



Investigation Standards

These Investigation Standards are a set of very strict protocols that we follow during our paranormal research sessions and haunting investigations. They are designed to ensure that any evidence we collect will stand on its own merits and is able to withstand the scrutiny of our peers. At all times the safety of all team members and the collecting of untainted evidence should be our top priorities. Mistakes can and do happen during investigations, but these standards are designed to minimize the frequency and seriousness of those errors.

The Buddy System

FindersCreepers team members must never separate from the team during an investigation. We always investigate with a minimum of two people per team. No matter where you are going; even if it is a bathroom break, you must notify the Lead Investigator of your intentions and take another team member with you. We call this the buddy system, and we live by it.

The buddy system is essential as it will:

1. Help to insure the team members safety,
2. Will ensure the presence of a corroborating witness to any experiences or data that may be gathered. Without a corroborating witness, anything you experience will be nothing more then what we call a "personal experience."

The importance of utilizing the buddy system cannot be overstated.

FindersCreepers team members will always document the equipment we are using during an investigation. Fresh batteries are required, as well as only new and unused tapes for any analog type video or audio equipment. All team members must also keep spare batteries with them at all times during an investigation.

FindersCreepers members will understand and be proficient in the proper use as well as the technical limitations of all their personal equipment prior to using it on an investigation.

All cell phones must be turned off at the investigation site prior to any team members beginning an investigation. Cell phone signals do interfere with our EMF detection devices and will cause false positives. If any member is found to have a cell phone on during an investigation, all EMF hits documented prior to that will be marked as a possible false positive.

FindersCreepers members will observe and utilize the following guidelines for photo/video recordings.

- a) All video lenses must be cleaned prior to beginning the investigation.

- b) All equipment must be loaded with fresh batteries and media prior to the investigation.
- c) Equipment settings will be documented prior to the investigation.
- d) Camera straps must be removed.
- e) Long hair must be tied back.
- f) Equipment needs to be at the ambient air temperature of the investigation site to avoid possible condensation issues.
- g) When photographing or taking video, members must be aware of the location of their fingers. Fingers and hands must be kept clear of the lens area.
- h) In cold environments FindersCreepers members must hold their breath to avoid false photo/video anomalies.
- i) Prior to taking any photo with a flash, FindersCreepers members must announce their intentions to the team; at that time, all members should close their eyes tightly to avoid losing their night vision.

FindersCreepers members should refrain from taking photographs outside during bad weather. Do not take photos during rain, any type of storms, mist, fog, snow, heavy winds, or dust. If dirt has been disturbed, members should wait at least 30 minutes before attempting to take photos. Dust in the air will produce many dust orbs on photos and can take a long time to settle back down.

FindersCreepers members should refrain from taking photographs directly into any light source or reflective surface such as glass or a mirror. This can cause light refractions in the camera lens, and results in photo anomalies that can be mistaken as paranormal in nature.

FindersCreepers members will speak clearly and at a controlled volume during investigations. At no time during an investigation should any group member whisper or make strange noises/voices for any reason. Doing so destroys the credibility of all EVP work done on that investigation. Note: *If for any reason, you violate this rule (and you will), or if you hear another member violate this rule, you should immediately announce the source of the noise so we have it as a reference during our audio analysis; we call this "marking audio".*

FindersCreepers members will take notes throughout the investigation, documenting their research efforts and any possible paranormal phenomenon they may encounter. These notes will describe the experience, along with the location within the site and the time of occurrence. Attempting to use just your memory later, rather than notes, is an unprofessional and unreliable way to work.

When encountering paranormal activity first-hand, FindersCreepers members will announce loudly and clearly "I am experiencing something," and then document on paper what they are experiencing. By not specifying the exact nature of what they are experiencing other investigators will not be influenced by the power-of-suggestion. Other investigators in the area should make notes about what, if anything, they were experiencing at the same time so that their notes can be compared later. A series of photos should also be taken in hopes of capturing the source of the experience.

FindersCreepers takes a professional and scientific approach to paranormal investigation. This being said, we will use any tool at our disposal to help collaborate any paranormal phenomenon we may experience.

Information we receive from any Mediums or Psychics will be taken and documented, however will not be used to determine the outcome of any investigation.

Ouija Boards and/or Séances are not to be used during any haunting investigation unless specifically requested by a distressed home or property owner. If requested,

FindersCreepers will aid in the location of credible individuals that are trained in those areas on a consultation basis only. No FindersCreepers team members will ever be required to participate in any such activities due to the extremely controversial nature of them.

Smoking tobacco in any form during an investigation is strictly prohibited except for outside during designated smoke breaks. Even then, it is expected that all team members keep their smoking to a bare minimum during the course of an investigation. Smoke can easily lead to photo/video anomalies that can be mistaken for paranormal activity as well as making it difficult to distinguish normal from paranormal odors.

Drinking alcohol or using mind-altering substances of any kind is also strictly forbidden prior to, or during an investigation.

No Perfumes, cologne or any other scented products may be used on your person before and during an investigation. This is to rule out any false olfactory experiences that may be encountered during the investigation.

All FindersCreepers Team Members should dress professionally when dealing with any of our clients. While on investigation, all team members will wear dark-colored clothing with enough pockets to comfortably holster any equipment they will be carrying. No light-colored clothing will be worn.

FindersCreepers members must ensure that any jewelry, eye-wear, etc. that they carry or wear during a "Dark" investigation is made of a non-reflective materials. Light sources, whether external or personal may cause reflections that may appear to be paranormal in nature. Be aware of other team members and watch for any indications that they may be the cause of these types of reflections.

As much as possible, we prefer to use red-filtered flashlights during all "dark" investigations. They are much easier on the eyes and don't disrupt our natural night-vision as much as bright-white flashlights. It is important that we do all we can to maintain our night-vision once it has been established.

It is highly recommended that when traveling to an investigation during daylight hours all team members should wear dark sunglasses. Again, this is to help our eyes adjust more quickly to the dark conditions we will be encountering during our investigation.

Prior to any investigation, the Lead-Investigator will be responsible for ensuring that a "FindersCreepers Site Grid" form is completed in order to document the floor plan of the location. All major details of the location need to be annotated including the location of outlets, windows, etc., along with the geo-magnetic orientation, (available on our website). During the investigation, any activity encountered should be documented on the form as well.

FindersCreepers members will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times when dealing with clients, each other or while on an investigation. During an investigation, any issues that may arise between group members will be quietly and discreetly brought to the attention of the "Lead Investigator". The lead investigator will make team partner changes if needed and the issue will be resolved upon completion of the investigation. If an individual feels so strongly effected by the issue that they cannot continue in the investigation while acting professionally, then that person must excuse him or herself and leave the site without any disturbance. There is NO acceptable reason for not complying with this rule - ever.