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| Overview | This standard is about preparing for forensic investigation processes upon receiving information that incidents have occurred.  You will need to gather all relevant information, decide the types of forensic examination necessary and make assessments on information and intelligence obtained. You will also need to prepare for examinations and provide advice to others on control and preservation of scenes.  Maintaining health and safety, together with the integrity and continuity of forensic materials, is of paramount importance. |

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| **Performance**  **criteria**  You must be able to: | 1. obtain relevant information relating to incidents from appropriate people and systems 2. determine whether arrangements are required to access scenes of incidents in line with organisational procedures 3. assess information you have obtained regarding incidents to determine who should undertake forensic examinations of scenes of incidents 4. assess resources required for forensic examinations in line with operating procedures 5. communicate information to relevant people in line with organisation requirements 6. maintain health, safety and welfare at scenes of incidents in line with organisational procedures 7. prepare equipment required for investigating scenes of incidents in line with forensic procedures 8. prioritise actions required for investigating scenes of incidents to maximise the recovery of forensic samples in line with operating procedures 9. provide advice to relevant people regarding the control and preservation of scenes of incidents in line with operating procedures 10. record relevant information in line with organisational procedures |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand: | Legal and organisational requirements   1. the requirements of relevant law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relating to preparing for forensic investigative processes 2. implications of current law, policies and procedures relating to: 3. health and safety 4. information and data handling 5. human rights 6. criminal justice system 7. the importance of obtaining consent and authorisation for scene examinations, and how to do this 8. the importance of progressing actions according to agreed timescales 9. your level of authority when preparing forensic investigation processes, and how to address circumstances where this may be exceeded |
| You need to know and understand: | Source information   1. how to obtain information relating to incidents 2. how to use IT and databases for preparing forensic investigation processes 3. the information collection, assessment and recording techniques relevant to gathering and disseminating information regarding scenes |
| You need to know and understand: | Resources and equipment   1. the types of equipment, resources and personnel appropriate for investigating scenes of major and volume cases and how to access them 2. how to prepare, use and address faults in equipment for investigations 3. how to prioritise your workload in relation to scene investigations |
| You need to know and understand: | Scene preservation   1. how to control and preserve scenes and the importance of this 2. contamination and cross-contamination issues and considerations, and how to address them |
| You need to know and understand: | Health and safety   1. potential health and safety risks at scenes and how to address them |

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| Developed by | Skills for Justice |
| Version number | 2 |
| **Date approved** | November 2013 |
| Indicative review date | November 2018 |
| **Validity** | Current |
| **Status** | Original |
| Originating organisation | Skills for Justice |
| **Original URN** | SFJ CN301 |
| Relevant occupations | Crime scene manager; crime scene investigator; forensic laboratory officer; forensic examiner; photographic technician |
| **Suite** | Forensic Science |
| **Key words** | Crime; contamination; examination; forensic examinations; evidence; investigating scenes; justice; preservation |