

Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training Course

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Overview

Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training Course is a one-week course for emergency planners, forensic specialists, and incident commanders who need an operational mass fatality response plan. Incident teams often face evidentiary contamination, jurisdiction conflicts, and mortuary capacity failures during major disasters. This course applies the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Guide and field mortuary protocols to structure scene recovery, post-mortem examination, ante-mortem data matching, and family assistance. Agile Leaders Training Center delivers the mass fatality incident management and disaster victim identification training course.

Who Should Attend

- Emergency managers responsible for coordinating inter-agency mass casualty and fatality operations.
- Forensic practitioners and mortuary officers managing victim processing, chain of custody, and biometric data.
- Civil defense and public safety leaders directing scene containment, search, and body recovery grids.
- Hospital crisis coordinators overseeing surge morgue storage and clinical death notification workflows.
- Family assistance liaison officers directing ante-mortem data collection and relative briefing centers.

The course assumes participants already coordinate emergency operations or healthcare facilities during crises and leaves out introductory emergency response procedures.

Departments and Industries

The course draws operational cases from organizations managing complex public safety and healthcare emergencies.

- Emergency management and civil defense directorates
- Forensic pathology and mortuary operations in public health services
- Crisis management teams in transport and aviation authorities
- Industrial safety and emergency response units in petrochemical processing
- Disaster response divisions in humanitarian and medical aid agencies

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply the five-phase INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Guide to organize field recovery and mortuary workflows.
- Build chain-of-custody tracking systems using disaster body numbering and GIS recovery grids.
- Analyze post-mortem pink forms and ante-mortem yellow forms to evaluate primary and secondary identifiers.
- Prioritize temporary cold chain storage protocols using refrigerated units maintained between 2°C and 4°C.
- Evaluate DNA kinship calculations using likelihood ratio thresholds in specialized identification software.
- Build an operational mass fatality incident plan integrating family assistance and administrative release requirements.

Course Agenda

Day 1: Scene recovery and incident command

- Incident command integration under the General Directorate of Civil Defense framework
- Scene containment boundaries and chemical, biological, and radiological hazard screening checklists
- Body recovery grid layouts and GIS spatial coordinate tagging methods
- Disaster body numbering conventions and evidentiary property transfer logs
- Initial preservation protocols and body transport routing guidelines

Day 2: Post-mortem mortuary operations

- Disaster Portable Morgue Unit layout and cold chain specifications for 2°C to 4°C storage
- INTERPOL DVI post-mortem pink form completion procedures
- Primary identification biometric capture covering friction ridge analysis and forensic odontology
- Post-mortem tissue sampling protocols for high-throughput DNA profiling
- Occupational biohazard controls and protective equipment workflows in surge mortuaries

Day 3: Ante-mortem data and family assistance

- Family Assistance Center layout and psychosocial support briefing plans
- INTERPOL DVI ante-mortem yellow form interview techniques and records gathering
- Medical and dental chart acquisition protocols from institutional records
- Reference DNA collection standards from biological relatives using buccal swabs
- Missing persons database population and ante-mortem file consolidation procedures

Day 4: Forensic reconciliation and legal release

- Automated matching protocols in Bonaparte and M-FIsys kinship analysis software
- Likelihood ratio thresholds of 10,000 for forensic DNA kinship identification
- Reconciliation board case review files and formal identification summary sheets
- Civil Affairs death registration under Article 52 death notification requirements
- Administrative clearance chains for burial permits and consular no-objection certificates

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Day 5: Operational simulation and incident debrief

- Exercise: map a multi-sector grid and process disaster body numbering logs
- Exercise: reconcile conflicting ante-mortem dental records against post-mortem charting
- Exercise: structure a cold storage surge plan for an industrial complex disaster
- Exercise: review kinship likelihood ratios and prepare reconciliation board documentation
- Capstone exercise: present an operational mass fatality incident plan with mortuary logistics and family support workflows

Practical Exercises

The course uses practical scenarios and standardized field forms from mass fatality incidents.

- Suggested activity: Establish a field recovery grid and complete chain-of-custody logs for complex debris fields.
- Suggested activity: Cross-match ante-mortem yellow records with post-mortem pink charts to isolate concordant physical markers.
- Suggested activity: Build an operational surge mortuary plan calculating container storage, staffing shifts, and cold chain dependencies.

FAQs

Who should attend this disaster victim identification course?

This course suits emergency planners, civil defense officers, forensic leads, and hospital crisis managers. It assumes active involvement in incident command, disaster operations, or forensic services, and leaves out introductory emergency rescue basics.

How does this course differ from conventional mass casualty incident training?

Conventional mass casualty training focuses on triage, clinical stabilization, and hospital ambulance routing for living survivors. This course focuses specifically on decedent recovery, mortuary surge capacity, forensic chain of custody, and scientific identification.

What identifiers does the disaster victim identification framework prioritize?

The framework prioritizes primary identifiers comprising friction ridge analysis, forensic odontology, and comparative DNA profiling. Secondary identifiers like visual recognition, clothing, and personal effects support the investigation but cannot confirm identity alone.

How do operational teams preserve chain of custody during mass fatalities?

Operational teams assign a unique disaster body number at the recovery grid, log spatial coordinates, seal remains in tagged pouches, and record every custodial transfer across mortuary stations.

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Conclusion

Participants leave with a functional operational mass fatality incident plan ready for organizational integration. The document defines clear chain-of-custody pathways, mortuary capacity allocations, and family assistance protocols for sudden crisis events. It establishes rigorous forensic identification standards that protect legal accountability, victim dignity, and public trust.

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