

- P -

pack - the set of tumblers in a lever tumbler or combination lock.
[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

padding question - in polygraphy, a question inserted at the beginning and end of probing peak of tension test and are not relevant to the issue being evaluated.

padlock - a detachable and portable lock with a shackle which locks into its case.
[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

paid informant - one who views his cooperation with the police as a strict business arrangement.

palm geometry reader - an access control device that optically scans the geometry of the hand.

palmar print - an impression made by the under surface of the hand. The impression results from the transfer to a surface of bodily oils through the skin on the ridges of the palm.

palming - the practice of holding in the palm of the hand a small item just prior to concealment. A shoplifter with a palmed item will frequently hold coupons or money in the same hand, reach into a purse or pocket and drop the palmed item inside.

pamphlet bomb - an explosive device designed to scatter leaflets or pamphlets over crowds of people.

pan/tilt - a motor device that allows a camera to move on two axes.

panel of judges - a group of three or more judicial officers of a court, who jointly hear and decide a case.

panic alarm - a sensor or other device which reports a panic or emergency situation. In commercial applications, a panic alarm is usually called a hold-up alarm.

panic hardware - an exterior door-locking mechanism operable from inside the building by pressure on a crash bar or lever.

panic reaction - the most common of the adverse psychological reactions to drug use. Characterized by overwhelming fear, intense anxiety, and possibly immobilization, this reaction accounts for many of the cases that come to the attention of psychiatric personnel. It may be triggered by any drug or may occur seemingly spontaneously at a later time without drug use.

panoramic display - in security communications, a device that displays all signals present in a given frequency band as vertical pulses on a horizontal trace.

paper-and-pencil honesty testing

paper examination - a crime lab examination of the torn edges of paper for the purpose of matching it with the paper from which it was torn. A paper examination can also determine if a watermark is present, and if the paper bears indented writing impressions. Indentations not visible to the eye can be brought up using appropriate instruments. Some watermarks provide dating information, indicating the date of manufacture of the paper.

parabolic microphone - a microphone with a large disk-like attachment used for listening to audio from great distances.

paracentric key lock - a type of key lock having a spring-loaded core. When engaged, the core is in the retracted position. When not engaged, the core is in the extended position. This type of lock is commonly installed in file cabinets.

paraffin test - a test that identifies the presence of gunpowder residue on the hands of a person suspected of having fired a gun. The suspect's hands are coated with melted paraffin that is allowed to cool and set. The paraffin is removed and diphenylamine is applied to that portion of the paraffin that was in contact with the skin. An examiner evaluates the resulting color reaction. This test is not considered reliable. Also called the **diphenylamine test**.

parajudge - a person who performs limited and basic functions of the judicial process such as setting bail and hearing certain kinds of cases. A parajudge might specialize in a particular type of proceeding such as probate, juvenile matters, traffic, or domestic relations.

parallel tap - a wiretap in which a miniature transmitter and a microphone are wired into and draw power from the telephone line.

paranoia - a condition characterized by ideas of reference, suspicious thinking, and high levels of anger. In the most extreme forms, paranoia appears as delusions of persecution and/or grandeur. A paranoid personality is characterized by unreasonably lofty ambitions, extreme suspicion of others, and a fixed and inflexible conceit. In severe instances it may be considered a sign of psychosis.

paranoid schizophrenia - a mental disorder characterized by delusions and hallucinations in which the sufferer believes he is the victim of persecution and plotting by imagined enemies.

paraphernalia - the assorted equipment and materials used to store or administer illicit drugs, or to make the drug high more intense. Drug paraphernalia comes in all sizes, shapes, colors, and materials.

paraprofessional forger - a criminal who possesses a working knowledge of the systems used by banks in processing checks and who uses planning, guile, and advance preparation to carry out the crime. A paraprofessional forger typically

manufactures his or her own checks, establishes a cover business, and is able to present apparently credible identification.

parasite tap - any type of wiretap device that draws its power from the telephone line.

pardon - an executive act absolving a person from consequences of a crime and conviction.

Paris Convention - the primary treaty for the protection of trademarks, patents, service marks, trade names, utility models, and industrial designs.

Parkinson's Law - a concept which holds that work expands to fill the available time.

parol evidence rule - a rule which states that a written instrument or contract cannot be modified by an oral agreement. The rule is based on the concept that written contracts should contain all of the facts and agreements between parties and, therefore, should not be allowed to be altered orally at some future date.

parole - a release on certain conditions of a prisoner serving a sentence prior to the expiration of the sentence.

parole revocation - the administrative action of a paroling authority removing a person from parole status in response to a violation of lawfully required conditions of parole including the prohibition against commission of a new offense, and usually resulting in a return to prison.

parole supervision - guidance, treatment, or regulation of the behavior of a convicted adult who is obliged to fulfill conditions of parole or other conditional release, authorized and required by statute, performed by a parole agency, and occurring after a period of prison confinement.

parole suspended - the withdrawal by a paroling authority or parole agent of a person's effective parole status, usually accompanied by a return to confinement, pending a determination of whether parole should be revoked, or pending resolution of some problem that may require a temporary return to confinement.

particulars - the details of a claim or the separate items of an account. When stated in a proper form for the information of a defendant, such details are called a bill of particulars.

parties to crime - persons culpably concerned in the commission of a crime, whether they directly commit the act constituting the offense, or facilitate, solicit, encourage, aid or attempt to aid, or abet its commission.

partnership - legal relationship created by the voluntary association of two or more persons to carry on as co-owners of a business for profit; a type of business

organization in which two or more persons agree on the amount of their contributions (capital and effort) and on the distribution of profits, if any.

party-dominated process - an aspect of the adversary system that gives to the judge the passive role of umpire and allows the prosecution and defense to be the major forces in a trial.

passive acoustic monitoring - the use of microphones and ancillary equipment to provide surveillance by monitoring sounds.

passive bridge - a method of communicating between a subscriber and a central station that uses regenerating circuitry to process and amplify signals.

passive fence - a receiver of stolen goods who customarily accepts everything that is offered and who does not specify to the sellers any preference for particular goods.

passive filter - a noise suppressor or attenuator which covers that band of frequencies to which the filter is tuned.

passive imaging - forming a visual picture or image on a screen of a low light content without the aid of illumination.

passive infrared sensor - a sensor designed to detect rapid thermal (heat) changes. Passive sensors only receive and do not transmit energy.

passive inhalation - inadvertent exposure to smoke from burning marijuana or other cannabis substances. Passive inhalation is frequently claimed as the basis for a positive urine test. Clinical studies have shown it is possible (although unlikely) that a nonsmoking individual could inhale sufficient smoke to produce a positive urine drug test.

passive microwave reflector - a metallic planar reflector that extends microwave span sensor coverage to areas having tight spaces or uneven terrain. It is also used for joining adjacent microwave sectors.

password aging - the practice of tracking the length of time a password has been in effect and informing the user to change the password at minimum intervals.

password authenticator - a pocket-sized unit which contains a pre-filed user number and a cryptographic algorithm for calculating a required reply number. In use, a computer network user logs on from a local terminal, utilizing the system's logon routine. At that point an authentication server attached to the host computer displays a challenge number. The user enters the challenge number into the password authenticator which generates a reply number through the terminal. If the reply number is accepted, access is granted.

password protected document - a document in computer memory which cannot be edited, printed, filed, or retrieved without the correct password.

password shadowing - a security feature that replaces an encrypted password with a special token. The encrypted password is stored in a separate file which is not readable by normal system users. Hackers will attempt to defeat password shadowing by writing and executing a program that uses successive calls to obtain the password file. This attempt is called **unshadowing**.

pasted counterfeit - a small denomination bill that has been raised to a higher denomination bill by first thinning the original corners on one side and then pasting on new corners of a higher denomination. The new corners have usually been torn one or two at a time from other bills that are redeemed at full value.

patent - a grant issued by a national government conferring the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention within that country. Patents may be given for new products or processes. Violations of patent rights are known as **infringement** or **piracy**.

pathology - the science or doctrine of diseases; that part of medicine which explains the nature, causes and symptoms of diseases and forensic pathology is a specialty concerned with the examination of unnatural deaths.

patricide - the killing of one's mother, father, or other close relative.

patrol

patrol-oriented investigative unit - a unit in a police agency in which nearly all criminal investigations are carried out by patrol officers, with detectives serving primarily as technical advisors. In this organizational concept, the patrol unit dispatched to an incident conducts all or nearly all response and investigative activities required to bring the incident to its appropriate conclusion.

patrol saturation - an aggressive police patrolling technique, often applied to high-crime areas. The number of patrols are increased and the patrol officers conduct field inquiries and stop-and-frisk tactics where indicated. The objective is to identify offenders, confiscate weapons and stolen property, and generally create difficulties for criminal opportunists.

pattern locator - a visual indicator on a volumetric-type sensor which denotes the boundaries of the sensor's protection pattern

pattern of drug use - a sequence of drug-using behavior by an individual or a group; the kind and amount of drug taken as well as the set and setting of drug-taking behavior over a period of time. Experts have identified five general patterns differentiated by degree: experimental use, social-recreational use, circumstantial-situational use, intensified use, and compulsive use.

pattern offender - a criminal who commits the same type of crime repeatedly and in a particular pattern.

pawn shop - a place of business which offers loans to individuals using their personal property as **collateral**.

pawn shop detail - a team of law enforcement officers assigned to periodically visit pawn shops in search of reported stolen property.

pay and switch - theft by deception technique in which the thief purchases an item, switches the tag with a tag from a similar but more expensive item, and returns the item to the store to exchange it for the higher priced item of a different size or color.

payback analysis - a method for determining the amount of time required for a projected investment or expenditure to begin to show a positive result. The method is often applied in deciding the merits of a project having a predictable duration.

payroll burden - a payroll cost, usually expressed as a percentage, which covers the cost of paid vacations, holidays, excused absences and disability benefits.

