

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of *Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation, 6th edition*

REFERENCE: Fisher BAJ. *Techniques of crime scene investigation*, 6th ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL 2000, 552 pp. \$79.95.

Changes from previous editions of this book are minimal and include brief treatments of data bases such as AFIS, CODIS, IBIS, and DRUG FIRE, a list of important factors relative to providing expert testimony, a reasonable explanation of DNA testing processes, and a short section on the need for professional ethics. In the preface the author listed the O. J. Simpson case as a new topic, but only made reference to that case in the context of the impact of the investigation without any explanation.

The strength of the book is the sound direction provided for the identification, collection, documentation, and processing of physi-

cal evidence. There is some redundancy from chapter to chapter. On page 53 the author cautions the reader that only the officer in charge of a crime scene or a supervisor should give permission to divulge crime scene information to the press. A caveat of first checking with the local prosecuting attorney before making such decisions would have been a stronger guideline.

The book is an excellent guideline for police officers who might be assigned as first officer at a crime scene. It is also a useful guideline for those who regularly investigate crime as a source of what to search for and what can be found based on the type of crime encountered. The author took great pains to explain the meaning and usefulness of a broad spectrum of trace evidence. From time to time Mr. Fisher uses actual cases that provide useful examples of what to do and what not to do at a crime scene. Overall, this text is a comprehensive treatment of the subject of crime scene techniques, but not particularly different from several criminal investigative texts on the market.

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