
Overview

This is about evaluating the forensic investigation undertaken at scenes of incidents. It includes assessing initial findings and considering alternative hypotheses regarding what is likely to have occurred at scenes, and then establishing whether any items or samples need to be examined further. It includes considering the possibility of linked scenes, and taking appropriate action.

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

**Performance
criteria**

- You must be able to:
- P1 review information and materials collected at scenes of incidents against the requirements of forensic strategy, and:
 - P1.1 identify whether further actions are required
 - P1.2 establish whether additional examinations are required
 - P2 review interpretations of what occurred at scenes with relevant people in line with the needs of investigations and operational procedures
 - P3 assess requirements for further information relating to forensic examinations in line with the needs of investigations
 - P4 obtain any further information related to scenes of incidents in line with forensic procedures
 - P5 examine the possibility of linked scenes, and their relevance to other investigations, in line with forensic procedures
 - P6 provide information to those who require and are authorised to receive it in line with operating procedures
 - P7 record relevant information in line with organisational procedures

Evaluate the forensic investigation of scenes

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 evaluating forensic examinations
- 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 authority and expertise, and the actions necessary should this be exceeded

Liaison and communications

You need to know and understand:

- K4 the internal and external personnel with whom you need to liaise when evaluating incidents
- K5 the lines of communication to use when liaising with personnel
- K6 the purpose of briefing and de-briefing meetings, and how to participate in them

Evaluation

You need to know and understand:

- K7 the importance of considering all available information to assist in establishing what could have occurred at scene of incidents
- K8 how to carry out an evaluation of scene investigations
- K9 the importance of considering emerging and new information
- K10 the importance of remaining objective
- K11 sources of information that may help forensic investigations and how to access them
- K12 how to evaluate material recovered from scenes
- K13 specialised forensic techniques and resources available and when they might be used
- K14 the importance of, and ways to establish, the accuracy, validity and reliability of examination methods

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- K15 the principles involved in processing, evaluating and interpreting examination findings
- K16 which items and samples, in combination with certain types of examinations, are likely to provide the most useful information to assist investigations
- K17 the nature and the importance of considering linked scenes

Managing recovered forensic samples

You need to know and understand:

- K18 continuity and security requirements relating to forensic samples, and the implications of not maintaining such requirements
- K19 the causes of contamination of forensic samples, and how to prevent this
- K20 the importance of segregating potential evidence, and how to do this

Health and safety

You need to know and understand:

- K21 potential health and safety risks at scenes and how to address them

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