

SOMDI Virtual Training Series – November (7,14,21,28) 2023
Death Investigations: Death Scene to Self-Care
15.5 ABMDI Credit Hours APPROVED

November 7, 2023 (10:00am – 2:00pm CST)

Day 1:

Topic 1: 1.5 hours

Sharon Green (MDI – Louisiana)
Title: MDI responsibilities on scene

Summary:

This section will cover the general responsibilities of the MDI on the death scene from the initial phone call, scene response, body examination, and post-scene follow-up. Several topics will be covered in this section including working with law enforcement, medical services, and other agencies as well as duties performed on scene and investigations.

Topic 1: 2.5 hours

John Fudenberg (Coroner – Retired – Nevada)
Title: Mass Fatalities

Summary:

Mass fatality preparation and response is vital in any coroner or medical examiner offices. This section will cover preparing your staff and training your staff to respond and handle various types of mass fatality events. It will also cover preparation of good and supplies which will be needed or readily available to respond to mass fatality incidents. Topics will include the response on scene, morgue operations, family assistance, and media relations. Lastly it will cover post fatality response and mental health awareness for responders.

November 14, 2023 (10:00am – 2:00pm CST)

Day 2:

Topic 1: 2 hours

Dr. Bart Leger, Ph.D. (Louisiana)

Title: Mental Health for MDI's & Wellness Programs/Ideas

Summary:

This section will cover a variety of topics from recognizing and combating mental and psychological stress associated with the MDI field.

Recognizing compassion fatigue and physical body changes that can be affected by mental health. A variety of topics will be discussed to help MDI's through the daily struggle and difficult cases including interoffice and voluntary programs, exercises and more.

Topic 2: 2 hours

Philip Miller (MDI – Oklahoma)

Title: Investigating Multiple Deaths on Scene

Summary:

Investigating multiple deaths on a scene can be complex and unique. The deaths can range from multiple individuals on scene from individuals at multiple locations. Several topics will be covered including proper identification, cross-contamination, transportation issues, body examinations, and working with various responding agencies. Proper documentation of the scene and deceased individuals play critical roles in the successful investigations. This presentation will encompass small scale death scenes where there are multiple fatalities, and that differ from large scale mass fatal/mass disaster events. To learn different ways of triaging, approaching and processing these types of scenes.

Communication with multi-agencies and utilization of different types of resources.

November 21, 2023 (10:00am – 2:00pm CST)

Day 3:

Topic 1: 2 hours

Joe Kolb (MDI – New Mexico)

Title: Complexities of Gunshot Wounds to the Head

Summary:

Gunshot wounds to the head are among the most intriguing wounds a medical investigator is confronted with. So many variables come into play to create the wounds an investigator is confronted with. Topics that will be covered in this class include wounds created by various weapon calibers, distance from the head, what is the entrance and exit wound, variables that can confound an accurate field assessment, and scene and wound examination. Lastly, determining whether the case is a homicide, accident, or suicide will be addressed.

Topic 2: 1.5 hours

Karla Orozco (Director of Operations/MDI – Florida)

Title: ANDE: Using Rapid DNA in Mass Disasters and Day to Day Investigations

Summary:

- What is the ANDE?
- ME/C access to ANDE – Collaborating with Local Law Enforcement
- ME/C everyday use for ANDE
 - o Examples of ANDE's success in ME cases
 - o How ANDE samples from decedents can help criminal investigations
- ME/C use for ANDE in Mass Casualty Events
 - o Examples of ANDE's success in Mass Casualty Events

November 28, 2023 (10:00am – 2:00pm CST)

Day 4:

Topic 1: 2 hours

Dr. Claire Glynn, Ph.D. (Executive Director – Connecticut)

Title: Forensic Genetic Genealogy

Summary:

This section will cover the emerging practice of utilizing genetic information from consumer companies for identifying suspects and victims in criminal cases. Forensic genetic genealogy is new, cutting-edge technology using the latest in DNA. DNA matches can come from various DNA collection agencies uses for ancestry and family tree research allowing investigators to obtain family references from these databases.

Topic 1: 1.5 hours (Continued from 11-21-2023)

Joe Kolb (MDI – New Mexico)

Title: Complexities of Gunshot Wounds to the Head

Summary:

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Topic 3: 0.5 hours

Open Forum (Open Dialogue with SOMDI BOD)

- Ask questions to experienced Medicolegal death investigators regarding any topics in the field