MERCURY

Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training

1 – 5 February 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)



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Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training

Ref: 21_1081906 **Date:** 1 – 5 February 2027 **Location:** Cape Town (South Africa) **Fees:** 5300 Euro

The Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training course is a one-week practitioner course for emergency planners, forensic specialists, and incident commanders managing catastrophic mortality events. Working through realistic multi-agency scenarios, you build a Mass Fatality Operational Response Plan for your organization. This professional course is delivered by Mercury Training Center to strengthen your operational disaster management capabilities.

About This Course

Major disasters overwhelm standard mortuary infrastructure, create evidentiary bottlenecks, and strain family communication channels during crisis operations. To benefit from this course, you must already manage operational safety, emergency response logistics, or healthcare incident protocols. Through structured practical exercises, you practice coordinating field recovery, forensic reconciliation workflows, and respectful storage operations under complex disaster conditions.

Who It Is For

- Professionals responsible for leading municipal, regional, or organizational emergency management operations during mass casualty crises
- Professionals responsible for managing hospital mortuary services, medical examiner logistics, and temporary body holding facilities
- Professionals responsible for directing forensic recovery teams, evidence logging, and chain of custody tracking at incident sites
- Professionals responsible for operating family assistance centers, ante-mortem data interviews, and next-of-kin liaison services

This course is not for first-aid volunteer responders, who need foundational training in basic trauma life support, nor is it for certified laboratory molecular biologists seeking specialized instruction in advanced genetic sequencing techniques.

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Competencies You Will Build

- Mortuary Surge Planning: Designing temporary field mortuary structures, cold storage lines, and body reception workflows under surging casualty conditions.
- Data Workflow Governance: Managing INTERPOL ante-mortem yellow forms and post-mortem pink forms to ensure standardized forensic data collection.
- Identification Reconciliation: Comparing friction ridge fingerprints, dental records, and forensic DNA profiles to verify victim identities conclusively.
- Incident Site Recovery: Directing respectful human remains recovery, spatial grid mapping, and chain of custody documentation at disaster scenes.
- Family Center Coordination: Operating family assistance centers that handle next-of-kin ante-mortem reference interviews and victim liaison services.
- Regulatory Site Interfacing: Aligning operational containment procedures and facility emergency safety planning with statutory civil protection rules.

What You Will Be Able to Do

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- From disaster incident briefings and casualty estimates, establish operational layouts and cold storage capacities for temporary mortuary facilities.
- Given ante-mortem dental records and post-mortem forensic odontograms, compare biometric markers to produce validated identification reports.
- Using INTERPOL victim identification forms and field documentation templates, record physical evidence and personal effects without chain of custody gaps.
- From family interview protocols and genetic reference guidelines, collect ante-mortem biological reference samples in line with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 principles.
- Using incident command structures and civil defense guidelines, coordinate inter-agency communications between emergency services, consulates, and mortuary teams.
- Given cultural and faith traditions, implement dignified body preparation and individual interment protocols that prevent unauthorized mass burial.

Course Content

Day 1: Incident Command and Mass Fatality Scene Operations

- Incident Command System Protocols for Multi-Agency Mass Fatality Coordination
- Site Grid Mapping and Systematic Human Remains Recovery Procedures
- Chain of Custody Tracking and Personal Effects Evidence Documentation
- Field Safety Checklists and Biohazard Containment in Disaster Recovery
- Temporary Holding Site Selection and Cold Chain Preservation Guidelines

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Day 2: Disaster Victim Identification Protocols and Data Architecture

- INTERPOL Guide to Disaster Victim Identification Operational Standards
- Post-Mortem Pink Form Workflows for Pathology and Odontology
- Ante-Mortem Yellow Form Data Gathering Protocols for Missing Persons
- Friction Ridge Fingerprint Analysis and Primary Identifier Data Management
- Secondary Identification Methods for Medical Findings and Personal Property

