

- One mentioned: determine if a crime really happened, cordon off the scene, remove bystanders, interview victims, summon other role players, don't tamper with the scene.
- One stated: dispatch a complaint to the patrol vehicle, contact all role players, and consider the reaction time, report feedback.
- One mentioned: open a CAS docket, line it up for preliminary investigation, and allocate the docket to the investigator.
- One stated: visit the crime scene, open a CAS docket, arrest suspects and investigate the crime.
- One mentioned: proper interviews for complainants, determine the elements of crime for the exact offence, establish the place where the crime took place and open a CAS docket.
- One mentioned: identify what was reported, backup must be arranged for a robbery in progress, contact relevant role players, and investigate the scene and objects used to commit crime.
- Two participants mentioned: obtain all relevant statements and investigate the crime.
- One stated: commence with preliminary investigation, open a CAS docket, allocate the docket to the designated investigating officer, visit the crime scene and obtain relevant information.
- One stated: investigate the crime.

The process that must be followed when a crime is reported is explained in detail by the South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:21). Jackson and Jackson (2008:21) describe a similar process but do not divide the process into different phases. Even though there is a slight variation in this process, it is still acceptable since processes may differ from one scene to another, depending on the seriousness of the crime reported. The answers given by the participants were not even closely similar to processes described in the literature and the documents.

Most of the participants mentioned obtaining the particulars of the complainant, opening a CAS docket, visiting the crime scene, investigating the crime and summoning relevant role players as the process that must be followed when crime is reported. It can be concluded that participants do not have an understanding of the process as mentioned in the SAPS directives that regulate the functioning and responsibilities of the first responder at the crime scene in terms of CSM. It is very important that SAPS management takes measures to ensure command and control and strict compliance with the policies, with subsequent steps taken against non-compliance.

3.3 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

The preliminary investigation of a crime is normally conducted by the first responding officers, who are usually police officers from the uniform patrol division (Visible policing members). The first responder's preliminary investigation skills contribute positively to the arresting of offenders and to solving cases. The role of the first responder in the response to a crime scene normally entails both investigative and non-investigative actions (Thibault, Lynch, McBride & Walsh, 2008:176). The South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:348) indicates that preliminary investigation is initiated by the first responder to a crime scene and consists of the conservation of the scene, annotation/making comprehensive notes, searching, processing of exhibits and clues, handling and processing of all persons at the scene and application of investigative aids.

For Palmiotto (2013:14), a preliminary investigation is initiated when a patrol officer responds to a complaint by members of the public. The investigation of a criminal case and its success rely on the preliminary investigation conducted by the first responder to a crime scene. Preliminary investigation of a crime is intended for suspect identification and subsequent arrest, finding out what happened, locating eye witnesses if available and obtaining physical evidence. For Gilbert (2007:56), the preliminary investigation encompasses the first contact with the criminal offence and contributes to the criminal investigative process. Since the preliminary investigation serves as the foundation for the case, it must then be conducted properly, otherwise the whole investigation will be disadvantaged (Gilbert, 2007:56).

Sample A participants were asked the question “What is the meaning of preliminary investigation?” and their responses were as follows:

- One stated: all findings at the scene of crime, interrogation, investigations and observations by the first responder about any leads and information that can assist in linking the suspect with the scene of crime.
- One mentioned: when you visit the scene early to get clues and exhibits, obtain witness statements, arrest suspects.
- Two mentioned: when the first responder arrived at the scene to find out what happened at the scene of crime.
- One stated: when one visits the scene while it is fresh to get clues, exhibits, obtain witness statements and to arrest suspects.
- Four stated: investigation done by the first responder at the scene of crime before detectives arrive at the scene.
- One mentioned: first information at the scene of crime, and recording the information from witnesses by the first responder.
- Two stated: don't know.
- One mentioned: interview of victims and complainants; gathering of evidence; determine who, what, when, where and how did it happen; observation of the crime scene; caring for the injured; and recording of information by the first responder.
- Three mentioned: first-hand investigation by first responder by enquiring about the who, where, when, what and how, and making a follow-up and submitting information as a re-post to detectives; preserved exhibits must be packaged, witness statements must be obtained and handed over to detectives.
- One stated: investigation that takes place at the scene of crime to collect any clues that can be used obtained from the onset, interview witnesses and obtain statements.
- One stated: short description of what occurred at the scene of crime by the first responder.
- One stated: a quick and small investigation by the first responder at the scene of crime that leads us to suspects.

- Five mentioned: first steps of investigation by the first responder or first investigating officer at the scene of crime.
- One mentioned: crime investigator.

Two participants did not know what preliminary investigation is. However, the responses of 23 participants clearly indicated that they had an understanding of the preliminary investigation of a crime. Even though the participants could not articulate the meaning of this concept as precisely as it was mentioned in the literature, they indicated that it is a first-hand investigation by the first responder when the crime scene is still fresh, to collect and preserve physical evidence that can help to link suspects with a crime, and locate witnesses and suspects at the crime scene. This supports the reviewed literature.

In summary, the literature, documents and the viewpoints of the participants revealed that preliminary investigation of crime is initiated by the first responder to a crime scene and consists of the conservation of the scene, annotation or making of comprehensive notes, searching, processing of exhibits and clues, handling and processing of all persons at the scene, and application of investigative aids. The researcher agrees with the participants' viewpoints, the documents and the reviewed literature that preliminary investigation is the first-hand investigation conducted by the first responders at the scene of crime (see: Gilbert, 2007:56; SAPS, 2009:348; Thibault et al., 2008:176; Palmiotto, 2013:14).

3.4 THE BASIC CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF A CRIME

Lee, Palmbach and Miller (2007:52) mention that, upon arrival at the scene, it is essential that the first responder always keep his or her safety in mind, along with the safety of other people present at the crime scene and that of any bystanders. The first responder must also be able to determine the type of incident that has occurred and stabilise the situation. To prevent loss and contamination of physical evidence, the first responder must ensure that the scene is protected, documented and preserved at all times (Lee et al., 2007:52). Palmiotto (2013:99) is of the opinion that the crime scene investigator must have a plan of how the crime scene will be investigated prior to the beginning of the investigation of a crime. A systematic plan includes the geometry of the search, possible

sources of clues and the location of photographs. The initial phases of the preliminary investigation comprise thinking and planning (Palmiotto, 2013:99).

