

## **CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION – HUMPHRIES INTERVIEW**

*Instructor: Charlotte Brazier*

The act of processing a crime scene is essentially destroying the crime scene. Therefore, documentation is extremely important. And photography is part of documentation. We want to make sure that we get a shot of the scene from a far distance, a landmark point that we can orient ourselves.

Then we move further into the scene. Once we reach it, we want to get an overall shot. Then we move closer and get a mid-range shot so we can see the distribution of all of the evidence in the scene.

Then we move in even closer, and we get close-up shots of each piece of evidence. Once we move in and we're doing our close-up photos of the evidence, we want to make sure that we're using a scale to determine size of the object. We also may want to consider using our flash in a different position. For example, the footprint impression evidence-- in order to bring out the detail in that footprint, we want to use the flash as side lighting.

When you're working on a crime scene, you never know what kinds of conditions you're going to be working in. Sometimes the sunlight will be to your advantage. Sometimes it won't, and you'll be casted in a little bit of shade and then really bright light. So you may have to utilize a shade to block out some of that lighting. You can also use your flash to kind of help balance out the shade versus the bright light.

As we take our photographs, we want to make sure that we're also documenting the number of the photo on our photo log sheet, as well as a description of what we were photographing. All of this together allows us to reconstruct the scene at a later point in time. This, coupled with the total station, really paints the picture of what was there and what happens.