PBX - Private Branch Exchange. The telephone network used by an organization to allow a single access number to offer multiple lines to outside callers and to allow internal staff to share a range of external lines.

[ASIS GDL TASR 04 2008]

peak of tension test - in polygraphy, a test that elicits in a guilty subject an emotional response to one specific question related to the crime. All other questions in the test are irrelevant or neutral. The tension in a guilty subject will build as the irrelevant questions are asked, and then peak on the relevant question.

peculation - embezzlement, or any wrongful act or illegal appropriation of money or property assigned to one's care.

pecuniary -

pecuniary offense - a minor infraction of the law, such as a parking ticket.

pen and ink register - a small denomination bill that has been raised to a higher denomination bill by removing the original denomination markings.

pen register - a device that records the telephone numbers to which calls have been placed from a particular telephone. A pen register captures only electronic switching signals and not the contents of transmissions. See also **trap** and **trace**.

penal bond - a bond given by an accused, or by another person in his behalf, for the payment of money if the accused fails to appear in court on a certain day.

penal code - the criminal code of a jurisdiction. It defines criminal conduct and defenses thereto, and determines the punishments to be imposed.

penal sanction - the punishment authorized by law for committing a specific crime within a jurisdiction.

pendant sprinkler head - a fire sprinkler head suspended vertically from piping that runs close to and parallel with a ceiling. The piping is frequently concealed above a false ceiling with the pendant protruding through the ceiling.

penetrating gunshot wound - a wound caused when the bullet enters the body of an organ and does not exit.

penitentiary - a prison originally intended to keep the inmates in isolation both from society and one another, so that they could meditate on their evil past and be penitent. In current usage, the term is synonymous with **prison**.

penology - the scientific study of corrections, including the justifications, rationalizations, theories, and aims of punishments, types of punishments, and their effectiveness.

pepper spray - a non-lethal chemical spray derived from chili-type peppers, used in riot control, crowd control and personal self-defense. The chemical compound irritates the eyes, causing tears, pain and sometimes temporary blindness. Also called **oleoresin capsicum (OC)**.

percussion bomb - an exploding device that detonates upon impact or when struck.

preemptory challenge - a request that a person not be allowed to serve on a jury. It does not require that a reason be given. See also challenge.

peremptory day - a day assigned for trial or hearing in court without further opportunity for postponement.

perforating gunshot wound - a wound caused when the bullet passes completely through the body, leaving both entrance and exit perforations.

performance appraisal - the ongoing process of setting objectives and assessing individual and collective behavior and achievements during a finite period of time. It is primarily about counseling and feedback on ways to improve performance at an individual and team level, and the quality of work relationships. Performance improvement results from people being clear about priorities and objectives, what skills need to be enhanced, and which types of behavior can help to this end. This comes from open, positive, and constructive discussion between supervisors, individuals, and teams, and agreement on how to focus on doing the job better. In the appraisal process, a manager evaluates, coaches, counsels, and develops subordinates on a continuing basis throughout the reporting period, usually one year.

performance bond - guarantees completion of an endeavor in accordance with a contract.

performance criteria - standards for determining effectiveness or efficiency. They frequently describe steps or products in the work process, and are so stated that workers know at any point what they have achieved, what remains to be achieved, and how their performance will be evaluated.

performance test - a test that evaluates a job incumbent or applicant by requiring the performance of actual or simulated work activities. The test measures performance as opposed to other factors such as aptitude or knowledge.

perimeter - an outer limit, or boundary that protects another area.

perimeter alarm system - an alarm system used on the outermost boundary of a protected area. The perimeter can consist of a wall, fencing, or open space. Typical perimeter alarm systems incorporate magnetic contact switches, foil, alarm screens, fence sensors, pressure alarms, and video detectors.

perimeter barrier - a physical barrier used on the outside of a protected area to prevent, deter, or delay unauthorized entry.

perimeter protection - the safeguarding of a boundary or limit.
[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

periodic imprisonment - a form of incarceration which allows a prisoner freedom except for certain periods, e.g., weekends.

periodic testing - testing of an employee at periodic intervals of employment for the purpose of evaluating such issues as the employee's honesty, use of drugs, and other matters of concern to the employer. Periodic testing can be done through the use of the polygraph instrument, as well as other evaluative techniques, such as the so-called pen and paper honesty tests and urinalysis for identifying drug use.

peripheral device - a computer component, distinct from a central processing unit and physical memory, that can provide a computer system with input or accept output from it. Terminals, line printers, and disks are peripheral devices.

peripheral nervous system - that portion of the human body's nervous system lying outside the central nervous system. The physiological reactions recorded by the polygraph instrument originate in the peripheral nervous system.

perjurer - one who knowingly makes, under oath, a false statement about an issue before a court, legislature, grand jury, or an executive branch of government.

perpetrator(s) - the individual or individuals that committed the compromise incident.
[ASIS TPIL 2007]

persian white - a fentanyl analog mixed with a pure white dilutant such as lactose or powdered sugar. Fentanyl produces effects similar to morphine but is about 100 times as potent. It is favored over heroin by many addicts.

persistence display - a CRT (cathode ray terminal) that retains or stores an image after the electrical input signal is gone.

personal alarm

personal (duress) alarm

personal distance - the distance that is considered appropriate spacing for close friends and for conversations that concern personal matters. It is a principle of importance in interviewing and interrogating.

personal identification number (PIN) - a number entered into and recognized by an automatic teller machine (ATM) or similar device when making a transaction.

personal protective services - measures that increase the personal protection of a dignitary or important person who may be the target of a criminal or terrorist act.

personal recognition - a system of controlling the movement of individuals through controlled entrances through face recognition.

personal recognizance bond - allows a person to be released from jail pending trial without being under bond. It is based on the promise of the individual to appear as demanded.

personal security specialist - an individual, trained to protect another, such as a dignitary, celebrity, business executive, etc. See also **personal protection specialist**. Also referred to as "bodyguard" but this term is less accepted.

personality disorder - a sociopathic or psychopathic disorder characterized by a marked lack of ethical or moral responsibility and an inability to follow socially approved codes of behavior. A person having a personality disorder knows right from wrong and is in touch with reality, but lacks any feelings of shame or remorse regarding his wrongful actions.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) - see **identifying information**.

personnel investigation - an investigation to determine the character, background, and suitability of a person being considered for a position of trust.

personnel reliability program (PRP) - administered by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). This program that seeks to enhance the selection, screening and continuous evaluation of persons assigned to various nuclear-related duties.

personnel security investigation (PSI) - an investigation required for the purpose of determining the eligibility of U.S. Department of Defense military and civilian personnel, contractor employees, consultants, and others, for access to classified information, acceptance or retention in the U.S. Armed Forces, assignment or retention in sensitive duties, or other designated duties requiring such investigation. A

PSI includes investigations of affiliations with subversive organizations and suitability information.

perspective drawing - the representation of an object on a plane surface as it appears to the eye. Because of its pictorial effect, a perspective drawing is sometimes used to clarify, at trial, the details of a crime or crime scene.

perspective grid photography - a technique for obtaining accurate measurements of a scene. Exact measurements are made of any rectangular object that will appear in the picture, or a template whose exact dimensions are known is placed in the field of view. Distances between objects that appear in the photograph can be calculated. The technique can also use discs instead of templates, and for small object photography coins can be used to establish scale.

petechia - tiny reddish or purplish flat spots appearing on the skin as the result of hemorrhages within the skin or subcutaneous layers.

petechial eye hemorrhages - are tiny bleeding areas in the eyeball which correlate with traumatic asphyxia or choking.

Peter Principle - a principle which holds that in a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence. Corollaries of the principle hold that in time every position tends to be occupied by an employee who is incompetent to carry out its duties, and that productive work is accomplished by those employees who have not yet reached their levels of incompetence.

petit mal seizure - a relatively mild epileptic attack in which the affected person, frequently a child, loses consciousness only momentarily. Often the only outward signs are twitching of the eyes and mouth and a brief lapse of attention

petition - a formal request to an executive or judicial officer to perform some act within his power or authority, as to pardon, commute, reprieve, or adjudicate as delinquent.

PETN. A type of booster explosive.

phantom signal - an unexplained alarm signal.

pharmaceutical examination - an examination that matches recovered pharmaceutical products with stolen pharmaceutical products, or for proving that pharmaceuticals were switched.

pharmacokinetics - the study of the action of drugs in the body, including the method and rate of absorption and excretion, the duration of effect, and other factors.

pharmacology - the study of the preparation, properties, uses, and effects of drugs.

pharmacopoeia - a book containing a list of drugs used in medicine and including their preparation, formula, doses, and standards of purity.

Phase 1 Fire - the early (incipient) stage of fire which may last for several minutes or several days. Thermal decomposition in this stage produces airborne particles susceptible to detection. A fire is most controllable in Phase 1.

Phase 2 Fire - is the middle (visible flame) stage of fire which signals that human life is in danger.