For Thibault et al. (2008:177), one of the most important considerations of the first responder to a crime scene is to ensure that the crime scene is secured and protected against the contamination of evidence. Gardner (2005:61) states that if the crime scene is tampered with at the beginning, the entire investigation will be threatened. This means that first responders to a crime scene need to clearly explain their annotations and actions at the crime scene. It is recommended that the first responder's guideline is that they should be able to give answers to who, what, when, where and how the crime was committed (Gardner, 2005:61).

Pena (2000:57-62), Lee et al. (2007:52-59), SAPS (2009:348), SAPS (2013:15) and Hawthorne (1999:2) are in agreement that the first responder is expected to handle the situation professionally. Upon arrival at the crime scene, the first responding officer should always take into account these basic considerations during the preliminary investigation of a crime:

- (1) Record date and time of arrival and the location of a crime scene, including their observation, assessment and activities at the crime scene;
- (2) Obtain full particulars of the first person who reported or discovered the crime scene;
- (3) Summon emergency medical assistance to the crime scene to render first aid to injured persons;
- (4) Separate and secure the immediate crime scene;
- (5) Inform their superiors;
- (6) Collect physical evidence such as testimony, photographs, prints and sketches;
- (7) Ensure strict access control for all personnel, including senior officers, fellow officers and news media personnel, who may inadvertently contaminate the scene;
- (8) Assess the scene perimeters to establish the entry and escape used by the suspect(s); and
- (9) Detain for questioning every person who is present or in the progress of leaving the scene at the time of arrival.

Thibault et al. (2008:177) provide a concise list of the duties and responsibilities of the first responder, using the mnemonic **PRELIMINARY** as follows:

- P = Proceed to the scene safely and dispatch.
- R = Render assistance to the injured.
- E = Effect arrest of perpetrator.
- L = Locate and identify witnesses.
- I = Interview complainant and witnesses.
- M = Maintain scene and protect evidence.
- I = Interrogate suspects.
- N = Note all conditions, events, and remarks.
- A = Arrange for collection of evidence.
- R = Report incident fully and accurately.
- Y = Yield responsibility to detectives.

(Source: Thibault et al., 2008:177)

The researcher asked Sample “A” the question “What are the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime?” and participants answered as follows:

- One participant: leave the scene as it is, do not touch anything, secure exhibits but do not remove exhibits, cordon off the scene and protect exhibits.
- Two participants: collect fingerprints and evidence before it is tampered with, secure the scene while the scene is still fresh.
- Two participants: find out about the time, date, and why did the crime happen.
- One participant: check if there is any evidence that can be obtained from the crime scene.
- One participant: ask complainants about the suspects if armed and call for manpower.
- Four participants: don’t know.
- One participant: interview witnesses and check for physical evidence.

- One participant: determine the motive for the crime, locate suspects and follow procedure.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, ensure that bystanders don't tamper with the scene, arrest suspects.
- One participant: determine if the crime did indeed happen and identify victims and suspects.
- Two participants: evidence found at or near the scene must be secured.
- One participant: ensure that all aspects related to the crime scene are covered; where possible, obtain witness statements; if witnesses are traumatised, get their details and interview them later.
- Two participants: interview witnesses, determine if suspects are known.
- One participant: ensuring that witnesses remain at the scene of crime, that evidence remains intact and the scene is secured.
- One participant: check for exhibits that can help to link suspects with the crime scene.
- One participant: suspects must be arrested immediately, injured persons must be taken to hospital, and witness statements must be obtained.
- One participant: pointing out the crime scene by victims, and summon role players.
- One participant: locate witnesses.

The participants' viewpoints, in comparison with the literature and documents, indicated that generally the participants did not have an understanding of the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime. Three participants touched on some of the considerations: determine the date, time and why the crime happened; cordon off the crime scene and protect exhibits; suspects must be arrested immediately; obtain witness statements; and take care of the injured persons.

The basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime scene are clearly stipulated in the South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:348) and the South African Police Service: 1st Responder to a Crime Scene (SAPS, 2013:15) and are described by authors such as Pena (2000:57-62), Lee et al. (2007:52-

59) and Hawthorne (1999:2). It is quite evident that these participants are not conversant regarding the directives that regulate their day-to-day duties, which are at their disposal – directives such as the Crime Scene Management Learning Programme, 1st Responder to a Crime Scene, National Instruction 1 of 2015 and Policy 2 of 2005. These directives are available on the SAPS intranet, which is accessible to all SAPS members.

3.5 FIRST RESPONDER

The first responder, as defined in the South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:3), refers to the member, irrespective of his or her unit, who arrives at the crime scene first. Jackson and Jackson (2008:22) support the above statement by mentioning that the first responder is the first police officer to arrive at a given incident scene. Palmiotto (2013:97) states that patrol officers respond first to crime scenes when a crime is reported to the police. The patrol officer who arrives first at the crime scene plays an important role in the investigation process of a crime. For Lee et al. (2007:50), first responders to a crime scene are usually police officials, paramedics and personnel from the fire department. This statement is supported by Fish et al. (2011:31), who write that patrol officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel are usually first to arrive on the scene and generally all safety concerns will have been addressed before crime investigators enter the area.

The participants of Samples “A” and “B” were asked the question “Based on your own experience, what is the meaning of the first responder?” The participants from both samples responded that the first responder is the first police official who arrives at the scene of crime. The researcher concluded that the participants gave an accurate explanation of what a first responder at a crime scene is as explained in the literature and documents referred to, particularly in the South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:3), Jackson and Jackson (2008:22) and Palmiotto (2013:97)

3.6 THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

Osterburg and Ward (2010:97), Palmiotto (2013:4), Pena (2000:57), Lee et al. (2007:51) and Jackson and Jackson (2008:22) are in agreement that the roles of the first responder are to:

- (1) Conduct an assessment of the scene;
- (2) Take care of the injured;
- (3) Contact emergency medical personnel;
- (4) Preserve the scene;
- (5) Record every assessment and actions taken at the scene;
- (6) Report every assessment and actions taken at the scene to their superiors and the investigation officer; and
- (7) Give feedback to the members of the public or victims who were involved with the case.

