



D7 **Experiential Learning: An Effective Method of Training for Radiographers Involved in Mass Fatality Incidents?**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the value of experiential learning through the use of simulation exercises in the training of mass fatality responders. Attendees will learn how the creation of scenarios that replicate the elements of mass fatality incidents enable students to develop the necessary skills in a controlled and educational environment.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by highlighting the role and contribution of radiography in mass fatality investigations and demonstrating the value of simulation exercises in training forensic professionals to respond to mass fatality incidents.

Method: Typically radiographers (radiologic technologists) work in safe, controlled environments with other professionals who understand radiology, radiation science, and the contribution of imaging to medical investigation. In a mass fatality incident this will not be the case; the situation will be unfamiliar and traumatic. The radiographer will need to act with confidence and speed and be mindful of the situation unfolding around them. They may be the only imaging professional in the team. The use of simulation training in a true multidisciplinary team environment helps the radiographer to gain firsthand experience of a realistic mass fatality situation, to plan and to understand the implications and limitations of their actions, and develop the necessary skills for disaster response within a controlled environment. By creating a simulated mass fatality incident in which all the elements of emergency forensic response are represented, students can experience firsthand the multifaceted challenges presented by such a situation. Students can develop and try out their own strategies for overcoming practical and organizational challenges in a learning environment, supported by a team of experienced tutors. By use of multidisciplinary training exercises, students gain understanding of the challenges faced by other professionals and learn to adopt a team approach to solving practical problems to achieve a common objective.

Results: Students learn to:

- Understand the scope of a mass fatality incident
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Develop the confidence to work as the sole radiation expert in the team
- Contribute effectively to the team
- Establish their own x-ray facility
- Have consideration for the safety of self and others
- Undertake a radiation safety survey and train others in radiation safety
- Participate in the identification process.

Conclusion: There is no way to prepare adequately for a mass fatality incident as each and every incident will be different. However such simulation exercises assist students to prepare for, and adapt to, any situation as it unfolds, and to act professionally and confidently as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Mass Fatality, Forensic Radiography, Simulation Training