



The Case of the Cyanide Cocktail

The scene at Dr. Thomas Fischer's apartment is a grisly one. Dr. Fischer is dead, apparently from ingestion of potassium cyanide poison. His body has already been removed by the coroner. The police suspect that he may have committed suicide, but they are not sure at this time.

You and the other forensic specialists on your team have been assigned to examine the crime scene. You should look for physical evidence, document everything you find by taking notes and making a crime scene map, and carefully package and label any evidence taken. You will then transport the evidence to your lab and analyze it along with samples taken from possible suspects. Please refer to the "Guide to Crime Scene Analysis" for specific procedures.

You will be responsible for documenting and gathering the following types of evidence from the crime scene:

- Fibers and/or hair
- Bloodstains
- Miscellaneous trace evidence (pieces of paper, items the thieves may have dropped, etc.)

When you arrive at the crime scene, you are told by the officer in charge of the crime scene that the police have tried to keep the area as undisturbed as possible. They inform you that the fingerprint team has already dusted the area and lifted prints.

Finding and analyzing the physical evidence from this crime scene is up to you. The police want information from the physical evidence as soon as possible to answer, to the best of your knowledge, the following questions:

- 1.) Does the physical evidence support the theory that Dr. Fischer committed suicide, or might this have been a murder?

2.) Is there any evidence that someone other than Dr. Fischer was in his apartment recently?

3.) If there was someone else present in Dr. Fischer's apartment, is there any physical evidence that would help to narrow the search for possible suspects?

Provide a detailed written answer for each of these questions. The police or district attorneys may have additional questions for you later.

Make sure that when you enter the crime scene, you are wearing adequate protection to prevent contaminating any evidence (gloves, booties, lab coats, hair coverings). Make sure everyone on your investigative team knows her/his role:

team leader

photographer and photographic log recorder

sketch/map artists

evidence recovery and evidence recording team