The South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:388) provides a more comprehensive list of the roles of the first responder. According to the Detectives Learning Programme, the first responder:

- (1) Prepares him/herself by obtaining complete information;
- (2) Ensures that personal safety is seen to during travelling and arrival;
- (3) Confirms arrival to the dispatcher;
- (4) Requests backup and emergency services as required;
- (5) Takes care of the injured within the limitation of individual training;
- (6) If injured persons are moved, marks their position and obtains their particulars;
- (7) Undertakes control of the crime scene;
- (8) Evaluates the safety status of the scene;
- (9) Identifies the nature of the incident and gives a SITREP to the dispatcher;
- (10) Secures the scene by erecting an inner or outer cordon around the entire scene;
- (11) Establishes a designated area for witnesses;
- (12) Protects obvious evidence from contamination;
- (13) Determines access routes into the scene for personnel;
- (14) Establishes a command centre;
- (15) Removes witnesses to a designated area professionally;
- (16) Arrests suspects according to procedure;
- (17) Handles evidence according to procedure;
- (18) Handles media according to procedure;

- (19) Identifies secondary scene and duplicates all duties;
- (20) Hands over the scene to the Crime Scene Manager or IO; and
- (21) Is available for the debriefing and evaluation phases.

The question “according to your experience, what is the role of the first responder at the crime scene?” was presented to both Samples “A” and “B”.

Sample “A” responded as follows:

- Fifteen participants: secure/cordon off the scene to protect evidence, check for evidence, obtain witness statements, inform detectives, get medical assistance for injured persons, take details of the ambulance and personnel, and hand over the scene to detectives.
- One participant: gather information, safeguard the scene, interview witnesses.
- One participant: secure the crime scene, identify witnesses/victims and preserve physical evidence.
- Two participants: cordon off the scene, secure evidence, ensure that exhibits are not removed.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, identify exhibits and secure them.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, secure exhibits, interview witnesses, call paramedics for the injured and bullets/exhibits must be photographed.
- One participant: ensure that the crime scene remains intact by cordoning it off, protect evidence against contamination, establish entrance and exit for access control purposes, establish objects used to commit the crime, remove bystanders, summon role players, interview witnesses.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, inform the commander and summon relevant role players.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, obtain witness statements.
- One participant: cordon off the scene, locate eyewitnesses.

Sample “B” responded as follows:

- All three participants: Cordon off the scene, secure or protect evidence, arrest suspects, arrange medical assistance for the injured, obtain witness statements, control access at the scene of crime, summon backup where necessary.

Ten participants mentioned some of the roles of the first responder at the scene of crime but not all. While these participants did not mention all of them, they showed an understanding of the roles of the first responder. Their answers were closely related to those in the literature and their understanding of the importance of the first responder's responsibility mirrors what is indicated in the South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:388). A further 18 participants mentioned most of the roles of the first responder at the crime scene that were indicated in the literature and documents. These are to: secure/cordon off the scene to protect evidence; collect and preserve physical evidence; obtain witness statements; inform detectives; get medical assistance for injured persons; take details of the ambulance and personnel; and hand over the scene to detectives (see: Osterburg & Ward, 2010:97; Palmiotto, 2013:4; Pena, 2000:57; Lee et al., 2007:51). The roles described in the above-mentioned literature are also supported by the South African Police Service: Detectives Learning Programme (SAPS, 2009:388).

3.7 THE MAIN MISTAKES MADE BY FIRST RESPONDERS AT THE CRIME SCENE

According to Lee et al. (2007:50), there are numerous cases in which first responders to a crime scene, while processing a scene of crime, inadvertently tamper with the scene and physical evidence and change the scene from its original condition. Hawthorne (1999:2) attests to the truth of the above statement by mentioning that there are countless examples of cases in which evidence is not properly collected and preserved at the scene of crime.

Mistakes such as poor handling, collection and packaging of physical evidence are made and subsequently contribute to the acquittal of the perpetrator. Thibaut et al. (2008:177) argue that cases are often lost because:

- (1) News media personnel, senior officials and fellow personnel were allowed to inadvertently contaminate a scene by handling evidence; or
- (2) Move around the scene; and by
- (3) Other patrol officers removing weapons and other exhibits from a crime scene and returning them after a few days.

Samples “A” and “B” were asked the question “According to your experience, what are the main mistakes made by first responders at the scene of crime?”

Sample A responded as follows:

- Eight participants: tampering with the crime scene, not cordoning off the scene of crime and leaving physical evidence due to negligence.
- Two participants: failing to identify and interview witnesses.
- One participant: allowing people to walk all over the scene and touch evidence.
- One participant: Failing to identify and to obtain witness statements.
- One participant: tamper with physical evidence, chase away sole witnesses.
- One participant: contaminate crime scene, unlawful arrests due to first responders failing to gather relevant information at the scene of crime, failing to interview witnesses.
- One participant: first responders do not cordon off the scene.
- Two participants: first responders do not follow procedure and they allow bystanders to tamper with the crime scene.
- Three participants: tampering with crime scenes, contaminating physical evidence.
- One participant: they don't take down witness statements, don't cordon off the scene, and they don't protect physical evidence.
- One participant: allowing bystanders and other fellow colleagues who are not playing any role in the processing of the crime scene to enter the crime scene.
- One participant: don't have proper control of the scene, allow senior officials to walk around the scene.
- Two participants: failing to interview eyewitnesses and failing to locate and gather evidence.

