

10 Days: Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)

Day 1: Introduction & Protocols

- Definition and importance of DVI
- International standards and protocols
- Legal frameworks
- Ethical issues in handling human remains
- Four phases: Scene, Postmortem, Ante Mortem, Reconciliation
- Key roles and their responsibilities
- Coordination between agencies
- Types of disasters: natural, terrorist attacks, transportation accidents
- Case study: lessons learned

Day 2: Scene Management

- Personnel safety
- Establishing control zones
- Rapid assessment techniques
- Best practices for accurate, thorough documentation
- Techniques and technology for photography, videography, mapping, and sketching
- Types of evidence in DVI
- Proper collection and preservation methods
- Chain of custody procedures: evidence integrity, documentation, and tracking

Day 3: Human Remains Recovery

- Skeletal, decomposed, and fragmented remains
- Systematic search methods
- Recovery equipment and technology
- Safe handling: personal protective equipment (PPE) and decontamination procedures
- Transportation protocols
- Personal effects

Day 4: Postmortem Examination

- Forensic Pathologists: functions and responsibilities
- Standard autopsy protocols
- Detailed documentation of findings
- Radiology
- Dental records and examination
- DNA sampling and rapid analysis systems
- Fingerprint recovery techniques

Day 5: Antemortem Data Collection

- Medical records, dental records, and personal effects
- Family interview techniques
- Data management
- Communication strategies
- Handling sensitive information
- Software and databases used in DVI
- Cultural and religious considerations and adaptations

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Day 6: Reconciliation & Identification

- Matching antemortem and postmortem data
- Comparison techniques
- Verification procedures
- Software, tools, and automation
- Quality assurance: accuracy and reliability
- Legal requirements for documentation
- Reporting to authorities and families
- Ethical dilemmas and decision making
- Maintaining professionalism

Day 7: Communication Outside DVI Teams

- Best practices
- Psychological support for families
- Counseling referrals
- Working with the media: protocols, inquiries, press conferences, and public statements
- Effective uses of social media
- Understanding public perception
- Legal implications of public statements
- Privacy and confidentiality

Day 8: Mass Fatality Incidents

- Developing response plans
- Resource allocation and management
- Interagency collaboration
- Establishing communication channels
- Logistics and supply chain management
- Establishing temporary morgues
- Factors affecting workflow
- Case study: major disasters

Day 9: Hands-On Practice

- Team-based recoveries of simulated victims in disaster scene
- Examination
- Data collection
- Reconciliation
- Report drafts and presentations

Day 10: Formal Assessments

- Written exams
- Instructor feedback
- Open discussion

