



OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need:

Keyword(s):

Submitting subcommittee(s): **Date Approved:**

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background Information:

1. Description of research need:

To develop guidelines for ensuring the appropriate minimum staff response to a crime scene, empirical data is required to understand how the size and complexity of a particular scene impacts processing capability. Historically crime scenes are under staffed and the staff working crime scenes are required to work too long and do too many tasks without regard to working conditions, stress, and fatigue quality. Too few personnel assigned too many tasks at crime scenes can lead to errors and poor quality control. Data required to develop a minimum staff response plan include scene complexities, human factors (fatigue, stress, safety, quality assurance), potential financial impacts, and risk mitigation.

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

No specific research currently available.

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

Research in this area would help to identify the appropriate minimum number of personnel needed to adequately work the crime scene and meet public expectations regarding crime scene response. Adequate personnel at a scene would provide better quality control of scene work, and less stress, fatigue, and burn out of personnel.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

Research would highlight past issues that resulted from inadequate crime scene staffing and provide a basis for future minimum crime scene staffing guidelines.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

This research would help the criminal justice system through increased efficacy of crime scene processing.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.

Approvals:

Subcommittee Approval date:

(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need? Yes No

2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment? Yes No

If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:

Approval date:

(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)