Sample “B” responded as follows:

- All three participants mentioned that:
 - first responders do not cordon off the scene of crime
 - exhibits are not protected
 - exhibits are tampered with or contaminated
 - first responders do not keep record of the incidents at the crime scene
 - first responders fail to obtain witness statements
 - they do not record particulars of witnesses at the crime scene

Preservation of evidence should be a priority for the first responder at the crime scene (SAPS, 2009:344). The researcher established after comparison of data from literature, documents and the viewpoints of the participants from both Samples “A” and “B” that they all agree with regard to the common mistakes that are made by the first responders at crime scenes.

3.8 SOLUTIONS TO THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED MISTAKES

According to Thibault et al. (2008:178), management should publicly acknowledge the positive contributions of uniformed police officers, as well as their detective counterparts, to successful cases. These authors believe that if officers receive recognition for their contributions, they will become more positive and effective employees. However, patrol officers have limited training in investigative skills and have little time to give to any investigation if they have to prioritise visible policing and patrols as a preventative measure in order to have effective police coverage (Thibault et al., 2008:178). Lee et al. (2007:50) are of the opinion that any disturbance of the crime scene may prevent a link with the suspect and that training, education and experience are all necessary for any potential first responder. This view is supported by Hawthorne (1999:2), who recommends upgrading training to ensure that incidents that lead to suspects’ acquittals do not happen.

In response to the question “What can be done to solve each of the above identified mistakes?” Sample “A” and “B” participants provided the answers listed below.

Sample “A” responded as follows:

- Nineteen participants: training and education.
- One participant: to protect physical evidence by circling them to protect them from contamination.
- One participant: every vehicle or patrol vehicle must have danger tapes to cordon off the scene and cones to protect exhibits.
- One participant: emphasise on daily parade, remind each other with regard to crime scene management.
- One participant: concentration at the scene of crime.
- One participant: controlled movement or access control for members at the scene of crime and invite experts to attend the scene of crime.
- One participant: increased manpower to assist at the crime scene.

Sample “B” responded as follows:

- Two participants: training will solve the problems.
- One participant: increased manpower and consequent management for non-compliance with the crime scene management directives.

The literature revealed that training and education are necessary to enable first responders to perform their duties effectively. This statement is supported by nineteen participants from Sample “A” and two from Sample “B”. Since a crime scene contains evidence that can help to link suspects with the alleged crime and ensure that a conviction is secured, it is imperative that first responders receive and obtain the relevant training and skills for this purpose (Lee et al., 2007:50; Hawthorne, 1999:2).

The researcher agrees with the literature and the viewpoint expressed by the participants that training will empower all visible policing members who attend to crime scenes as first responders.

3.9 SUMMARY

In order to ensure that a crime scene is controlled and managed well, there are different processes that must be followed after a crime is reported by the public. These processes involve the following phases: activation, responding, controlling, handing-over, planning, investigation and processing, debriefing, restoring, resealing and the evaluation phase. Depending on the type of crime reported, different role players are summoned, and each plays an important role. The first responder plays an important role in the preliminary investigation of a crime. The preliminary investigation provides the foundation for criminal cases; an inadequate preliminary investigation puts an entire investigation in jeopardy. During the preliminary investigation of a crime, the first responding officer should always keep in mind their safety, the safety of others present at the scene and the safety of any bystanders. They should determine the nature of the incident and stabilise the situation. If careful protection, documentation and preservation by the first responders have been undertaken, then the “original” condition of the crime scene will be known and nothing lost or contaminated.

The first responder, as defined in the South African Police Service: National Instruction 1 (SAPS, 2015:3), refers to the member, irrespective of his or her unit, who arrives at the crime scene first. It is essential that the first responder attends a scene of crime as soon as possible after the complaint has been received while the scene is still fresh. A scene of crime must be visited and cordoned off in an attempt to prevent the loss or contamination of any clues, evidence and exhibits. To achieve the conviction of a perpetrator, it becomes increasingly important to focus on the recovery of physical evidence during the crime scene investigation. The first responder at a crime scene plays an important role in the whole process until the crime scene is handed over to the relevant designated member.

It is imperative that the first responder understands his or her role at a crime scene. On arrival at a crime scene, the first responder must ensure that the injured are taken care of, suspects are arrested, witnesses located, and their statements obtained, further investigative steps to be taken established and all the happenings at the crime scene recorded.

Many cases are lost due to improper collection of physical evidence, handling and packaging, which results in the acquittal of perpetrators. Some individuals, during the performance of their duties, inadvertently change or alter the crime scene from its original condition. There are also various occasions when other personnel, reporters or higher senior members are allowed onto the crime scene and they indiscriminately contaminate the scene by handling evidence, walking through the scene and sometimes removing physical evidence from the crime scene. Training is recommended for all first responders to crime scenes and all policies and directives regulating the CSM should be strictly adhered to at all times.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This final chapter summarises the findings of the study and makes recommendations on the basis of the findings. The researcher developed an interest in researching this topic after becoming increasingly aware that a high number of cases are lost without a conviction. The justice system relies on the evidence that is presented in court by the investigating officer in order to prosecute. The first responder's preliminary investigation skill contributes positively towards the arrest and the successful prosecution of offenders (Thibault et al., 2008:176).

The aim of this research was to evaluate the role of the first responder at a scene of crime. In order to address this aim, the following questions were asked:

- What are the objectives of criminal investigation?
- What is the role of the first responder at a crime scene?

In an attempt to achieve the research aim, the researcher collected data from interviews with Vispol members and detective branch commanders from Ivory Park Police Station and reviewed SAPS documents as well as literature. The interview schedule used for the interviews, the questions formulated for the document analysis and the research questions that emanated from the problem statement enabled the researcher to focus on the identified problem and to collect relevant data that provided answers to the identified problem.

Only data that was related and relevant to the research questions and the identified problem was collected and analysed, and the subsequent findings and recommendations based on these findings are outlined in this chapter.