Phase 3 Fire - is the concluding (high heat) stage of fire in which combustibles burst into flame, superheated gases are generated, oxygen is rapidly depleted, and the fire spreads quickly.

phenolphthalein test - a test that identifies the presence of blood in a suspect stain. A positive reaction is the formation of a rose pink color when phenolphthalein is applied to the stain. This test is merely indicative (not conclusive) of blood which may or may not be of human origin.

phonetic alphabet - an alphabet in which words signify letters, for example, Adam for A, Boy for B, and so forth. Several phonetic alphabets are in use.

photocopy identification - crime lab examination of a photocopy for the purpose of matching it with the machine that produced it. Two sets of questioned photocopies can be identified as having been produced on the same machine, and possible brands or manufacturers can be determined by comparison with a reference file.

photoelectric alarm - a system that uses a light beam transmitted from a light source to a receiving cell. Any object or person passing through the beam sets off the alarm.

photoelectric fuse - a fuse sensitive to minute variations in light. The fuse functions when an influence from the target is exerted on a sensitive detecting device within the fuse itself.

photoelectric intoximeter - a breath testing device used to determine alcohol concentrations in the blood of drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol.

photoelectric-beam smoke detector - a detector that senses smoke particles using light scatter-sensing circuitry. The detector contains a sensing chamber which houses a light source and a photoelectric receiving cell. The cell is mounted so that it cannot receive light from the light source when the chamber is free of smoke particles. When particles enter the chamber they scatter light and cause the receiver to detect a change, resulting in an alarm.

photogrammetry - the process of determining measurements from photographs. Its application to security work is in recording incident scenes. It requires the use of two

cameras to produce photographs from slightly different but known vantage points. Precise measurements can be made from an analysis of the photographs.

photographic analyses - crime lab examinations using infrared, ultraviolet, and monochromatic photography. The techniques render visible, latent photographic evidence that would not be otherwise visible to the unaided human eye.

photographic lineup - a form of lineup in which an eyewitness is asked to identify a suspect from a group of photographs depicting persons of the same general description. The rules for conducting a photographic lineup are generally the same as for a live lineup, i.e., that the witness is not led by the police in anyway to select the suspect's photograph from among photographs presented for examination. A photographic lineup is not the examination of a mug shot book or similar file containing photographs of known criminals.

photovoltaic power source - an array of solar power cells used as an electric generator and battery charge controller.

physical anthropology - the examination of skeletal remains. The forensic physical anthropologist will apply anthropological measuring techniques to the examination of bones uncovered in the course of investigating unexplained deaths.

physical barrier - a barrier, either natural or structural, that provides protection to an area. For example, a natural barrier would be a river and a structural barrier would be a fence.

physical dependence - a physiological state of adaptation to a drug normally following the development of tolerance, and resulting in a characteristic withdrawal syndrome peculiar to the drug following abstinence.

physical security - that part of security concerned with physical measures designed to safeguard people; to prevent unauthorized access to equipment, facilities, material, and documents; and to safeguard them against a **security incident**.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

physical security inspection - an on-site evaluation of a facility or part of a facility, conducted to identify security weaknesses and to recommend corrective actions.

physical security measure - a device, system, or practice of a tangible nature designed to protect people and prevent damage to, loss of, or unauthorized access to **assets**.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

Physical Security Professional (PSP) - the PSP is a specialty certification in physical security. The credential allows individuals to demonstrate their expertise in designing, installing, operating, and maintaining integrated security systems. Those who have earned the PSP are board certified in physical security. As

documented evidence of expertise, the PSP confirms an in-depth knowledge of managing physical security programs through the use of security forces, equipment, systems, and procedures. The designation officially recognizes those skilled in identifying vulnerabilities, conducting threat assessments, and performing risk analysis.

[ASIS PCS-AH 2009]

Physicians Desk Reference - a book containing pictures and descriptions of commercial drug products. It can be helpful when making visual (i.e., preliminary and tentative) examinations of suspected controlled substances.

physiological dependence - a physical craving of the body for a drug. If the drug is withdrawn, the body will react with predictable symptoms. The nature and severity of the symptoms depend on the drug and the dosage level attained.

physiological tolerance - a decrease in the response to a drug dose caused by a change in the brain's receptor cells and related cells.

pick destructive - a term relating to any lock picking technique which results in damage to the lock.

pick detectable - relates to a lock picking technique which leaves traces of the picking.

pick gun - a tool used by auto thieves to defeat car door and ignition locks. The handle and trigger are similar to those on a caulking gun. The barrel consists of a lock pick that moves up and down upon activation of the trigger.

pictometry - aerial photography

pieced note - counterfeit created by piecing together a different section cut from each of a number of genuine bills of the same type of denomination.

piezoelectric detector - a detector that contains a piezoelectric element designed to respond to a specific frequency or frequency range; a detector that converts mechanical vibrations into electrical signals. A piezoelectric detector can sense noise associated with breaking glass.

pigeon drop - a scheme committed by a team of con artists in which a wallet or purse containing money is placed so as to be found in the presence of the mark (intended victim) and one of the con artists. The mark is induced to agree to share the found money but to first place it and a sum of his own money as collateral with a third party (a member of the team) while an effort is made to locate the owner of the found money. The team separates from the mark, depriving him of his money.

piggyback - to slip through an electronically controlled access door by following closely behind a person that the system has allowed to enter. Also called tailgating.

piggyback entry - in computer security is unauthorized interception and alteration of electronic communication between a computer and its user.

pilferage -

pillow - a rough form of measurement consisting of a plastic bag containing a large quantity (25,000 or more) of illicitly manufactured pills, capsules, or tablets. Pillows are frequently used when transporting illicit drugs from a clandestine laboratory to a distributor.

pin test - a field test for identifying a suspected counterfeit note. The red and blue fibers randomly added to genuine US notes can be picked off the surface of the paper with a pin point. A counterfeit will not have the fibers or will use inks to stimulate them.

pin tumbler lock - a lock consisting of a plug which rotates with the key to throw or withdraw a bolt. Surrounding the plug is the shell, a fixed assembly into which the plug fits. A series of pins fit into matching cylindrical holes in these two lock parts. With the key withdrawn, the pins extend through the surface between the plug and the shell so that the plug cannot turn. Insertion of the correct key lines up pins in such a way that the outer end of each one matches the surface separating the plug from the shell, so the plug can turn to withdraw the bolt.

ping ponging - in health care fraud, providing for unnecessary treatments at the same time needed services are performed.

pinhole lens - a special compressed optical lens used for covert observation. It is typically mounted in a wall so that a person on the backside of the wall can conduct a visual surveillance. The pinhole lens can be straight or right-angled. The right-angle model allows "around the corner viewing."

pipe bomb - a short length of pipe capped at both ends and drilled at one end to accept a fuse, which is used to detonate an explosive contained inside the pipe.

pipeman - a messenger or a person who receives and passes on messages in support of a criminal activity.

piquer - a person who derives sexual satisfaction from stabbing his or her victims with sharp instruments.

piracy (maritime)

piracy (software)

pirate factory - a place where counterfeit products, such as unauthorized reproductions of tapes, records and books, are manufactured in violation of owner rights.

Piso's justice - a punishment that is legally and technically correct but not morally justifiable.

pivolt bolt

placebo effect - the effect of a neutral or irrelevant aspect of an experiment that is intended to produce the same reaction in a participant as an important or relevant aspect.

plaintext - data that are intelligible until transformed by secret keys into unintelligible data. Also called **clear text**.

plaintiff - the initiating party in a civil proceeding.

plant - in arson investigations, a flammable item or substance placed at or near the ignition device. The plant is intended to feed the fire in its early stage. Sometimes plants are placed in a series for the purpose of leading the fire in a desired direction

plant log - a record of the taped incoming and outgoing calls on a telephone line that is being monitored pursuant to an eavesdropping warrant. Log details would include time and date of call, line number, monitoring officer, and tape reel number. The plant log is required to be made by law and must be available to the defense.

plantar print - an impression made by the under surface of the foot.

plasma life - that period of time during which a drug produces maximal activity or influence in the plasma. Plasma life varies from drug to drug, for example, 4 to 6 hours for heroin and 3 to 6 days for marijuana.

plastic explosive - a putty-like explosive substance that can be molded into various shapes to increase the efficiency of charges. Composition C-4, which is approved for military use only, is a type of plastic explosive.

plastic print - a fingerprint, tire print, foot print, or similar outline visible in a soft surface such as dirt, wax, blood, grease, and paint.

platter charge - a concave-shaped steel plate attached to an explosive charge, usually employed to penetrate armor plate. The platter is aimed at a target when the charge is detonated, delivering a force up to 18,000 feet per second.

plea bargaining - a process of negotiation between a prosecutor and a defense attorney in which the accused voluntarily pleads guilty, usually in exchange for lower charges and sentences.

plea - a defendant's answer in court to the charges brought against him in a complaint, information, or indictment.

pleasure-pain principle - the utilitarian concept that people endeavor to maximize pleasure (profit) and minimize pain (loss). Making the anticipated penalty greater than the expected gain is believed to deter rational men from committing crimes.

plenary - absolute, full power regarding the authority or jurisdiction of a court.

plenary confession - a complete and comprehensive confession to a crime.

plenum - a space in a structure that serves as the distribution area for heating and cooling ducts, generally a gap above a false ceiling.

plenum cable - any of several varieties of single and multiconductor cables designed to withstand fire damage and intended to be installed in plenums.

plethysmograph - a component on some types of polygraph instruments which electronically records changes in blood volume, pulse rate, and blood oxygen content.

plug-in card - a machine-readable entry card with a printed circuit and an electric contact at one end. When inserted into a reader, electrical contact is made.

plunger lock - any of various spring-loaded locks or cylinders which move in or out to accomplish a locking function.

