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| Overview | This is about evaluating the forensic investigation undertaken at scenes of incidents. It includes assessing initial findings and considering alternative hypotheses regarding what is likely to have occurred at scenes, and then establishing whether any items or samples need to be examined further. It includes considering the possibility of linked scenes, and taking appropriate action.  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. review information and materials collected at scenes of incidents against the requirements of forensic strategy, and:    1. identify whether further actions are required    2. establish whether additional examinations are required 2. review interpretations of what occurred at scenes with relevant people in line with the needs of investigations and operational procedures 3. assess requirements for further information relating to forensic examinations in line with the needs of investigations 4. obtain any further information related to scenes of incidents in line with forensic procedures 5. examine the possibility of linked scenes, and their relevance to other investigations, in line with forensic procedures 6. provide information to those who require and are authorised to receive it in line with operating procedures 7. 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 implications of current law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relevant to evaluating forensic examinations 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. your level of authority and expertise, and the actions necessary should this be exceeded |
| You need to know and understand: | Liaison and communications   1. the internal and external personnel with whom you need to liaise when evaluating incidents 2. the lines of communication to use when liaising with personnel 3. the purpose of briefing and de-briefing meetings, and how to participate in them |
| You need to know and understand: | Evaluation   1. the importance of considering all available information to assist in establishing what could have occurred at scene of incidents 2. how to carry out an evaluation of scene investigations 3. the importance of considering emerging and new information 4. the importance of remaining objective 5. sources of information that may help forensic investigations and how to access them 6. how to evaluate material recovered from scenes 7. specialised forensic techniques and resources available and when they might be used 8. the importance of, and ways to establish, the accuracy, validity and reliability of examination methods 9. the principles involved in processing, evaluating and interpreting examination findings 10. which items and samples, in combination with certain types of examinations, are likely to provide the most useful information to assist investigations 11. the nature and the importance of considering linked scenes |
| You need to know and understand: | Managing recovered forensic samples   1. continuity and security requirements relating to forensic samples, and the implications of not maintaining such requirements 2. the causes of contamination of forensic samples, and how to prevent this 3. the importance of segregating potential evidence, and how to do this |
| 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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