4.2 FINDINGS

The research findings emanated from information obtained from the literature, documents and interviews with participants are detailed below:

4.2.1 Findings on Research Question 1: What are the Objectives of Criminal Investigation?

4.2.1.1 Criminal investigation

- Criminal investigation is the logical and systematic process of gathering, locating and collecting evidence and the subsequent apprehension of perpetrators of crime in an attempt to secure a conviction.
- The viewpoints of 22 participants from Sample “A” indicated that they had an understanding of the meaning of criminal investigation even though their responses were slightly different from the literature and documents. Two participants said that criminal investigation is the process of arresting and detaining suspects, while one mentioned that is the investigation of crime patterns to determine criminal behaviour and crime patterns in the area, and to prepare case dockets for court.

4.2.1.2 The objectives of criminal investigation

- The objectives of criminal investigation are to detect crime; locate and identify possible offenders; gather, collect and process evidence; arrest offenders; recover stolen property; and bring the perpetrators before court to secure a conviction.
- The researcher established that the viewpoints of 17 participants from Sample “A” indicated that they understand the objectives of criminal investigation as mentioned in the literature and documents. However, the remaining eight participants did not know the objectives.

4.2.1.3 The purpose of criminal investigation

- According to the literature, the basic purpose of criminal investigation is to prevent crime. The researcher agrees with the viewpoints of Du Preez (1996:1) and Lyman (1999:159) that the purpose of criminal investigation is to prevent crime.
- The researcher noted that the viewpoints of the participants from Sample “A” differed completely from those expressed in the literature. All 25 participants did not identify the purpose of criminal investigation as mentioned in the literature, instead listed the objectives of investigation.

4.2.1.4 The meaning of the crime scene

- The researcher established that a crime scene cannot be solely confined to a location where a crime has taken place, but also includes several sites to which criminals move and in which significant activities take place during the commission of a crime.
- All 25 participants from Sample “A” presented an understanding that a crime scene is a location or area where criminal activities have taken place. These viewpoints are supported by the literature and documents.

4.2.1.5 The purpose of visiting a scene of crime

- The reviewed literature, documents and interviews revealed that the purpose of visiting a crime scene is to gather evidence at the scene of crime as a foundation for obtaining a conviction in a court of law.
- Twenty-four of the 25 participants from Sample “A” had a clear understanding of what the purpose of visiting a crime scene is. However, one participant did not share a common understanding with regard to the purpose of visiting a crime scene. This participant mentioned that the purpose of visiting a crime scene is to gather information for statistical purposes, and the analysis of crime trends and crime patterns in the area.

4.2.1.6 The meaning of Locard’s Principle

- The researcher established from the research on Locard’s Principle that “every contact leaves a trace”, is well worth remembering by all criminal investigators. It must be kept in mind that whenever anyone enters a scene, he or she brings something to the scene and when leaving takes something away. This is the theory of transfer of traces at a scene of crime.
- Twenty-four of the 25 participants from Sample “A” did not know Locard’s *Principle*. Only one participant understood and explained that Locard’s Principle is that “*every contact leaves a trace*”.

4.2.1.7 The meaning of identification

- Van Heerden (1994:187) states that identity is based on the theory that everything in the universe is unique based on its distinctive individual characteristics.
- The reviewed literature, when compared to the viewpoints of the participants, revealed that similarities in terms of the meaning of identification. All 25 participants from Sample A had an understanding of the meaning of identification, and mentioned that identification takes place when victims or eyewitnesses identify a person or alleged suspect, using physical features such as a description of the face, hair, height and dress code. Identification means that if the items share a common source, they can be placed and grouped together with other items that share common characteristics.

4.2.2 Findings on Research Question 2: What is the Role of the First Responder at the Crime Scene?

4.2.2.1 The processes that must be followed when crime is reported

The SAPS explain the processes that must be followed when crime is reported in detail in the Crime Scene Management: National Instruction 2 (SAPS, 2015:21) in this sequence:

- (1) The event
- (2) Reporting phase
- (3) Activation phase
- (4) Responding phase
- (5) Controlling phase
- (6) Secure and protect
- (7) 1st Walk-through
- (8) Planning
- (9) Investigate
- (10) Process
- (11) Final walk-through
- (12) Debriefing phase
- (13) Restoring phase
- (14) Releasing phase

(15) Evaluation phase

Generally, the researcher concluded that all twenty-five (25) participants could not mention the different phases that must be followed when crime is reported.

4.2.2.2 Preliminary investigation

- This study revealed that the first responding officers, who are usually police officials from the uniform patrol division, usually conduct the preliminary investigation. The first responder's preliminary investigation contributes positively to the arrest of offenders and a subsequent successful prosecution.
- The viewpoints of 23 participants from Sample A supported the literature and clearly indicated that they had an understanding of what is involved in a preliminary investigation. They said that it is the type of investigation that is conducted by the first responder when the crime scene is still fresh, to collect and preserve physical evidence that can help to link the offender with a crime. One participant said that it is a crime investigator, and one did not know.

4.2.2.3 The basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime

- During this study, the researcher established that the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime are to proceed to the scene with safety in mind; render assistance to the injured; effect the arrest of perpetrators; locate and identify witnesses; interview complainants and witnesses; maintain the scene and protect evidence; interrogate suspects; note all conditions, events and remarks; arrange for the collection of evidence; report the incident fully and accurately; and yield the responsibility to detectives.
- The researcher found that 22 out of the 25 participants from Sample "A" did not have an understanding of the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime as mentioned in the literature. However, three of the Sample A participants briefly touched on some of the considerations.

4.2.2.4 First responder

- The researcher established that the first responder at a crime scene is the first police officer who is dispatched and arrives first at the scene of crime.
All of the participants from Sample “A” and from Sample “B” understood that the first responder to a crime scene is the first police official to arrive at the scene of crime.

4.2.2.5 The role of the first responder at the crime scene

- The research established that the role of the first responder at the scene of crime is to: cordon off the scene to secure evidence, take care of the injured, contact emergency medical personnel, preserve the scene, obtain witness statements, arrest suspects, note all actions taken at the scene, report to superiors and hand over the scene to the relevant people.
- The viewpoints of the participants from Samples “A” and “B” indicated that they had an understanding of the role of the first responder at the scene of crime and their responses supported the views expressed in the literature.