[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

plunger switch - a mechanical intrusion detection sensor activated by movement of the surface upon which it is mounted. As the plunger leaves its sheath, due to an opening, an alarm is triggered. A plunger switch is usually recess-mounted on a door jamb or a window sill.

pneumatic-tube heat detector - a line-type rate-of-rise heat detector consisting of a continuous loop of tubing mounted in a ceiling or overhead area. Ambient heat expands air in the tube. The expanded tube causes an alarm.

pneumograph - a major component of a polygraph instrument that records the inhalation and exhalation cycles of the examinee's breathing pattern.

point man - the officer situated at the leading position in an offensive riot control formation, such as the wedge, triangle (diamond), or echelon (diagonal). Also called the **base man**.

point of law - that which is a precedent or an issue to be decided.

point of origin - in arson investigations, the place where a fire is believed to have started.

point protection - the use of sensors to detect activity at or immediately adjacent to a protected target or to place the target inside a hardened container such as a vault or safe.

pointing bulb - in arson investigations, a light bulb distended by heat and pointing in the direction of the heat source.

point-to-point installation - a type of alarm installation in which each sensor is connected directly to a control center by a pair of wires.

point-to-point search - a search for evidence where the investigator enters the scene at the logical entrance point visually examines the scene, goes to the first item of evidence and processes it. He then goes to the next closest item and does the same until all evidence has been processed.

polarity - the direction of electron flow, from negative to positive, in direct current circuits.

polarity reversal circuit - a direct current alarm-signal circuit that reverses polarity upon the initiation of an alarm. The polarity reversal is detected and annunciated by an alarm-signal receiver.

polarized-light microscope - a microscope that employs the use of polarized light to determine optical properties such as refractive index. A polarized-light (or polarizing) microscope is useful in identifying minerals, hairs, and fibers.

police connect - an alarm reporting system that is directly wired or channeled to a police station.

police discretion - the power or authority conferred by law to act in certain situations in accordance with an official's or an official agency's own considered judgment and conscience.

police power - the right of the state to enact laws and enforce them for the order, safety, health, morals, and general welfare of the public.

police prosecution system - a system common in the United Kingdom and Ireland in which certain crimes are prosecuted by high-ranking police officials rather than by appointed or elected prosecutors.

policy - overall intentions and direction of an organization, as formally expressed by top management.

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

(2) - a general statement of a principle according to which an organization performs business functions.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

polling the jury - a part of trial procedure which permits that each juror be asked if the nonunanimous verdict of the jury is his verdict.

polling - electronic interrogation between a central processor and transmitters or transponders to ascertain current system or sensor status.

polling system - a central station transmitter and receiver.

polycarbonate glazing products - lightweight, tempered plastics approximately 30 times stronger than acrylics, with superior resistance to impact and shattering.

polygram - a moving chart of a polygraph instrument upon which the inked pens place tracings. A polygraphist's opinion is based upon an interpretation of tracings on one or more polygrams.

polygraph instrument - an electronic instrument that continuously records on a moving chart physiological changes that occur in an examinee's body as questions are posed to the examinee. The changes recorded relate to blood pressure, pulse, respiration rate and volume, and galvanic skin resistance.

polygraph technique - a lie-detecting technique based on the assumption that when an individual experiences apprehension, fear, or emotional excitement, his or her respiration rate, blood pressure and galvanic skin resistance will sharply increase. A polygraph instrument records these physiological responses as questions are asked by a trained examiner. The examiner interprets the recordings and renders an opinion as to the truthfulness of the person examined. The theory behind polygraphy holds that a conscious mental effort to deceive made by a normal, healthy person will cause certain physiological changes which are recordable by the polygraph instrument.

polygraphy

polypharmacy - the act of prescribing or administering more than one drug to a patient, sometimes improperly, unnecessarily, and for gain.

ponzi operation - a confidence scheme in which money is collected from investors and part of it is paid back with high profits to encourage the early investors and others to increase their investments. When the total amount becomes substantial, the swindlers abscond with the investments. This form of fraud is similar to the **pyramid sales scheme** in which investors purchase distributorships and rights to sell lower-level distributorships. The scheme collapses when there are no more investors willing to buy in.

pop out lock - a plunger lock usually used on vending machines to prevent operation of a T-handle.

[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

pornography - art, expression, implication, speech, suggestion, or writing which appeals to the base or sensual desires of a person and is contrary to the established moral code of the society; materials that appeal to prurient interest of the average person, applying contemporary standards of the community; materials that depict or describe sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; materials that lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

poroscopy - the examination of the pores on the palms and fingers of the hand as a means of identification in addition to fingerprint identification. Friction ridges are dotted by pores which differ in position, shape, and size. It is possible to discern a pore pattern in a small area of the hand and to use the pattern as a basis for identifying a suspect. Pores are permanent and appear in an infinite variety of patterns, thereby giving to poroscopy a theoretical validity similar to that of fingerprint identification.

ported coax - coaxial cables used for transmitting and receiving that are buried parallel to one another four to six inches below the surface and generate an energy field. An alarm is activated when an intruder enters the radiating field.

portrait parle - a system that uses numerous physical characteristics, such as height, weight, and hair color, to describe persons. Also called **bertillonage**.

POSDCRB - an acronym for a classical management theory which holds that managers carry out their responsibilities by performing tasks associated with the functions of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, record keeping, and budgeting.

posed photograph - a photograph used in court to clarify or elucidate the testimony of a witness. It may depict actors representing the accused, victim, or witness and other aspects of a scene.

position evaluation - the determination of an appropriate grade level for a specific position or job. In this context, the evaluation process is focused on the nature of the job, not on the qualities of the job incumbent. The process of position evaluation considers the nature and function of the job; how the job fits into the organization; and the extent of accountability built into the job, including the dimensions and quantity of accountability.

position description - prepared by a manager who assembles and analyzes information about the position being rated. Although position description documents come in many sizes and varieties, the form will typically contain particular items such as job title, department, major business unit, location, and so forth. A description includes the overall purpose and chief objectives of the position; the nature of job activities; an identification of the person to whom the position reports; the names of jobs reporting to the position; and the names of equivalent positions. The salary grades of the equivalent jobs can be used as a baseline for determining the grade of the position being evaluated..

positive correlation - a relationship between two variables in which a high rank on one measure is accompanied by a high rank on the other.

positive reinforcement - the strengthening of a response by the presentation of a stimulus.

positive sanctions - rewards for socially desired behavior.

positive transfer - transfer of learning that is accelerated and strengthened because it is based on prior learning or experience.

positive non-interfering system - an alarm system in which the alarm initiating devices are electrically arranged so that when one device is operated to transmit an alarm, no other device operated over the same electrical circuit can interfere with the transmission of a complete alarm.

positive pressure phase - that phase of a blast wave in which compressed air moves outward and is bounded by an extremely sharp pressure wave front less than 0.0001-inch thick in which the pressure increases abruptly far above normal. The pressure wave front moves outward with an initial velocity greater than the velocity of sound at sea level (1,110 feet per second). This front applies a sudden and considerable thrust or push against any obstacle in its path. In water or earth, the same effect takes place and is called water or earth shock.

possession - a condition of fact under which a person can exercise dominion and control over property. Possession may be actual or constructive.

possible maximum loss - the loss that would be sustained if a given criminal target was totally taken or destroyed.

post hoc error - the result of a faulty reasoning process that attributes the cause of a given event to another event that occurred earlier.

post indicator valve - a valve used to monitor the main water supply to the fire sprinkler systems. It is usually located outside the building proper. A sensor is frequently installed on the valve so as to detect tampering.

post mortem

post mortem lividity - a characteristic discoloration of the skin of a deceased person that begins within one-half to two hours after death and continues to increase in intensity while the body is cooling and the blood retains some liquidity. A red to purple discoloration will be visible on the dependent portions of the body, that is, the portions of the body into which the blood will drain and settle. The discoloration will be absent at places where the body has been in contact with a rigid surface, such as would be the case with a person who died on the floor or ground. Discoloration would also not be present where constricting items, such as clothing, belt, or rope, prevented the movement of blood.

post mortem rigidity - the stiffening of the body after death. Chemical changes within muscle tissue cause the muscles to contract. Also called **rigor mortis**.

post mortem spoon - a device used to roll individual fingerprints from deformed hands or cadavers. The curved surface of the device (similar in appearance to a shoe horn) allows the finger to remain stable as the spoon rolls across the skin surface. A paper card attached to the face of the spoon captures the fingerprint pattern.

post-conviction remedies - proceedings that may be brought after conviction such as appeal of the conviction or sentence, request for commutation, pardon, reprieve, or stay of execution.

post-dated check - a check delivered prior to its date, generally payable on sight or on presentation on or after its date. It differs from an ordinary check by carrying on its face implied notice that there is no money on deposit to cover the check prior to the date, but with assurance that money will be on deposit on and after the check's date.

postdictive validity study - in employee screening, a study in which integrity test scores of ordinary persons are compared with scores of convicted criminals. The study is used to assess the validity of an integrity test.

potato hazer - homemade weapon made from a potato, with razor blades or nail heads protruding from the surface. It is sometimes used for throwing at police in civil disorder situations.

potency - a relative term used to compare the strengths of two or more drugs required to produce a given effect. The more potent the drug, the less is required. The same effect can be achieved by more of a less potent substance, or less of the same substance in a more potent form. Occasionally the term is used to refer to the length or duration of effects.

potentiation - the ability of one drug to increase the activity of another drug taken simultaneously; a synergistic effect in which the effect of two drugs given simultaneously is greater than the effect of them given separately.

power conditioner - a device used in computers and computer-based systems which removes electrical noise from power input lines and regulates voltage to keep it within the correct specification range for the equipment being powered.

power elite - a closely connected group of the corporate rich, political leaders, and military commanders who are presumed by some to decide most key social and political issues.

power locks - electrically or electro-pneumatically operated locks.
[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

power skid - a **skid** that results from excessive power in relation to road conditions. An excess of power will cause the driving wheels to spin on the road's surface, thus creating a characteristic sideways slide called **fishtailing**.

prairie fire - a fast burning fire, usually fed by a high wind, which moves quickly through tall, dried vegetation in open expanses.

pre-action sprinkler system - a fire suppression system in which the system charges (fills with water) and readies for discharge while a human response is in progress to verify the initial alarm. If the system is not aborted by human intervention within a prescribed number of seconds, the water is discharged.

pre-adjudicated - refers to the status of a convicted adult defendant or a juvenile who is subject to court proceedings that have not reached judgement or dismissal.

pre-adverse action notice - FCRA § 604(b) (15 U.S.C. § 1681b) provides that anyone “using a consumer report for employment purposes, before taking any adverse action based in whole or in part on that report ..., shall provide to the consumer (i.e., the applicant) to whom the report relates: (i) a copy of the report; and (ii) a description in writing of the rights of the consumer under this subchapter, as prescribed by the Federal Trade Commission under §1681g(c)(3) of this title.

