

**Title:** Burning, Entombment, and Desecration: Futile Attempts to Destroy Forensic Evidence  
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After committing a homicide, murderers will often alter a crime scene in an attempt to destroy or degrade forensic evidence. Perpetrators predominately burn, entomb, or desecrate the bodies of their victims. When murderers utilize these destructive methods, the only evidence remaining may be the skeleton or skeletal fragments of a victim. In these instances, law enforcement turns to the osteological expertise of forensic anthropologists. Through skeletal remains, these highly trained experts can consistently identify a victim and the cause of their death. Unbeknownst to most murderers, it is nearly impossible to destroy osseous material and the forensic evidence eternally encased within. This research presents three real-life cases in which law enforcement utilized a forensic anthropologist to assist in the ultimate conviction of a murderer. It further delves into six specific techniques currently available to forensic anthropologists and how these technologies are changing the landscape of forensic science. The examination of these methods was sought through dozens of academic research papers and books by anthropological authorities in forensics. The research concludes that though arson, entombment, and desecration can make a homicide investigation more arduous, they seldom make solving it impossible due to the rapidly evolving techniques of forensic anthropology.

## References

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