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**Overview**

This standard is about managing scenes and preserving scenes for examination.

You will need to gather information at scenes and contribute to investigative processes. This includes reviewing and defining scene parameters. In addition, controlling and preserving scenes and establishing scene boundaries will require establishing and communicating responsibilities with relevant people. Preventative measures to protect scene boundaries will need to be put in place and maintained during examinations.

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

**There are two elements**

- 1 Assess scenes
- 2 Control and preserve scenes

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**Performance  
criteria****Assess scenes****You must be able to:**

- P1 review the circumstances of scenes with relevant people in line with forensic procedures
- P2 clarify with relevant people whether the circumstances of scenes are known or alleged in line with forensic procedures
- P3 define scene parameters based upon available information in line with forensic procedures
- P4 maintain health, safety and welfare of those at scenes in line with organisational requirements
- P5 arrange appropriate resources for forensic examinations in line with operational requirements
- P6 arrange for prioritisation and recovery of materials in line with forensic procedures
- P7 identify any operational risks at scenes in line with organisational requirements, and:
  - P7.1 take necessary action to manage risks
- P8 examine the possibility of linked scenes, and their relevance to other investigations in line with forensic procedures
- P9 confirm the necessary consent and authority has been obtained to carry out forensic examinations, in line with legislative and operating procedures
- P10 assess scenes to inform the development and review of the forensic strategy

**Control and preserve scenes****You must be able to:**

- P11 define parameters, common approach pathways and rendezvous point of scenes in line with forensic procedures
- P12 implement measures to preserve scenes in line with forensic procedures, including the prevention of:
  - P12.1 damage to potential evidence
  - P12.2 degradation of potential evidence
  - P12.3 contamination of potential evidence

P12.4 loss of potential evidence

- P13 ensure the scene log is started by relevant personnel to record those who enter scenes in line with forensic strategy
- P14 check all personnel entering scene areas use appropriate protective equipment, in line with health and safety, and operating requirements
- P15 identify whether others have been at scenes prior to measures taken to protect areas, in line with operating procedures
- P16 agree responsibilities for scene examinations with relevant people
- P17 record all details of scenes and decisions made in line with organisational requirements

## Manage forensic investigations at scenes

**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 managing forensic investigations at scenes
- 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 the importance of obtaining consent and authorisation for scene examinations, and how to do this
- K4 who needs to attend scenes

**Liaison and communications**

You need to know and understand:

- K5 the internal and external personnel you have to liaise with at scenes
- K6 how to establish and maintain effective lines of communication with personnel

**Sources of information**

You need to know and understand:

- K7 how to obtain information relating to incidents and the personnel who may be able to provide necessary information
- K8 how to use IT and databases relevant to managing forensic investigation processes
- K9 information collection and recording techniques relevant to gathering and disseminating information regarding forensic investigation processes

**Investigative processes**

You need to know and understand:

- K10 the importance of effective crime scene investigations, the components to be considered and your role in contributing to this
- K11 forensic investigative processes and their role within the wider context of incident investigations

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- K12 how to maintain the continuity and integrity of forensic investigative processes
- K13 the potential for conflicts of interest at scenes and how they can be minimised
- K14 how to assess and determine forensic examination requirements, including:
  - K14.1 scientific disciplines
  - K14.2 specialised proficiencies
  - K14.3 techniques
  - K14.4 resources
- K15 incident patterns and trends and how these can be used
- K16 the reasons for reviewing initial assessments
- K17 potential evidence types, and when to seek advice in relation to their recovery
- K18 the importance of maintaining objectivity at scenes and during forensic processes

### Scene preservation

You need to know and understand:

- K19 the importance of, and how to control and preserve scenes and evidence, including:
  - K19.1 consideration of location
  - K19.2 access
  - K19.3 weather conditions
  - K19.4 time of day
  - K19.5 multiple locations
  - K19.6 consideration of time constraints
- K20 the nature of, and the need to consider, linked scenes
- K21 ways of preventing contamination

### Resources and equipment

You need to know and understand:

- K22 the types of equipment and resources relevant to different forensic examinations and how to access and use them
- K23 the types of personal protective equipment available for those attending

scenes and when they need to be used

K24 the importance of prioritising your work load and how to do this

**Identifying risks**

You need to know and  
understand:

K25 how to identify operational risks at scenes

K26 potential health and safety risks at scenes and how to address them

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