This notice normally consists of a letter or other document informing the applicant (or employee) that the employer intends to take **Adverse Action** based upon a **Consumer Report** provided by a **Consumer Reporting Agency**. The statute requires the employer to furnish the consumer (job applicant or employee) with a description of their rights in the prescribed form entitled *A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act*. Before the adverse action is taken, a second and additional notice entitled the **Adverse Action Notice** must be provided to the consumer within a reasonable period of time after the Pre-Adverse Action Notice is given. A prospective employer should determine what is a reasonable period of time based upon the facts and circumstances of each particular situation, and must consider affording the consumer the opportunity to receive and respond to the Pre-Adverse Action Notice. Accordingly, the time it takes to deliver the notice to the consumer must be considered. The FTC's staff counsel in a FTC Informal Staff Opinion Letter (Weisberg, June 27, 1997) responding to an inquiry regarding the amount of time that should elapse between the sending of the Pre-Adverse Action Notice and the subsequent Adverse Action wrote that a period of 5 days appeared reasonable.

[ASIS GDL PBS-2009]

pre-alarm signal - reminds the user to disarm the system upon entry to the protected area.

pre-arraignment lockup - a confinement facility for arrested adults awaiting arraignment or consideration for pretrial release, in which the duration of the stay is usually limited by statute to two days.

pre-assembled lockset - a lock designed to be installed into a cutout in the edge of a door. The lock body and most or all of its trim need no further assembly other than securing it to the door.

[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

precautionary searches - searches designed to take precautions against attack and against the chance of losing valuable evidence.

precedent - an adjudged case or decision of a court which serves as an example or authority for a later identical or similar case.

precipitin reaction test - a test that distinguishes human blood from blood of other species.

preconcentrator - a device used to collect vapors before they are exposed to analysis by a vapor detector. A preconcentrator is a component of bomb sniffing equipment.

precordial thump - a sharp blow to the mid-portion of the sternum, usually done by the rescuer to a victim whose heart beat has stopped.

precursor - a substance from which another substance is formed. The term is sometimes applied to those substances used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

predatory crime - illegal activity in which the criminal preys upon, exploits, attacks, or in any violative way takes advantage of the victim, usually a person unable to defend against the activity.

predatory vandalism - willful destruction or defacement of property committed for material gain; destructive acts which produce some form of financial reward for the perpetrator. Breaking into a vending machine to steal coins would be an example.

predisposing factor - a factor which theoretically causes some individuals to be predisposed to drug use.

predisposition - any factor that, although not the direct cause of an event, ensures that the event is more likely to occur in its presence than in its absence.

predisposition investigation - is an investigation undertaken by a probation agency or other designated authority at the request of a juvenile court, into the past behavior, family background, and personality of a juvenile who has been adjudicated a delinquent, status offender, or a dependent, in order to assist the court in determining the most appropriate disposition.

pre-employment polygraph test - a test that determines if an employment candidate meets requirements set by the employer. The questions typically relate to honesty, drug use, reliability, intentions to remain on the job, driving record, and safety record.

pre-employment screening - a process for determining whether a prospective employee is trustworthy or capable of performing the functions required by the job.

U.K. : **vetting**

pre-ignition indicators - in arson investigations, the characteristics of smoke and odor that precede visible flame and which may or may not suggest arson.

preliminary crime - a crime which is preparatory in nature and part of a larger purpose. There are three crimes which are preparatory in nature and serve as part of a larger purpose. Each of them is a means of reaching a criminal end. These so-called preliminary crimes are **solicitation**, **attempt**, and **conspiracy**.

preliminary detention - the holding of an accused in confinement pending arraignment. If the accused has been arraigned, the term refers to holding him in confinement pending trial because bail has been denied or cannot be met. A **preliminary hearing** is the proceeding before a judicial officer in which three matters must be decided: whether a crime was committed; whether the crime occurred within the territorial jurisdiction of the court; and whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant committed the crime.

preliminary interview - an interview conducted of a witness, victim, or complainant at the scene of an incident for the purpose of obtaining the basic facts as quickly as possible. A major purpose of the preliminary interview is to determine the facts of the incident and the identities of persons involved. The preliminary interview is part of the initial investigation and is usually made by the first-responding officer.

preliminary search - a search conducted for the purpose of locating a reported suspect or evidence related to the reported incident. For example, a report of intrusion to a protected premises might result in a search for the intruder and then for evidence or factual information that can be used in preparing a report.

PRELIMINARY - an acronym used as a guide for officers who are dispatched to an incident scene. It stands for: proceed to the scene quickly and safely, render assistance to the injured, effect the apprehension of suspects, locate and identify witnesses, interview witnesses, maintain the incident scene and protect evidence, interrogate the suspects, note scene conditions in writing, arrange for collection of evidence, report the incident fully in writing, and yield responsibility to follow-up

premeditated design - the mental purpose or formed intent to commit a crime, particularly the crime of murder.

premeditation - planning in advance to commit a crime.

premises liability**premises security**

prep - 1. the location and dimensions of the cut out(s) and reinforcing in a door or frame required to accept a piece of hardware. 2. to prepare a door or frame for installation of a lock or other hardware.

[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

preparedness (readiness) - activities, programs, and systems developed and implemented prior to an incident that may be used to support and enhance mitigation of, response to, and recovery from disruptions, disasters, or emergencies.

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

preponderance of evidence - a term relating to the burden imposed upon a plaintiff in a civil case. The plaintiff, to win, must establish a preponderance of evidence in support of the claim. Also, evidence which is more credible and convincing and which, when fairly considered, produces an impression stronger than opposing evidence.

prescription - a term applied to a practice by the U.S. Supreme Court in which the police are told in very specific terms what they must do if they wish to introduce the results of interrogations in trials. Prior, the Supreme Court's practice was proscriptive in nature in that its decisions reflected what the police cannot do if they wish to introduce defendants' statements and admissions in prosecutions.

present cost - the amount of money one must set aside now to make one or more future payments.

present cost of a security measure - the immediate cost to purchase or develop the security measure plus the present cost of future maintenance and operating costs, less the present value of any future scrap value the security measure may have.

present worth factor - a multiplier used to relate future money flows to today's expenditures. The period of time over which the money is spent is usually equal to the useful life of the equipment or facility under consideration for purchase. The multiplier takes into account the investment potential that is lost when funds are assigned to the purchase. The interest rate at which the funds could be invested elsewhere and the time period in which the funds are tied up reflects a concept called the time value of money.

presentence report - a statement drawn up by a probation officer that gives the background information on an offender, including prior criminal record, social and personal history, results of interviews, and recommendations to the judge as to the sentence to be imposed.

pre-set questioning - interviewing in which all questions have been determined prior to the interview and are the only questions asked.

pre-signal system - a system in which an automatic detector announces only through selected **annunciators** for the purpose of notifying certain key persons, such as security officers. After the alarm conditions have been investigated, a general alarm may be sounded or the alarm system restored to normal detecting conditions.

pressure alarm - a device that signals the presence of an intruder when a pre-set amount of weight is placed on a surface, usually a thin rubber or vinyl mat concealed under carpets that triggers an alarm when an intruder steps on it.

pressure fuse - a fuse sensitive to minute changes in external pressure. The fuse functions when an influence from the target is exerted on a sensitive detecting device within the fuse itself.

pressure examinations - crime lab examinations that are conducted to ascertain whether or not any two objects were or were not in contact with each other, either momentarily or for a more extended time. Also called **contact examinations**.

pressure release bomb - a bomb designed to detonate when pressure on the bomb's container or outer structure has been released or relaxed, as in the case of a bomb having a detonator that will activate when subjected to a change in air pressure; a bomb that will detonate when mechanical pressure on a spring-loaded trigger is released.

pressure-locked grating - security grating in which the cross bars are mechanically locked to the bearing bars at their intersections by deforming the metal.

presumed positive - a laboratory test finding that has not been confirmed by an alternate and at least equally sensitive test. For example, a specimen that has been screened by an immunoassay test and found to be positive is considered to be presumptively positive until a second test confirms or refutes the initial finding.

presumption - a conclusion that the law says must be reached from certain facts. Presumptions are recognized because experience has shown that some facts should be accepted or presumed true until otherwise rebutted. For example, defendants are presumed to be sane at the time the crime was committed, and at the time of trial, in the absence of proof to the contrary. Presumptions are of two classes: **conclusive** and **rebuttable**.

presumption from possession - an inference that a person is guilty of theft when found to be in possession of the stolen property shortly after it was stolen.

presumption of innocence - a conclusion drawn by law in favor of a criminal defendant which requires acquittal unless guilt is established by sufficient evidence.

presumption of law - a rule which requires that a particular inference must be drawn from an ascertained state of facts.

presumptive evidence - evidence which must be received and treated as true until rebutted by other evidence. A statute might provide that certain facts are presumptive evidence of guilt.

pretrial conference - a meeting of the opposing parties in a case with the judicial officer prior to trial, for the purposes of stipulating those things which are agreed upon and thus narrowing the trial to the things that are in dispute, disclosing the required information about witnesses and evidence, making motions, and generally organizing the presentation of motions, witnesses, and evidence.

pretrial detention - detention until trial is over of one who is eligible for bail, or is unable to raise or post bail. Pretrial detention is often a statutory program authorizing detention of an offender prior to trial where specific findings are made at a public hearing regarding the nature of the charged offense and the prior criminal history of the alleged offender.

pretrial discovery - disclosure by the prosecution or the defense prior to trial of evidence or other information which is intended to be used in the trial.

pretrial identification proceeding - any proceeding prior to trial at which witnesses are called to identify the accused. Examples are lineups, confrontations, and photographic displays.

pretrial motion - a request made to the court before trial. It may cover such issues as change of venue, admissibility of a confession into evidence, and privileged communication.

pretrial procedure - a procedure established in many courts to speed up the disposition of cases by encouraging and assisting settlements before trial.

pretrial publicity - information disseminated concerning a crime, a defendant, or a forthcoming trial that is sometimes claimed by the defense to be prejudicial. It is often used by the defense in its request that the place of trial be moved.

pretrial release - the release of an accused person from custody, for all or part of the time before or during prosecution, upon his or her promise to appear in court when required.

