

Workshop Introduction

The identification, documentation, processing, collection, packaging, and preservation of forensic evidence requires certified crime scene investigators (CSIs) who examine the crime scene for plain-view and latent evidence. This is a painstaking responsibility, and many times criminal prosecution relies solely on the information obtained from the incident by CSIs.

The potential exists for high consequence events (HCEs) from acts of terrorism, accidents, or natural disasters. No matter the incident, emergency responders face the challenge of working in deadly, contaminated environments—whether man-made or natural.

Like first responders, CSIs must now also enter these hazardous, contaminated areas to properly identify, document, process, collect, package, and preserve forensic evidence, both conventional and nonconventional, so that further forensic analysis can be conducted in the appropriate laboratory.

This workshop will address the paradigm shifts that are required for CSIs to safely conduct a crime scene investigation in these environments. Everything—personal protective equipment, documentation equipment, detection equipment, collection equipment, packaging equipment, and evidence transportation—must be altered to one degree or another, and this workshop will present guidelines and best practices to aid CSIs and keep them safe.

Module 1: CBRNE/TIC Forensic Evidence Collection and Packaging Techniques

Scope Statement

This module will provide participants with specialized skills and methodologies for collecting, processing, packaging, and preserving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) agent and toxic industrial chemical (TIC) forensic evidence in coordination and cooperation with the receiving laboratories. At the end of this module, participants will work in two groups. Each group will perform CBRNE/TIC forensic evidence recovery operations using the evidence facilitator and collector aseptic technique.

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this module, participants will be able to collect and package CBRNE/TIC forensic evidence using the aseptic technique.

Module 2: Identification and Collection of Forensic Evidence in a Hazardous Environment

Scope Statement

This module provides participants with the methodologies of processing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE)- or toxic industrial chemical (TIC)-contaminated conventional forensic evidence from a crime scene in a hazardous environment, in coordination and cooperation with the receiving laboratories. These processes include locating, prioritizing, documenting, presumptive forensic testing, field screening, processing, packaging, collecting, and preserving such evidence.

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify and perform procedures for locating, prioritizing, documenting, field screening, processing, packaging, collecting, and preserving potential conventional forensic evidence found in environments contaminated by CBRNE/TIC agents or materials.