5-04/010.10 - Preservation of Evidence

Deputy personnel assigned to the scene of a crime or incident, other than cases assignable to Homicide Bureau, shall make a search of the area to collect any possible physical evidence (On homicide assignments, follow instructions under section 5-04/010.30 - Requesting Evidence Specialists).

Caution should be used to prevent disturbing or damaging areas not readily visible which might contain evidence such as fingerprints, shoeprints, stains, fibers, etc.

Deputy personnel shall protect, safeguard, and isolate any physical evidence to prevent contamination or alteration. They shall keep persons not connected with the investigation away from the area containing evidence pending completion of the investigation.

Prior to handling any explosive substance, advice shall be obtained from Homeland Security Division, Emergency Operations Bureau, Arson/Explosives Detail. Fixed ammunition for small arms is not to be included as an explosive substance.