Pretty Good Privacy (PGP)

prevention - plans and processes that will allow an organization to avoid, preclude, or limit the impact of a crisis occurring. The tasks of prevention should include compliance with corporate policy, mitigation strategies, and behavior and programs to support avoidance and deterrence and detection.

[ASIS GDL BC 01 2005]

prevention model - a model, program, project, campaign, or similar organized effort aimed at the prevention of an undesirable activity, e.g., crime or drug abuse.

prevention of hazards and threats - process, practices, techniques, materials, products, services, or resources used to avoid, reduce, or control hazards and threats and their associated risks of any type in order to reduce their potential impact.

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

preventive action - an action to eliminate the cause of a potential nonconformity. [ISO 14001:2004]

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

preventive detention - holding of a person in custody without bail before trial on the ground that such custody keeps the offender from committing further crimes while the charges are pending.

primacord - the brand name for detonating cord, a product used in blasting.

primary cause - a misnomer loosely applied to the most obvious or easily explained factor in the cause of an accident.

primary shock - a state of early unconsciousness or depression of the vital processes associated with reduced blood volume and pressure. It is usually caused by severe injuries, burns, or hemorrhage, and is reversible if treated promptly. Primary shock is sometimes followed by secondary shock which is profound and frequently fatal. Also called **impending shock**.

primer residue - residue deposited on the thumb, forefinger, and web area of the hand when the hand is used to discharge a weapon. Residue may also be deposited on the face and neck area when a rifle or shotgun is fired. Primer residue frequently contains antimony and barium which are components of most primer mixtures

principal agent - an agent or spy who controls and pays others engaged in espionage or undercover investigations.

principal in the first degree - the actual offender; the person who committed the criminal act. There may be more than one principal in the first degree for a single crime, and a principal in the first degree does not have to be present at the crime or personally commit the act. For example, a person who pays another to commit murder would be charged as a principal in the first degree.

principal in the second degree - one who with knowledge afoot, aids and abets the principal in the first degree at the very time the crime is being committed. A driver of a getaway car or a lookout would be a principal in the second degree.

principal - a person for whom personal protective services are provided; a chief actor in a crime; an aider and abettor who actually or constructively participates in the commission of a crime, as distinguished from an accessory.

principle of application - a fundamental which holds that the more an idea is applied and put to use, the more it is understood and remembered.

principle of emotional appeal - a fundamental which holds that appeals to emotion are communicated more readily than appeals to reason.

principle of line loss - a fundamental which holds that as the number of people involved in passing an electronically transmitted message increases, there is an increase in distortion and delay of the message.

printed documents examination - a crime lab comparison of printed documents to determine if counterfeit. Two or more printed documents can be associated with the same printing, and a printed document can be identified with the source printing paraphernalia such as artwork, negatives, and plates.

printed-circuit board - circuitry for computers and electronic devices, consisting of nonconductive fiberboard or epoxy-glass base with a copper foil facing on one or both sides. Electrically conductive traces are etched into the copper surface and electronic components are soldered to the trace pattern to create the circuitry.

prior restraint order - a court or other government order forbidding or censoring printed matter before publication.

priority interrupt - an alarm feature in which interruptions are processed on a priority basis.

prison - a state or federal facility of confinement for convicted criminals, especially felons.

[ASIS GDL PBS-2009]

prisoner's rights - any rights to which convicts are entitled by law, usually as interpreted by the courts, such as freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, the right to receive visitors, or the right to prepare legal briefs.

prisonization - the process of learning about and adhering to the inmate subculture.

privacy transformation - the process of transforming intelligible data (plaintext) into unintelligible data (ciphertext). Also called **encryption** or **encipherment**.

private law - that portion of the total body of laws dealing with those relations between individuals with which the government is not directly concerned. Private law can be divided into several branches such as contract law, property law, law of domestic relations, trust law, and the law of torts

private prosecution - a system prevailing in England and some Continental countries that allows the victim of a crime to initiate criminal proceedings. In practice, unsuccessful private prosecution frequently leads to civil action against the complainant.

private rehabilitation agency - a private organization providing care and treatment services, which may include housing of convicted persons, juvenile offenders, or persons subject to judicial proceedings.

private search concept - a concept holding that searches undertaken by private persons are not subject to constitutional regulation. The Bill of Rights, including the Fourth Amendment, apply only to actions of the federal government. The unlawfulness of a private search is irrelevant to the issue of a defendant's entitlement to an exclusionary remedy in criminal proceedings. A wrongful search or seizure conducted by a private party does not deprive the government of the right to use evidence it has acquired lawfully.

private security - the nongovernmental, private-sector practice of protecting people, property, and information, conducting investigations, and otherwise safeguarding an organization's assets; may be performed for an organization by an internal department (usually called **proprietary security**) or by an external, hired firm (usually called **contract security**).

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

private security agency - an independent or proprietary commercial organization whose activities include employee clearance investigations, maintaining the security of persons or property, performing the functions of detection and investigation of crime and criminals, and apprehension of offenders.

private security officer - an individual, in uniform or plain clothes, employed by an organization to protect **assets**. Also known as a "guard".

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

(2) - an individual, other than armored car personnel or a public employee (federal, state, or local government), employed part or full time, in uniform or plain clothes, hired to protect the employing party's assets, ranging from human lives to physical property (the premises and contents). The definition excludes individuals who are not employed in the capacity of a private security officer.

[ASIS GDL PSO 11 2004]

privatization - the process of changing a business, service or function from public to private control.

privilege from civil arrest - a privilege granted by statute in some jurisdictions to certain specifically identified parties whose special status requires them to be free of civil arrest. Such parties might be witnesses or litigants duly subpoenaed, diplomats and their families and personal staff, legislators in session, members of the armed forces on active duty, policemen on duty, and firemen on duty.

privileged communication - a legal principle based on a confidential relationship between two persons which may be invoked to exclude one from testifying against the other. In some relationships the exercise of the privilege is vested in the defendant. In others it is vested in the witness. Relationships generally recognized as privileged include husband and wife, attorney and client, physician and patient, and law enforcement officer and informant.

privileges - a means of protecting the use of certain functions that can affect a system's integrity and resources. Generally, a system manager grants and denies privileges according to a user's needs.

pro forma statement - a statement of income and expenses in a prescribed format; a projection or estimate of what may result in the future from actions in the present. For example, a pro forma statement might project future business operations if certain assumptions are realized.

probability - the extent to which an event is likely to occur. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]
Note 1: ISO 3534-1:1993, Definition 1.1, gives the mathematical definition of probability as "a real number in the scale of 0 to 1 attached to a random event. It can be related to a long-run relative frequency of occurrence or to a degree of belief that an event will occur. For a high degree of belief, the probability is near 1." Note 2: Frequency rather than probability may be used to describe risk. Note 3: Degrees of belief about probability can be chosen as classes or ranks, such as: rare/unlikely/moderate/likely/almost certain; or incredible/improbable/remote/occasional/probable/frequent.

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

probable cause - a combination of facts and circumstances which would warrant a person of reasonable caution and prudence to believe that a crime has been or is being committed and that the person to be arrested is guilty of such crime. In the context of search and seizure, probable cause is a combination of facts and circumstances derived from credible sources which would warrant a person of reasonable caution and prudence to believe that crime-related evidence may be found at the place to be searched.

probable cause hearing - a proceeding before a judicial officer in which arguments, witnesses, or evidence are presented and in which it is determined whether there is sufficient cause to hold the accused for trial or dismiss the case. See also **freshness rule**.

probable maximum loss - the amount of loss a target of criminal attack would likely sustain in a single successful attack.

probation - a criminal sentence that requires the offender to meet conditions under supervision in the community. A probation officer usually monitors the offender for these conditions and enforces rules of conduct. A court imposes probation either directly or in lieu of a partially or fully suspended jail or prison term.

probative fact - a fact which tends to substantiate another fact or issue.

problem drinker - an excessive drinker whose drinking causes personal or public harm. The term is often used as a less offensive term for **alcoholic**, particularly in business and industrial programs.

problem-oriented policing - a law enforcement approach in which the police collect data on individuals, incidents, and responses to crimes as the first step in developing particular prevention or enforcement strategies. Instead of relying on subjective or anecdotal assessments of local crime problems, departments that use problem-oriented policing will analyze objective data collected in various reporting programs and citizen surveys.

procedure - a specified way to carry out an activity. [ISO 9000:2000] Note: Procedures can be documented or not.

[ASIS SPC.1-2009]

(2) detailed implementation instructions for carrying out security policies; often presented as forms or as lists of steps to be taken prior to or during a **security incident**.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

(3) - detailed instructions for implementing security policies; often presented as forms or as lists of steps to be taken.

procedural law - a subdivision of criminal law that provides the means and methods by which the rights and obligations created by the criminal law are to be vindicated and enforced. It defines the rules in which criminal cases are prosecuted. The laws of arrest and of evidence are examples of **procedural law**. Also called **adjective law**.

procedural rights - protections that all citizens have against arbitrary actions by public officials.

procedural security - a combination of measures intended in their application to deter, delay, detect, or deny intrusion by restricting access to a protected area.

process monitoring - the use of alarm equipment to detect and annunciate events associated with industrial machinery such as temperature limits and overload switches.

product contamination

product diversion

product tampering

Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) - the PCI is a specialty certification in security investigations. The designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate knowledge of managing cases, collecting evidence, and presenting

cases. The PCI is proof of highly trained investigative skills. Those who have earned the PCI are board certified in investigations. PCIs have established their credentials in presenting testimony, reviewing case files, evaluating cases for ethical conflicts, and meeting with counsel. The designation officially validates skills in conducting research, interviews, and “truth-finding” undercover investigations.

