
Overview

This standard is about developing and implementing forensic strategies for serious and complex investigations. It includes working with people in making assessments of incidents or operations. It involves reviewing information and intelligence, confirming investigative needs and determining forensic actions required. Forensic strategies will need to be monitored and may change as a consequence of outcomes throughout investigations.

Forensic strategies can be developed for incidents and operations, and can include forensic examination strategies and forensic submission strategies.

Maintaining health and safety, together with the integrity and continuity of forensic materials, is of paramount importance.

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Performance

criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 gather available information regarding incidents in line with organisational procedures
 - P2 assess potential risks which may impact upon investigations in line with organisational procedures, and:
 - P2.1 take action to manage risks
 - P3 agree and record examination plans with relevant people in line with the needs of investigations
 - P4 check actions to be taken in recovering forensic items maximise the collection and preservation of potential evidence
 - P5 plan resources required for forensic investigations in line with organisational procedures
 - P6 examine the possibility of linked incidents, and their relevance to other investigations, in line with forensic procedures
 - P7 identify material to provide potential links to individuals and locations in line with organisational procedures
 - P8 prioritise forensic objectives in line with investigation and organisational requirements and timescales
 - P9 consider a range of pertinent hypotheses according to the circumstances and events of incidents
 - P10 agree forensic strategy and priorities with relevant people
 - P11 assess a range of examinations and their potential outcomes that are most likely to achieve forensic objectives
 - P12 check forensic objectives comply with appropriate sequential examination of items in line with organisational procedures
 - P13 brief investigation teams of examination plans in line with investigation requirements, including:
 - P13.1 the team's associated responsibilities
 - P14 agree forensic priorities for items recovered in line with forensic objectives
 - P15 review forensic strategies to continually evaluate emerging facts and intelligence, and:
 - P15.1 agree any changes with relevant people

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- P15.2 update forensic strategies
 - P15.3 record updates
- P16 inform relevant people in line with investigation requirements of:
 - P16.1 any changes to the forensic strategy
 - P16.2 associated actions to changes
 - P16.3 reasons for changes
- P17 evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and associated actions in line with organisation requirements, and:
 - P17.1 use this to inform future strategy planning

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Knowledge and understanding

Legal and organisational requirements

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the requirements of current law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relevant to developing and implementing forensic strategies
- K2 implications of current law, policies and procedures relating to:
 - K2.1 health and safety
 - K2.2 information and data handling
 - K2.3 human rights
 - K2.4 criminal justice system
- K3 your level of expertise and authority to access information, and where additional expertise or authority may be needed
- K4 how to maintain effective communications with others involved in developing and implementing forensic strategies

Forensic strategy

You need to know and understand:

- K5 the importance of effective forensic strategies, the aspects they should address, and how to set strategies that meets investigative needs
- K6 the importance of monitoring progress and outcomes of forensic strategies and the developing needs of investigations, and how to adapt strategies accordingly
- K7 roles and responsibilities of those involved in constructing forensic strategies, including those that should be within the forensic investigative team
- K8 the main types of physical evidence and methods for ensuring their effective recovery
- K9 the range of examinations that may be relevant to particular types of investigations, and their potential evidential value
- K10 the importance of setting forensic objectives for all material to be recovered, including prioritising actions necessary to recover samples
- K11 principal types of risks that might be present at examinations, and how to identify, assess and take action to address them
- K12 evidence that suggests an offender has forensic awareness, and the impact this would have on forensic actions

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K13 the importance of maintaining the integrity and security of incident scenes, forensic items and samples, and how to do this

Health and safety

You need to know and understand:

K14 potential health and safety hazards at examinations, and how to assess and address risks to health and safety

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