

[HOME](#) [FEATURED](#) [FUGITIVE FILES](#) [TOP 10](#) [CAPTURED](#) [MURDER MYSTERY](#) [MISSING](#) [AWARDS](#) [ABOUT](#) [Q13 FOX](#)[Home](#) > [Community](#) > [Murdermystery](#)

Photogrammetry aids officers in capturing images from the scene

[Comments](#) 0 [Share](#) 0 [+1](#) 0 [Tweet](#) 0 [Recommend](#)



A look at photogrammetry
Washington's Most Wanted

Parella Lewis
Washington's Most Wanted
4:54 p.m. PST, February 24, 2012

SEATTLE—

Washington State Patrol (WSP) has plenty of equipment to help investigate traffic accidents, but one of its newest tools is actually more than a century old.

Greg Wilcoxin is one of about 40 full-time collision investigators across the state.

[Sign up for Q13 FOX News Daily](#)

"Photogrammetry is the process of taking reliable measurements from two-dimensional photographs, merging them together and producing a 3-D diagram," he said.

Investigators shoot pictures of the scene using these markers and a specially calibrated camera while shooting the photos from specific angles. Because it takes a lot of work and care at the scene, the technique is only used about 10 percent of the time and is usually reserved for when someone is killed or seriously injured.

Sgt. Jerry Cooper said there is another reason photogrammetry is used.

"If we're in a metropolitan area where the traffic is being backed up and they need the roadway open quick, we're able to take photographs."

The pictures are loaded into "photo modeler" software that enables investigators to precisely reconstruct a crash site to scale.

Using Photogrammetry requires about 30 minutes in the field, but hours back at the office putting the information into useable form. Due to this lengthy process, it isn't always the first option, but it is a highly effective one.

WSP has been using this tool for about 10 years and said that it can also be used in crime scenes or anywhere a camera can be used.

Copyright © 2012, KCPQ-TV