[ASIS PCS-AH 2009]

Professional Class I Burglar - a burglar who is able to successfully attack most alarm systems and pick locks. The targets usually are high risk commodities such as safes and vaults, cash, jewelry, furs, televisions, stereos, and appliances.

Professional Class II Burglar - is able to circumvent alarm systems but is not sufficiently skilled to successfully attack them. He or she will usually go around an alarm, i.e., gain entry through the roof, floor, or a wall. The targets usually are high and medium risk commodities.

Professional Class III Burglar - is relatively unskilled and will avoid alarm systems completely. The targets are usually medium risk commodities.

professional criminal - a person who depends upon criminal activities for at least a substantial portion of his or her income, and who has developed special, related skills.

proficiency testing specimen - a laboratory specimen having constituents that are precisely known to an outside agency (such as a licensing agency) but unknown to the testing laboratory or analyst. Proficiency testing specimens are used to evaluate technical competency for purposes of quality control, certification, and licensing.

profit - the excess of selling price over all costs and expenses incurred in making a sale; the reward to an entrepreneur for the risks assumed in the development of a given enterprise.

profit center - an element or unit within a business organization where expenses and revenue are recorded and the net difference calculated as profit or loss. A profit center is typically a large segment of the organization and may comprise a cluster of operating activities.

progeny - the copies or subsequent generations of a replicated computer virus or worm.

program board - a card reader's circuit board. It contains the facility code for the reader. A board may be changed for the purpose of voiding all access cards previously issued. Also called a **matrix board**.

program evaluation and review technique (PERT) - a planning and control process that requires identifying the accomplishments of programs and the time and resources needed to go from one accomplishment to the next. It is an approach to

planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling the work efforts required to achieve the goals of a project of finite duration. PERT can help identify and correct problems that arise during a project. The chief value of the technique is the information that it generates concerning a project's current status. The project manager uses the generated information in exercising control of project activities.

programmable stand-alone card reader - a card reader that contains its own intelligence and has the capability for changing access codes and other functions.

progressive collapse - occurs when the failure of a primary structural element results in the failure of adjoining structural elements, which in turn causes further structural failure. The resulting damage progresses to other parts of the structure, resulting in a partial or total collapse of the building.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

progressive surveillance - a technique in which a subject is followed during a particular phase of his/her daily routine or during a specific period of time in one day. The surveillance is resumed on a later occasion at a phase or time when the previous surveillance was broken off. The several phases of surveillance constituting the subject's full routine are examined for the intelligence data they provide within the context of the investigation.

projection - an ego defense mechanism in which an individual places the blame for personal problems upon others, or attributes to others his or her own unethical desires and impulses.

prompt - a message or indication that appears on a CRT (cathode ray tube) display or printer which instructs the operator to take action.

proof beyond a reasonable doubt - proof which precludes every reasonable hypothesis except that which tends to support and which is wholly consistent with a defendant's guilt and inconsistent with any other rational conclusion.

property crime - a category of crime which includes such offenses as burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The term is frequently used in contradistinction to personal crime and violent crime.

property losses - include theft, misappropriation, and malicious damage or destruction.

property room - a place where evidence, lost and stolen property, and other accountable items are safeguarded pending use at trial, return to owners, destruction, or other method of disposition.

proprietary - are ostensibly private commercial entities established and controlled by intelligence services to conceal government affiliation or sponsorship of certain activities.

proprietary drugs - drugs protected by some means against free competition as to name, product, composition, or process of manufacture.

proprietary information - valuable information, owned by a company or entrusted to it, which has not been disclosed publicly; specifically, information that is not readily accessible to others, that was created or collected by the owner at considerable cost, and that the owner seeks to keep confidential.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

(2) - information owned by a company or entrusted to it which has not been disclosed publicly and has value. Information is considered proprietary when (1) it is not readily accessible to others, (2) it was created by the owner through the expenditure of considerable resources, and (3) the owner sought to keep the information confidential. There is no general definition for proprietary information in the U.S. legal code. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR 27.402 Policy) does, however, provide a definition: "A property right or other valid economic interest in data resulting from private investment. Protection of such data from unauthorized use and disclosure is necessary to prevent the compromise of such property right or economic interest".

proprietary interest - an interest applied where the federal government has acquired some right or title to an area in a state, but has not obtained any measure of the state's authority over the area. Where the federal government has no legislative jurisdiction over its land, it holds such land in a proprietary interest and has the same rights in the land as does any other landowner.

proprietary security - any organization, or department of that organization, that provides full time security officers solely for itself.

[ASIS GDL PSO 11 2004]

proprietary security organization - typically, a department within a company that provides security services for that company.

[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

proscription - a term applied to a practice by the U.S. Supreme Court in which the police are told what they cannot do if they wish to introduce the results of interrogations in trials. Proscription is regarded as a "hands off" method for guiding law enforcement. In recent years, the practice has given way to a prescriptive approach in which the Supreme Court has passed down decisions that inform the police in very specific terms what they must do in order for defendants' statements and admissions to be used in prosecutions.

prosecution withheld - an arrestee disposition in which the prosecutor suspends proceedings conditional upon behavior of the arrestee. Typically, a prosecution withheld disposition is associated with referral of the arrestee to probation or other criminal justice agency.

prosecutor - an attorney employed to initiate and maintain criminal proceedings on behalf of the government (people) against persons accused of committing criminal offenses.

prosecutorial screening decision - the decision of a prosecutor to submit a charging document to a court, or to seek a grand jury indictment, or to decline to prosecute. This process begins with a request by a law enforcement agency or other government agency, or a private citizen, that the prosecutor file a complaint or information or seek an indictment. The prosecutor can grant the request for a complaint, grant the request with some modification of the charges listed in the request, or deny the request.

pro-social behavior - activities associated with the dominant values of the society. A major goal of crime prevention, offender rehabilitation, and treatment of drug abusers is the enhancement of prosocial behaviors such as seeking and holding a job, education and skill upgrading, and developing meaningful personal relationships.

prostitution - offering or agreeing to engage in, or engaging in, a sex act with another in return for a fee.

protected area - an area continuously protected by physical security safeguards and access controls.

protected class - in equal employment opportunity programs, a group of persons that in the eyes of U.S. Congress and the courts is entitled to certain employment protections for the purpose of correcting and reversing the effects of past discriminatory employment practices.

protected executive data form - a form containing personal information concerning a key executive who is protected by the organization's crisis management plan. The nature of data on the form is such that it would be helpful in situations involving kidnap, extortion, and similar acts directed against the executive and/or immediate family. Typically attached to the form are photographs, handprinting and handwriting examples.

protected executive - a person whose position in an organization exposes him or her to physical risk such as assassination, kidnap, or extortion. The protection afforded is typically provided by a dedicated protective unit which functions according to procedures enunciated in a crisis management plan that has been approved by a senior decision making body such as a board of directors.

protection-in-depth - the strategy of forming layers of protection for an **asset**.
[ASIS GDL FPSM-2009]

protection racket - a form of extortion in which the victim, frequently a merchant, is forced by violence or the threat of violence to pay a fee for protection. The fee does not necessarily guarantee protection from harm by anyone except the extortionist.

protective custody - detention of an individual not amounting to an arrest. This practice is sometimes used to protect persons from reprisal by criminals.

protective security service - in the U.S. Department of Defense Industrial Security Program, a program that provides constant protection of a shipment at all times by one or more carrier custodians between receipt from the consignor and delivery to the consignee.

protocol function - a control function of a data transmitting and receiving system, which determines timing and format criteria that govern information interchange.

protocol - the official recording of an autopsy. The protocol is prepared by the person who conducts the autopsy, usually a medical examiner, and reflects procedures used in the examination, findings, and cause of death.

provisional exit - an authorized temporary exit from prison for appearance in court, work furlough, hospital treatment, appeal proceedings, or other purposes that require departure from prison but with expectation of return.

proxemics - the study of the interpersonal distances humans use in structuring transactions. The distances are: intimate, used where a close relationship exists; personal, which is not defensive but also not close; social, used in small groups and social situations; and public, used when interacting with larger groups.

proximate cause - the effective cause of loss or injury; the cause that sets other causes in operation; a responsible cause of an injury; an unbroken chain of cause and effect between the occurrence of an act and the damage it leads to.

proximity alarm - an alarm which generates an energy field around a metallic or electrically conductive object. An alarm is produced when the energy field is disturbed. Also called a **capacitance alarm**.

proximity card - an identity card containing a microcircuit. When placed in close proximity to a reader, the card will activate the reader's system, which might be an access control system, an automatic teller machine, or a point-of-sale transaction system. It does not have to be brought into physical contact with a reader. See also **card key** and **magnetic keycard**.

proximity fuse - a fuse designed to activate by radio signals; a bomb fuse designed to detonate at a given range from the target without requiring any physical contact with the target to initiate the firing action.

proximity test - a test that determines the distance between muzzle and point of bullet contact. It is based on the proposition that a particular weapon, using particular ammunition, will disperse gunpowder residue in a particular pattern. The pattern produced in a proximity test can be compared against a pattern observed in a shooting incident under investigation.

proxy log in - a procedure that permits an authorized user at a remote site to log in as if the user were at a local site. A user gains access by meeting the requirements of an initial screening process that usually requires both a user name and a password so the system can check authorization and impose restrictions. Different types of logins can be used for accommodating different modes of access, such as access through a terminal or through a telephone.

