Disaster Victim Identification and Mass Fatality Management Training Course

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London (UK)

UK Traininig
PARTNER



Disaster Victim Identification and Mass Fatality Management Training Course

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Introduction:

Disaster victim identification and mass fatality management training equips response teams with systematic forensic procedures to recover, record, and identify human remains following major emergency incidents. This one-week course prepares emergency and mortuary managers to formulate a multidisciplinary mass fatality incident response plan. Taught at practitioner depth through an active simulation mode, the curriculum incorporates the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Guide, the international standard governing five sequential phases of victim identification. Delegates complete this disaster victim identification and mass fatality management training course with Blackbird Training Centre to direct dignified operations adhering to global forensic and humanitarian protocols.

Course Objectives:

- Define the five operational phases of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Guide to organize field recovery and mortuary processing.
- Distinguish between primary identifiers such as DNA, friction ridge analysis, and forensic odontology and secondary identifiers including physical marks and clothing.
- Compare missing persons ante-mortem records against post-mortem autopsy findings to establish positive matches in reconciliation sessions.
- Apply cold chain management and grid search techniques under OSAC standards to prevent decomposition and avoid commingling remains.
- Select appropriate biostatistical likelihood ratio thresholds for kinship DNA matching to confirm identifications in multi-casualty incidents.
- Justify temporary field mortuary layouts and surge body-storage systems to maintain chain of custody and staff psychological safety.

Target Audience:

- Hospital emergency directors managing surge mortuary capacity who must determine when operational fatality thresholds require external multi-agency escalation.
- Public health incident commanders directing disaster consequence management who must select safe temporary human remains storage protocols during major emergencies.
- Forensic pathologists and mortuary facility supervisors overseeing post-mortem examinations who must decide between primary and secondary forensic identification methods.
- Pre-hospital response coordinators deploying field recovery teams who must establish chain of custody procedures to prevent the commingling of remains.
- Emergency planning managers establishing joint operations centres who must align institutional casualty response plans with international disaster victim identification standards.



Course Outline:

Day 1: Incident Foundations, Legal Mandates, and Site Search Organization

- Mass Casualty Versus Mass Fatality
- Incident Command System Alignment
- Scene Processing Protocols
- Grid Search And Recovery Techniques
- Electronic Death Notification Workflows

Day 2: International DVI Frameworks and Evidence Collection Architectures

- Primary Versus Secondary Identifiers
- INTERPOL DVI Guide Execution
- INTERPOL Pink Form Protocols
- INTERPOL Yellow Form Procedures
- Temporary Mortuary Cold Chains

Day 3: Biometrics, Forensic Matching, and Ante-Mortem Reconciliation

- Forensic Odontology Versus Comparative Dactyloscopy
- Kinship DNA Profile Matching
- Specialized Reconciliation Software
- DVI Reconciliation Board Procedures
- Medical Device And Implant Tracking

Day 4: Complex Remains, Repatriation Logistics, and Operational Safety

- Commingled Versus Fragmented Remains
- Consular Release And Repatriation
- Handling Contaminated Remains
- Secondary Traumatic Stress Protocols
- Religious Sensitivity And Timelines

Day 5: Practical Simulation Exercise and Response Plan Formulation

- Unfolding Multi-Site Incident Simulation
- Ante-Mortem Family Assistance Centre Simulation
- Post-Mortem Station Flow Simulation
- Simulated DVI Reconciliation Hearing
- Mass Fatality Incident Response Plan



Skills You Will Gain:

- INTERPOL DVI Form Management
- Post-Mortem Forensic Documentation
- Ante-Mortem Family Data Collection
- Kinship DNA Threshold Analysis
- Commingled Remains Triaging
- Temporary Mortuary Site Layout
- Medicolegal Chain of Custody
- Mass Fatality Incident Planning

Why Attend This Course:

- From managing fatal incidents using informal administrative approaches to applying the standardized five-phase INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification framework.
- From relying on ambiguous circumstantial personal descriptions to executing systematic comparative analysis with primary dental, friction ridge, and DNA biometrics.
- From facing mortuary bottlenecks during sudden fatality surges to establishing scalable cold chain infrastructure and safe multidisciplinary workstation flows.
- From operating with fragmented departmental disaster checklists to formulating a multidisciplinary mass fatality incident response plan that ensures defensible identification.

Conclusion:

Effective mass fatality incident management demands structured forensic governance, respectful handling of the dead, and strict adherence to international evidence standards across every phase of recovery. This course clarifies the critical distinctions between primary and secondary identifiers, ante-mortem and post-mortem data streams, and rapid burial customs and legal medicolegal investigations. Tailored for emergency planners, hospital directors, and forensic mortuary specialists, this practitioner-level course delivers the operational discipline required to preserve human dignity, secure legal identification, and lead coordinated multi-agency responses during critical incidents.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What is disaster victim identification and mass fatality management training?

Disaster victim identification and mass fatality management training is a multidisciplinary program covering the forensic recovery, examination, and scientific identification of deceased individuals following mass emergencies. It establishes standardised protocols for managing large numbers of deceased persons across temporary field mortuaries, specialized laboratories, and formal family assistance centers.



What is the difference between primary and secondary identifiers in disaster victim identification?

Primary identifiers comprise scientifically unique biometric markers including friction ridge prints, forensic dental records, and comparative DNA profiling. Secondary identifiers consist of contextual evidence such as clothing, tattoos, personal effects, and medical scars, which support an investigation but cannot confirm legal identification independently without primary biometric verification.

Which international standard does this disaster victim identification course follow?

This course follows the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Guide and its standardized five-phase methodology, utilizing INTERPOL pink and yellow data collection tools. It also integrates forensic site management principles from standards developed by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science.

Is this disaster victim identification training appropriate for operational emergency coordinators?

Yes, this course is designed for managerial and operational emergency professionals who lead mass fatality consequence management. It equips coordinators with the structural, logistical, and inter-agency command competencies required to supervise temporary mortuaries, direct remains search operations, and coordinate with forensic reconciliation specialists during catastrophic events.

