

5 Minute Flashcards

Card 10: Major Incident HANDLING OF EVIDENCE

Please work your way through the flashcard and see the answers after each section.
Set a timer, When you reach 5 minutes just stop!



Why are we discussing this topic?:

Handling of evidence is one of the areas which was specifically identified as needing training at the last Major Incident exercise in 2019.

01

Quick Question for the group

Answer yes/no show of hands

1. Do you think preserving evidence is important? Why?
2. Who feels confident dealing with potential crime-scene evidence ?
3. Do you know what to do with drugs and weapons found with on patients?

02

i) A patient is transferred to theatres after presenting with multiple stab wounds. When they left A&E they were stable. During the transfer they have deteriorated and are now profoundly hypotensive. How might you get help?

Prompt: How can you get help quickly? - What is the most appropriate call to put out?

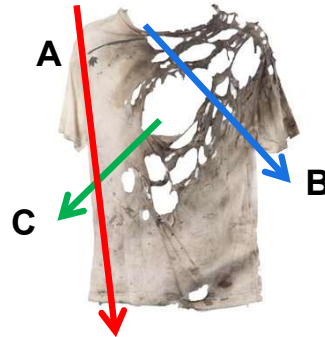
ii) What tools might be helpful to assess and document a patient's injuries?

Prompt: What technology might help?

03

Picture round

Where should we cut to remove this T-shirt?



What do I do with this?



Prompt, answer is one of...

Or this?



Package and label



Send to the hospital lab for testing



Securely dispose of in hazardous waste bin

5 Minute Flashcards

Card 10: Major Incident HANDLING OF EVIDENCE

01

Hopefully, this section has identified some learning needs.

Q: Why is collecting evidence important? -
A: It will help the police with prosecutions and for victims to get justice

02

Q: A patient arrives in theatres after being stabbed. They are profoundly hypotensive. How might you get help?
A: Call for help (theatre emergency bell, major haemorrhage call, consider trauma call?), (C)-A-E Assessment

Learning point:
Critical patient treatment would always take precedence over evidence collection.

Q: What tools might be helpful to help us work out a patient's injuries?

A: A clinical assessment, imaging, and examination including EUA can all be useful to determine a patient's injuries.

When documenting findings, notes, sketches and use of medical photography are all useful tools. Consider taking a scaled (wide) and another close-up detailed image on a hospital system if able.

Learning point:
Clear documentation and scaled photographs are incredibly valuable to major incident teams.

03

Image A (left) Cut the T-shirt at the red (vertical) line labelled A. This is to avoid cutting through existing cuts and tears in the fabric.

Package items individually in separate bags and do not clean clothes or shoes if able.

Learning point:
Fibre, DNA and blood pattern evidence on clothing, and damage to clothing, can assist in reconstructing the nature and sequence of an attack.

Image B (middle) This is a 'self-made' firearm. If you recover a firearm, try not touch or handle it. It may be live and can unexpectedly discharge. Call the police immediately to inspect weapon/ammunitions and to make it safe*

Learning point: Do not handle potentially live firearms.

*FAQ
If touching other weapons e.g. a knife, try to touch areas which won't have been handled for example the edges of the hilt or pommel.

Bullets removed from a suspected gunshot wound will have been expended and is no longer live. These can be packaged individually in a small plastic pot.

Image C (right) Answer- Package and label. Store securely.

Learning point:
If you find a substance on a patient that you believe might be a form of drug, use gloves and try to avoid direct contact. Store the substance in a plastic bag somewhere secure. Don't send this to a hospital laboratory or dispose of potential evidence.