pseudoheroinism - a term referring to the phenomenon whereby a heroin user believes himself to be physiologically addicted when such is not the case. It is possible for a person who uses heroin regularly but in small dosages to experience only minor withdrawal symptoms.

pseudoperforating gunshot wound - a wound in which the bullet does not exit the body and an exit wound is created by a bone fragment.

psychedelia - a collective term for the world of mind-altering drugs and drug takers as well as drug paraphernalia.

psychedelic drugs - are consciousness-expanding or mind-manifesting drugs. This term has been widely used in the United States to refer to hallucinogenic drugs and is the preferred term of many users themselves. Others prefer the term **hallucinogens**, arguing that the term psychedelic incorrectly combines two Greek roots, is biologically unsound, and has acquired meanings beyond the drugs or their effects.

psychedelic experiences - are heightened and often inappropriate emotional reactions, mood changes of an extreme character, tactile and visual distortions, and vivid hallucinations.

psychoactive substance - a drug that affects the central nervous system and alters mood, perception, or consciousness.

psychobabble - indiscriminate use of psychological concepts and terms as an affected style of speech.

psychograph - a profile of the human abilities required in the performance of a particular job.

psychological autopsy - an investigative technique used in suspected or apparent suicide cases. The technique attempts to determine whether death resulted from suicide, and if so, the motive. Information obtained from friends, relatives, and records is gathered, collated and analyzed. The technique provides a systematic means to examine social, personal, and physical events leading to the act.

psychological dependence - an ill-defined, broad term generally referring to a craving for or compulsion to continue the use of a drug that gives satisfaction or a feeling of well-being. Psychological dependence may vary in intensity from a mild preference to a strong craving or strong compulsion to use the drug.

psychological models - explanatory models derived from general psychological theories. There are many schools of thought pertaining to crime.

psychological profile - a description of the personality and characteristics of an individual based on an analysis of acts committed by the individual. The description might include age, race, sex, socioeconomic and marital status, educational level, arrest history, location of residence relative to the scene of the act, and certain personality traits. A profile is based on characteristic patterns of uniqueness that distinguish certain individuals from the general population. Regarding criminal acts, patterns are deduced from a thoughtful analysis of wounds, weapon used, cause of death, position of the body, and similar conditions.

psychological set - a concept which holds that a person's fears, anxieties, and apprehensions will be directed toward the situation which presents the greatest immediate threat to self-preservation or well-being, generally to the exclusion of all other less threatening circumstances.

psychological test - a general term for any effort (usually a standardized test) that is designed to measure the abilities or personality traits of individuals or groups.

psychopath - a person suffering from mental aberrations and disorders, especially one who perceives reality clearly except for his or her own social or moral obligations and seeks instant gratification in criminal or otherwise abnormal behavior.

psychopathology - that content area within behavioral science that specifies, describes, or predicts disordered or deviant behavior and involves an application of the principles of learning, motivation, perception, biology, and genetics insofar as they contribute to behavior in an effort to arrive at general explanatory laws to account for different kinds of behavior. It is the study of the significant causes and processes in the development of mental disorders as well as the manifestations of mental disorders.

psychopharmacology - the scientific study of the interactive effect of drugs on psychological and behavioral activity.

psychosocial models - explanatory models that define an undesirable activity, such as crime, as a problem associated with both psychological and social factors either as antecedents or consequents. Psychosocial models view crime primarily as a social problem with societal, psychological, and group determinants.

psychosomatic - a term referring to processes that are both somatic (bodily) and psychic (mental) in nature or origin. A psychosomatic disorder is one that is of the body but is psychogenic in nature.

psychotherapeutic drugs - drugs that (1) are used as medicines to alleviate psychic distress or as adjuncts to treatment of various physical disorders, and (2) are typically acquired through a doctor's prescription or over the counter at a drugstore. An older and less preferred term for such drugs is psychotropics.

psychotherapy - a technique of treating mental disorders by means of insight, persuasion, suggestion, reassurance, and instruction so that the patients may see themselves and their problems more realistically and have the desire to cope with them.

psychotic disorder - a disorder characterized by a generalized failure of functioning in all areas of a person's life.

public adjuster - an insurance claims adjuster who represents the policyholder by preparing and presenting claims to underwriters, and who is usually licensed for this purpose.

public distance - the zone from 12 to 25 feet between individuals. When interacting at this range, individuals are considered to be not personally involved.

Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act - signed into law in 2002, U.S. Public Law 107-188 requires vulnerability assessments be performed and Emergency Response Plans be created or updated for drinking water systems that serve more than 3,000 people.

[ASIS PSPSG 2007]

public key cryptography - a method of data transmission that features an algorithm having one key for encryption and one key for decryption. The encryption key is public, while the decryption key is secret.

public key infrastructure (pki)

public law - that part of the law which deals with the government either by itself or in its relations with individuals. Some of its branches are constitutional law, administrative law, public health law, vehicle and traffic law, and criminal law.

public safety - support mechanisms that sustain the life and vitality of a community's health, safety, and social stability by performing such services as law enforcement, fire prevention, personal and facility security, disaster preparedness, and emergency medical assistance. In some instances, public safety may refer to law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, and ambulance crews. In other instances, public safety properly encompasses private security officers, as well.

[ASIS GDL PSO 11 2004]

puddling effect - in arson investigations, irregular burn patterns on floors and sub-floor surfaces caused by the natural flow of a liquid accelerant such as gasoline.

pugilistic attitude - the posture of a person killed by burning. In this condition, the fists and arms are drawn up similar to a boxer's stance. The pugilistic attitude occurs when the large muscles in the legs and arms are subjected to intense heat, causing them to severely contract and pull inward toward the torso.

pull station - a fire alarm initiating device that transmits an alarm signal when manually operated. Also called a **pull box** or **manual station**.

pull trap - a device with a mechanical triggering mechanism typically installed on infrequently used doors or windows. The pull trap's plunger is connected by wire or string to a screw eye on the jamb. When an opening occurs, the pull trap sends an alarm signal.

puller - a device which when inserted into the keyway of a lock or when attached to the spindle of a combination lock will allow the lock to be forcibly withdrawn. Also called a **slammer**.

pullout device - a device used on mechanical power presses and similar machines to pull the operator's hands away from the closing dies should they inadvertently be within the point of operation. The device consist of mitts worn by the operator and connected by cables to the ram of the machine.

pulmonary arrest - the cessation of spontaneous breathing.

pulmonary edema - an accumulation of fluid in the lungs.

pulse count - a feature of an intrusion detection system in which an alarm is triggered only after the occurrence of a series of detections in a short period of time. The sensor, usually passive infrared, requires several activations within a pre-set time period before sending the alarm signal. A pulse count is used in difficult environments where false alarms are a problem.

pulse extender - increases a short duration signal to help ensure that an alarm is triggered. Also called a **pulse stretcher**.

punch-coded card - an access control card having a specific pattern of punched holes.

punched card reader - a reader that senses the holes in a punched card, transforming the data from hole patterns to electrical signals.

punding - a term referring to behavior, usually caused by massive doses of amphetamines, wherein the abuser loses the capacity to perform complex sequential acts in a rational manner. Instead, the abuser persists in repetitive and compulsive, but subjectively rewarding, manipulative tasks for hours or even days.

punishment concept - a concept of offender rehabilitation that is founded on four purposes: reformation, restraint, retribution, and deterrence.

punitive damages - damages awarded over and above compensatory damages which serve to make an example of, or punish, the wrongdoer. Also called **exemplary damages**.

pupillary reaction test - a test for detecting abnormal pupil dilation/constriction, strabismus, and nystagmus. The test is administered by a specially trained police officer to persons suspected of being under the influence. In identifying pupil dilation/constriction, the officer uses a small flashlight and a pupilometer card to measure the diameter of the pupil. The obtained measurement is compared against the standard (normal) measurement of a non-intoxicated person. The standard adult pupil in normal room light will measure between 2.9 and 6.5 millimeters in diameter. A measurement below or above the standard range is indicative of abnormal dilation or constriction.

pure risk - a situation which carries only a possibility for cost or loss.

push knife - a thin, flexible blade that can be inserted in the space between a door and jamb to release a spring-loaded bolt.

putrefaction

PVC conduit - a tubing or hollow shield composed of polyvinyl chloride, used for protection of electrical wiring and alarm data lines in high-moisture environments.

PVC laminate - the compositional materials of many varieties of access cards.

pyramid sales scheme - a form of investment fraud in which the victim is offered a distributorship or franchise to market a particular product or service. The contract also authorizes the victim to sell additional franchises. The promoter represents that the marketing of the product or service will result in profits, but that the selling of the franchises will result in a larger and quicker return on investment. The victim consequently expends greater energies on selling franchises than on selling the product or service. Finally, a point is reached where the number of investors is exhausted, leading to the collapse of the pyramid. See also **ponzi operation**.

pyrolagnia - sexual pleasure derived from setting fires.

pyrolysis - decomposition of organic matter by heat.

pyrolitic condition - a condition in wood caused by its exposure to low temperature heat over a long period. The condition appears as charring or carbonization, and in this state the wood has a much lower ignition point. Spontaneous combustion will not result but the pyrolitic condition increases the fire hazard.

pyromania - a compulsion or mania to set things on fire.

pyrotechnic grenade - a grenade that delivers a chemical agent to the target. Upon ignition, the grenade releases an opaque cloud of vaporized agent. The release period will last for 4-5 minutes while the grenade is burning. When the grenade is of a type that is thrown (as opposed to being launched) it may be called a pyrotechnic wand.

REFERENCE NOTE

The definition's source is cited in brackets [] following the definition.
View the [key to all abbreviated sources](#).

[COMMENTS](#)

[RETURN TO MAIN GLOSSARY PAGE](#)