4.2.2.6 The main mistakes made by first responders at the scene of crime

- The researcher established that there are numerous cases where first responders, while processing the scene, make mistakes that subsequently contribute to the acquittal of the perpetrator. The following mistakes were identified:
 - fellow members, media personnel and medical personnel, among others, inadvertently tampering with the scene and physical evidence and changing the scene from its original condition;
 - poor handling of exhibits;
 - poor collection and packaging of physical evidence;
 - poor record keeping;
 - failing to take proper control of the scene by cordoning it off; and
 - senior officers walking around the scene of crime without permission.
- The participants from both samples listed mistakes that were similar to the common mistakes indicated in the literature.

4.2.2.7 Solutions to the identified mistakes at the scene of crime

- The reviewed literature suggests that training and education are necessary for first responders to enable them to perform their duties effectively. Since a crime scene contains evidence that can help to link suspects with the alleged crime and ensure that a conviction is secured, it is imperative that first responders receive and obtain the relevant training and skills for this purpose.
- Nineteen participants from Sample “A” and two from Sample “B” mentioned that training and education can help to solve the mistakes that are made by first responders at the crime scene. The remaining six participants from Sample A were not able to answer this question. However, one participant from Sample “B” said that increased manpower and consequent management of non-compliance with the CSM directives could help to alleviate the mistakes made at the crime scene.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

As indicated in Chapter 1 of this study, the aim of this research was to evaluate the role of the first responder at a scene of crime. In this research, the recommendations are based on the facts that were uncovered during the research process. Some topics were fully covered, while some areas require further research since the participants did not have much knowledge on these topics. In order to address the shortcomings that were identified in this research, the researcher makes the following recommendations.

4.3.1 Recommendations for Research Question 1: The Objectives of Criminal Investigation

It is recommended that police members, more specifically Vispol members, familiarise themselves with the purpose of investigation.

The purpose of criminal investigation in itself, if understood clearly by members, contributes to the successful execution of the daily duties of police officers. It must be emphasised at every briefing parade and /session that it is the responsibility of all police

officials to attend crime scenes with one purpose in mind: to prevent crime. This is applicable to not only the investigators but also the first responders to the scene of crime.

Concerning Locard's Principle, it is recommended that police officials familiarise themselves with the concept of "contact theory". More training is needed to ensure that members understand that they can inadvertently contaminate a crime scene.

4.3.2 Recommendations for Research Question 2: The Role of the First Responder at a Scene of Crime

To enhance the skills, knowledge and understanding of first responders, further training and intervention are recommended on the following topics to remedy the identified shortcomings:

- The processes that must be followed when crime is reported.
- The basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime.
- The main mistakes that first responders make at the crime scene and how to rectify them.

4.4 CONCLUSION

The actions of the first responder at a scene of crime will always play an important role in criminal investigation and successful prosecution of offenders. This research was aimed at evaluating the role of the first responder at a scene of crime.

The participants, documents and literature identify the role of the first responder at a scene of crime as being to assess and secure the crime scene, take care of the injured, arrest suspects, identify witnesses, preserve the scene, handle evidence according to the prescribed procedure, record any actions taken, report to superiors and give feedback, and hand over the scene to the relevant persons (see: Osterburg & Ward, 2010:97; Palmiotto, 2013:4; Pena, 2000:57; Lee et al., 2007:51; Jackson & Jackson, 2008:22).

The objectives and the purpose of criminal investigation, Locard's Principle and the processes that must be followed when crime is reported need to be clearly distinguished

and understood by first responders since this research revealed that some of the participants lacked intensive knowledge in these areas. Strict measures need to be in place to ensure absolute compliance with official directives regarding the role of the first responder to prevent the main mistakes made by first responders at the crime scene. A lack of command and control by the relevant commanders contribute to non-compliance with these directives. If the recommendations made in this study to address these identified shortcomings can be implemented, this will help to facilitate and enhance the investigation process and subsequent successful prosecution of offenders.

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ANNEXURE A

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIEDIENS



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

Privaatsak/Private Bag X 94

Verwysing/Reference: 3/34/2

Navrae/Enquiries: Maj Gen Gabela
Lt Col Joubert

Telefoon/Telephone: (012) 421 8271
(012) 393 3118

**DIVISION: RESEARCH
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
PRETORIA
0001**

RJ Phago
UNISA

**RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN SAPS: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF
THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE: MASTERS STUDY: UNISA;
RESEARCHER: RJ PHAGO**

1. The above subject matter refers.
2. You are hereby granted approval for your research study on the above mentioned topic in terms of National Instruction 1 of 2006.
3. Further arrangements regarding the research study may be made with the following offices:
 - 3.2 Provincial Commissioner: Gauteng
 - **Contact Person:** Ms Linda Ladzani – 011 274 7529
 - 3.1. Division Commissioner: Forensic Services
 - **Contact Person:** Lt Col HMR Mampane - 012 421 0440
4. Please take note of the conditions stated by the Provincial Commissioner: Gauteng and the Acting Divisional Commissioner: Forensic Services (see letters attached).
5. Kindly adhere to par 6 of our letter attached signed on the **2016/06/20** with same above reference number.


