

Take pictures of the location prior to beginning your investigation. These pictures will be vital to your review process once you get home so that you can compare back to them when you think you may have caught something. This is an important step in debunking.

When an investigator is documenting with pictures, always remember the 1, 2, 3 rule - take three pictures in row when you are taking pictures of the location. This gives you a chance of showing movement as well as a sudden appearance or even disappearance. Be sure you watch where your fingers are on the camera - keep them away from the lens itself as well as preventing them from blocking your flash. You would be surprised how many people think they have caught a shadow figure in a picture only to realize it was the tip of their finger blocking the flash. Be aware of what you are wearing - caps and bulky clothing can sometimes cast shadows. Tuck away any camera cords, neck straps or the like to prevent them from swaying or swinging into the picture. Don't worry about reviewing the pictures as you go unless you saw something with your own eyes; otherwise you might lose the opportunity to snap activity around you.

A few tips to keep in mind while you are taking pictures and shooting video:

- Avoid taking pictures or video during any kind of weather conditions or where smoke is visible. This can contaminate your findings.
- Hold your breath when taking pictures on a cold night.
- Hold the camera still as movement will distort the photo.
- Never take photos of shiny or reflective items.
- Learn and know what your equipment can and cannot do. Test it out before going on an investigation.
- Never take a photo or video towards a light. It will create a glare and destroy any possible evidence you may or may not have.