
Overview

This standard is about undertaking forensic examinations at scene of incidents and collecting forensic evidence and intelligence. In examining scenes you will need to determine the types of examinations necessary, use suitable examination and investigation techniques and locate and record potential evidence. You will also need to establish and maintain the continuity and integrity of items. It includes recording all relevant information and intelligence, evidence collection and completion of examinations.

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

There are four elements

- 1 Establish the requirements of examinations
- 2 Examine scenes and recover potential evidence
- 3 Identify and assess information for potential intelligence
- 4 Complete forensic examinations

Undertake forensic examinations at scenes of incidents

**Performance
criteria****Establish the requirements of examinations****You must be able to:**

- P1 confirm the circumstances of incidents with relevant people in line with organisational procedures
- P2 identify forensic investigative needs for examinations in line with the forensic strategy
- P3 decide activities required for examinations, including:
 - P3.1 types of examinations to undertake
 - P3.2 priorities and sequencing necessary to maximise the collection of potential evidence
- P4 identify circumstances that require additional expertise and facilities in line with organisational requirements, and:
 - P4.1 arrange additional expertise and facilities as required
- P5 provide advice to relevant people regarding requirements for collecting materials and recording notes in line with forensic strategy

Examine scenes and recover potential evidence**You must be able to:**

- P6 use examination techniques to establish the sequence of events in line with forensic strategy and investigation needs, taking into account:
 - P6.1 scenes of incidents
 - P6.2 circumstances of incidents
 - P6.3 prevention of contamination, cross-contamination, degradation, damage and loss of potential evidence
- P7 locate potential, visible and latent evidence using investigative skills
- P8 record and recover potential evidence in line with forensic procedures, and:
 - P8.1 take action to optimise and preserve potential evidence
- P9 identify risks to safety linked to collecting potential evidence in line with organisational procedures, and:
 - P9.1 take the necessary actions to minimise risks
- P10 maintain communications with relevant people concerning progress of examinations in line with forensic strategy

Identify and assess information for potential intelligence

- You must be able to:
- P11 identify aspects of examinations which appear inconsistent or out of context with environment and circumstances of incidents in line with forensic procedures, and:
 - P11.1 seek explanations using investigative processes
 - P12 identify any patterns, relationships or trends from information at scenes relevant to forensic examinations in line with organisational procedures
 - P13 pass on intelligence to appropriate people in line with organisational procedures
 - P14 use deductive reasoning throughout forensic examinations to determine what may have happened in line with investigation procedures, and:
 - P14.1 justify your interpretations

Complete forensic examinations

- You must be able to:
- P15 review scene examinations to ensure all actions have been taken in line with forensic procedures, and:
 - P15.1 initiate further forensic examinations and additional resources if required
 - P16 report your findings to appropriate people in line with organisational procedures
 - P17 prioritise the submission of items and forensic samples for analysis in line with forensic strategy
 - P18 communicate progress and completion of examinations to relevant people in line with organisational procedures
 - P19 record information relating to examinations in line with organisational requirements
 - P20 arrange appropriate cleaning procedures in line with legal and operational requirements

Undertake forensic examinations at scenes of incidents

Knowledge and understanding**Legal and organisational requirements****You need to know and understand:**

- K1 the implications of current law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relevant to undertaking forensic examinations at scenes of incidents
- 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 and the actions necessary should these be exceeded

Forensic examinations**You need to know and understand:**

- K4 the principles and methods involved in forensic investigative processes, including the use and relevance of scientific investigative work
- K5 how to establish details of cases and information needed to plan scientific investigative work
- K6 how to define and establish access to scenes
- K7 how to sequence and prioritise forensic investigative work
- K8 the importance of assessing effects of forensic investigative work upon potential evidence
- K9 how to determine and perform examination techniques
- K10 how to preserve, recover, package and transfer potential evidence
- K11 how to select, prepare, use and address any faults in the range of equipment, consumables and reagents to preserve, recover and examine potential evidence
- K12 how to identify and address contamination, cross-contamination and loss or degradation issues
- K13 different types of reference samples required, and when and how to use them
- K14 the time that preservation, recovery and examination methods are likely to take

Undertake forensic examinations at scenes of incidents

K15 the nature of, and need to consider, linked scenes

K16 screening methods, and presumptive and physical tests for potential evidence

Recording information, communications and intelligence

You need to know and understand:

K17 how to establish valid and reliable information about incidents

K18 how to form propositions

K19 the importance of recognising and taking account any inconsistent information gained during scene investigations

K20 the principles and factors involved in processing, evaluating and interpreting results of scene examinations

K21 the difference between forensic information and intelligence

K22 different types of forensic intelligence and the importance of capturing intelligence

K23 the roles and responsibilities of different organisations and personnel that may be involved in investigations

K24 how your role relates to others involved in forensic investigations

K25 how to develop links, relationships and communications with other people involved with investigations and the protocols for doing this

K26 who and when to inform others regarding information and intelligence

K27 how to identify information and intelligence to be recorded, including the available recording systems and how to use them

K28 the importance of making notes and recording information and intelligence in suitable formats

K29 the importance of working in co-operation with others

Identifying operational risks

You need to know and understand:

K30 how to undertake risk assessments of scenes of incidents

K31 the importance of risk control measures, including informing others when hazardous examinations are taking place

K32 how to identify operational risks, and the actions appropriate to minimising such risks

Health and safety

You need to know and understand:

- K33 potential health and safety risks at scenes and how to address them
- K34 types of personal protective equipment used in forensic examinations, and how and when they should be used
- K35 the principal types of cleaning materials and procedures used at scenes of incidents

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