**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER: RESEARCH
DR BM ZULU**

DATE: 2016/09/09

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIEDIENS



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

Private Bag / Privaatsak X 57, BRAAMFONTEIN, 2017

Reference Verwysing	3/34/2(2016000025)
Enquiries	Lt. Col. Peters
Navrae	SAC Linda Ladzani
Telephone Telefoon	(011) 274- 7529
Fax number Faksnommer	(011) 547- 9189

OFFICE OF THE
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
GAUTENG

2016-06-28

- A. The Provincial Head: Legal Service
S A Police Service
GAUTENG
- B. The Deputy Provincial Commissioner: Crime Detection
S A Police Service
GAUTENG
- C. The Deputy Provincial Commissioner: Policing
S A Police Service
GAUTENG
- D. The Provincial Commissioner
S A Police Service
GAUTENG

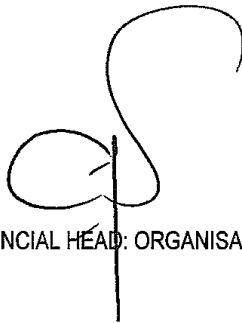
**APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE RESPONDER
AT THE CRIME SCENE: LT. RJ PHAGO**

- A-C: For your recommendation
- D: For approval

- Attached herewith is an application of Lt. RJ Phago to conduct research on the above mentioned topic, within the South African Police Service.
- The application has been evaluated by the Provincial Research Office (Strategic Management) as per attached Annexure and found to be in compliance with National Instruction 1 of 2006: Research.
- In the opinion of the Research Office, the research is intended to assist the South African Police Service, in that it will educate members of the Service the importance of securing and protecting physical evidence at crime scene as first responders.

**APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE RESPONDER
AT THE CRIME SCENE: LT. RJ PHAGO**

4. The researcher will conduct the study without disrupting the duties of members of the Service, prior arrangements must be made with the commander of such a member.
5. The research will be conducted at the researcher's exclusive cost.
6. In line with National Instruction 1 of 2006, you are afforded the opportunity to comment on the relevance and feasibility of the proposed research within your area of responsibility. Any objections against the research will be noted and you will be requested to clarify and motivate those with the Provincial Head: Organisational Development & Strategic Management.
7. In order to ensure the effective and efficient finalisation of this application you are requested to forward your comments back to Strategic Management office within the allocated timeframe.
8. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' shape with a loop at the top and a vertical line extending downwards from the bottom.

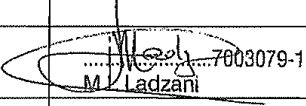
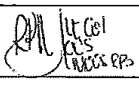
ACT/PROVINCIAL HEAD: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT: GAUTENG
MR HABIB
Date:

COLONEL

ANNEXURE A

**APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE RESPONDER
AT THE CRIME SCENE: LT. RJ PHAGO**

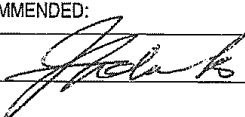
COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: PROVINCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE

i	OFFICIAL FILE NO:	3/34/2(201600025)		
	FILE COMPUTER REFERENCE NO:	7459634		
ii	MOTIVATION FOR RESEARCH:	To evaluate the role of the first responder at the crime scene.		
	APPLICATION FOUND TO BE COMPLETE:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
	INDEMNITY / UNDERTAKING SIGNED	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
iii	APPLICATION PERUSED BY:	SAC ML Ladzani		
	CONTACT NO:	011 274 7529		
	SIGNATURE:	7003079-1 M. Ladzani		
	DATE:	2016.06.28		
iv	APPLICATION VERIFIED BY:	Lt Col RB Mccs		
	APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
	CONTACT NO:	011 547 9131		
	SIGNATURE:	 Lt Col RB Mccs		
	DATE:	2016-06-28		

**APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE RESPONDER
AT THE CRIME SCENE: LT. RJ PHAGO**

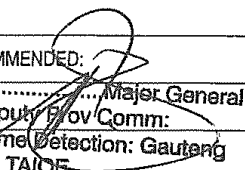
A. RECOMMENDATION BY PROVINCIAL HEAD: LEGAL SERVICE

TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO ANY LEGAL OBJECTIONS AGAINST THE RESEARCH WITH ANY ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS TO RESEARCHER:				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE: 	DATE: 2016/07/01			

B. RECOMMENDATION BY DEPUTY PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: CRIME DETECTION

TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO THE RELEVANCE AND FEASIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH WITHIN YOUR ENVIRONMENT				
Research relevant to the Detective environment and will enhance Crime Scene management.				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE:  Major General Deputy Prov Comm: Crime Detection: Gauteng NO TAIDE	DATE: 2016-07-06			

C. RECOMMENDATION BY DEPUTY PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: CRIME DETECTION

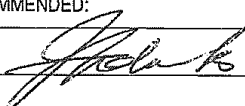
TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO THE RELEVANCE AND FEASIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH WITHIN YOUR ENVIRONMENT				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE:	DATE:			

**APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE RESPONDER
AT THE CRIME SCENE: LT. RJ PHAGO**

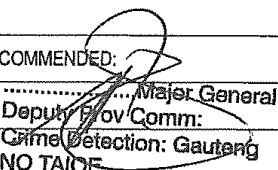
A. RECOMMENDATION BY PROVINCIAL HEAD: LEGAL SERVICE

TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO ANY LEGAL OBJECTIONS AGAINST THE RESEARCH WITH ANY ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS TO RESEARCHER:				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE: 	DATE: 2016/07/01			

B. RECOMMENDATION BY DEPUTY PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: CRIME DETECTION

TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO THE RELEVANCE AND FEASIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH WITHIN YOUR ENVIRONMENT				
Research relevant to the Detective environment and will enhance Crime Scene management.				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE:  Major General Deputy Prov Comm: Crime Detection: Gauteng NO TAIOE	DATE: 2016-07-06			

C. RECOMMENDATION BY DEPUTY PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: CRIME DETECTION

TIME ALLOCATED: 3 days

COMMENTS WITH REGARDS TO THE RELEVANCE AND FEASIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH WITHIN YOUR ENVIRONMENT				
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE:	DATE:			



PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE SAPS

RESEARCH TOPIC: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE SCENE OF CRIME

RESEARCHER: LT. RJ PHAGO

Permission is hereby granted to the researcher above to conduct research in the SAPS based on the conditions of National Instruction 1 of 2006 (as handed to the researcher) and within the limitations as set out below and in the approved research proposal.


This permission must be accompanied with the signed Indemnity, Undertaking & Declaration and presented to the commander present when the researcher is conducting research.

This permission is valid for a period of Twelve (12) months after signing.