Day 3: Forensic Laboratory Standards and Mortuary Operations

- High-Throughput DNA Sampling Protocols under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standards
- Temporary Mortuary Layout Design and Biological Material Storage Lines
- Reconciliation Software Architectures for Primary Biometric Matching
- Expatriate Casualty Documentation and Consular Repatriation Protocols
- Faith-Compliant Preparation Guidelines and Single-Interment Preservation Mandates

Day 4: Family Assistance Center and Inter-Agency Integration

- Family Assistance Center Site Layout and Next-of-Kin Reception Systems
- Ante-Mortem Biological Reference Collection and Chain of Custody Auditing
- Civil Protection Regulatory Interfacing and Emergency Facility Permitting
- Operational Continuity Management Systems Aligned with ISO 22301 Rules
- Psychological First Aid Guidelines for Responders and Mortuary Personnel

Day 5: Fatality Management Practice and Plan Finalization

- Exercise on Incident Scene Grid Recovery and Evidence Chain Tracking
- Exercise on Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Data Comparison Reconciliation
- Exercise on Family Assistance Center Briefings and Consular Coordination
- Exercise on Mortuary Capacity Surge Logistics and Storage Deployment
- Finalization of the Mass Fatality Operational Response Plan

Case Studies and Exercises

These suggested activities provide practical application of mass fatality management principles across operational environments:

- Case study: A commercial transport collision involving multi-national travelers where you coordinate consular notifications, dental comparisons, and repatriation documentation.
- Case study: A severe structural fire in an industrial processing facility where you design temporary cold storage and manage rapid DNA sample verification.
- Exercise: A sudden mass gathering emergency where you set up a family assistance center, conduct ante-mortem interviews, and manage friction ridge analysis.
- Exercise: A localized environmental disaster where you evaluate facility licensing rules and assemble a coordinated recovery workflow for municipal responders.

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What You Take Back

The Mass Fatality Operational Response Plan equips you to audit existing mortuary reserves, train local personnel, and coordinate inter-agency responses during your first month back at work. You will use it to standardize evidentiary logs, guide family assistance operations, and maintain regulatory compliance across emergency recovery sites.

- Temporary mortuary operational layout and refrigeration capacity calculation model
- Standardized ante-mortem and post-mortem victim identification data dossier
- Family assistance center operational workflow and biological reference collection manual
- Disaster scene recovery evidence chain of custody and tracing protocol

Quick Answers FAQ

What background is required for the Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training?

You should have direct operational experience in emergency management, forensic investigations, hospital mortuary operations, or public safety command. Familiarity with standard incident command systems and basic evidence handling procedures ensures you can engage with the technical victim identification workflows and recovery exercises.

How does this course differ from general disaster emergency management courses?

General disaster courses focus broadly on evacuation logistics, medical triage, and emergency asset deployment. This course specifically addresses the operational, legal, and forensic demands of decedent recovery, chain of custody documentation, biometric victim identification standards, and respectful mortuary logistics during mass death events.

Why must disaster victim identification follow standardized international procedures?

Standardized procedures ensure legal certainty, prevent misidentification, and maintain evidential integrity for judicial proceedings. Applying recognized data formats for ante-mortem and post-mortem records enables inter-agency collaboration, cross-border reconciliation for foreign nationals, and ethical restitution of human remains to surviving families.

What tangible tool do you take back from the Mass Fatality Incident Management and Disaster Victim Identification Training?

You complete and take back the Mass Fatality Operational Response Plan. This customized operational framework includes field mortuary deployment plans, family assistance center workflows, chain of custody templates, and biometric identification reconciliation procedures ready for implementation within your organization.

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For Your Manager

This course prepares your team member to establish resilient command structures, direct respectful scene recovery, and oversee accurate forensic identification during catastrophic incidents. The participant returns with a functional Mass Fatality Operational Response Plan, ready to audit organizational emergency preparedness, streamline mortuary surge capacity, and ensure full compliance with international identification standards.