Any enquiries with regard to this permission must be directed to Lt. Col. Peters or SAC Linda Ladzani at PetersNS@saps.gov.za / Ladzanim@saps.org.za.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS / BOUNDARIES:

Research Instruments:	Interviews (Structured) Literature review Source Documents
Target audience / subjects:	Detectives Visible Policing members
Geographical target:	Ekhuruleni North Cluster Ivory Park SAPS
Access to official documents:	Yes National Instruction / Standard Operating procedures / Learning –Training Manuals / Circulars and Standing Orders and any other official directives


LT. GENERAL
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: GAUTENG
DS DE LANGE
Date: 11 III 2016



Privaatsak/Private Bag X 94

Verwysing/Reference: 3/34/2

Navrae/Enquiries: Maj Gen Gabela
Lt Col JoubertTelefoon/Telephone: (012) 421 8271
(012) 393 3118DIVISION: RESEARCH
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
PRETORIA
0001

- A. The Provincial Commissioner
GAUTENG
- B. The Divisional Commissioner
FORENSIC SERVICES

**PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN SAPS: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF
THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE: MASTERS STUDY: UNISA;
RESEARCHER: RJ PHAGO**

- A-B 1. The above subject matter refers.
2. The researcher, Lt RJ Phago, is conducting research study which is aiming at at evaluating the role of the first responder at the crime scene. By conducting the study, the researcher wants to stress the value of protecting physical evidence at crime scenes.
3. The researcher is hereby requesting permission to interview with eight police officials at Ivory Park Police Station.
4. The proposal was perused according to National Instruction 1 of 2006. This office recommends that permission be granted for the research study, subject to the final approval and further arrangements by the office of the Provincial Commissioner: Gauteng.
5. The research will be directed by this office also to interview the experts on Crime Scene Management which are resorting in Head Office: Division Forensic Services in order for the researcher to obtain the SAPS National perspective on Crime Scene Management.

**PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN SAPS: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF
THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE: MASTERS STUDY: UNISA;
RESEARCHER: RJ PHAGO**

6. We hereby request the final approval by your office if you concur with our recommendation. Your office is also liberty to set terms and conditions to the researcher to ensure that compliance standards are adhered to during the research process and that research has impact to the organisation.
7. If approval granted by your office, this office will obtain a signed undertaking from researcher prior to the commencement of the research which will include your terms and conditions if there are any and the following:
 - 7.1. The research must be conducted at his/her exclusive cost.
 - 7.2 The researcher must conduct the research without the disruption of the duties of members of the Service and where it is necessary for the research goals, research procedures or research instruments to disrupt the duties of a member, prior arrangements must be made with the commander of such member.
 - 7.3 The researcher should bear in mind that participation in the interviews must be on a voluntary basis.
 - 7.4 The information must at all times be treated as strictly confidential.
 - 7.5 The researcher must provide an annotated copy of the research work to the Service.
8. If approval granted by your office, for smooth coordination of research process between your office and the researcher, the following information is kindly requested to be forwarded to our office:
 - **Contact person:** Rank, Initial and Surname.
 - **Contact details:** Office telephone number and email address.
9. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.


**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER: RESEARCH
DR BM ZULU**

DATE: 20/06/20



Private Bag X322 Fax No:

012 421-0410

Your reference: 3/34/2

THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER

My reference:

FORENSIC SERVICES

Enquiries Lt Col HMR Mampane

PRETORIA

0001

Tel: (012) 421-0440

The Head

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE: MASTERS STUDY: UNISA: RESEARCHER RJ PHAGO

1. Your communiqué with reference 3/34/2 dated 24 June 2016 bears reference.
2. The request and proposal for research had been studied and this office recommends that it be approved.

Kind Regards

**MAJOR GENERAL
ACTING DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER: FORENSIC SERVICES
NM MANAMELA**

DATE: 2016-06-29

ANNEXURE “B”

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR SAMPLE “A” AND “B”: VISIBLE POLICING MEMBERS AND DETECTIVE BRANCH COMMANDERS

TOPIC: AN EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

AIM: TO DETERMINE THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- What are the objectives of criminal investigation?
- What is the role of the first responder at the crime scene?

You are kindly requested to answer the following questions in this interview schedule for the researcher. The questions, responses and the results will be revealed.

Privacy will be maintained throughout the study. The researcher will ensure that participants are treated equally regardless of their socio-economic status. The information given will be treated with confidentiality and no other person will have access to interview data. The participants to the research will remain anonymous. The information you provide will be used only in a research project for a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice degree registered with the Programme Group: Police Practice at the University of South Africa. The analysed and processed data will be published in a research report.

Your answers will be noted by the interviewer herself, on paper and by dictaphone. Should any question be unclear, please ask the researcher for clarification. Only one answer per question is required. When answering the questions, it is very important to give your own opinion.

Written permission has been obtained from the South African Police Service in advance, for the interview to be conducted.

PARTICIPANT

I hereby give permission to be interviewed and that information supplied by me can be used in this research.

YES / NO

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

A1. For how long have you been a visible policing member?

10 years	10years and above	Other	
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A2. Did you undergo any training with regards to the following fields?

First responder to crime scene

Yes	No
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Crime scene management

Yes	No
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SECTION B: THE OBJECTIVES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

- B1. What is the meaning of criminal investigation?
- B2. What are the objectives of criminal investigation?
- B3. What is the purpose of criminal investigation?
- B4. What is the meaning of the crime scene?
- B5. What is the purpose of visiting a scene of crime?
- B6. Explain the meaning of Locard's Principle.
- B7. Explain the meaning of identification.

SECTION C: THE ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDER AT THE CRIME SCENE

- C1. What are the processes that must be followed when a crime is reported?
- C2. What is the meaning of "preliminary investigation"?
- C3. What are the basic considerations in the preliminary investigation of a crime?
- C4. Based on your experience, what is the meaning of "first responder".
- C5. According to your experience, what is the role of the first responder at the crime scene?
- C6. According to your experience, what are the main mistakes made by first responders at the crime scene?
- C7. What can be done to solve each of the above identified mistakes?