

Mass Disaster Scene Reconstruction

Date: Oct 25, 2019

Co-sponsors: HD Forensics, LLC and Tripwire Operations Group, LLC

Location: Tripwire Facilities, Gettysburg, PA

Course Tuition: \$225 (10% discount for 2 or more courses)

Principle Instructors: Dennis C. Dirkmaat, Ph.D., D-ABFA; Michael J. Hochrein, Special Agent FBI, Ret.; Elias Kontanis, Ph.D., NTSB; Wallace Miller, Somerset County, PA Coroner

Participants: Coroners, Law Enforcement and Fire personnel, University students (*limited to 20 individuals*)

Course Overview

The goal of this course is to provide participants with a working knowledge of how to conduct the most efficient and effective processing of a large-scale disaster scene involving multiple human victims. Nationally-recognized standards (Weldon Spring and Clarence Center Protocols) developed, tested, and published by the course directors will be presented and demonstrated. The course will discuss past recovery efforts at incidents such as the USAir Flight 427, ColganAir Flight 3407, and United Flight 93 (9/11), as well as the prioritization of various types of evidence associated with these incidents and scenes. An emphasis will be placed on demonstrating and utilizing the multiple levels of scene mapping equipment including electronic total stations, high-end GPS units, 3D scanners, and mapping and documentation drones.

An additional course offered on Saturday, Oct 26th, 2019, will allow participants the chance to use the skills they have learned in this course on a mock outdoor forensic scene involving a car fire with a human proxy. See the Hands-on Recovery Course description for details.

Friday, Oct 25, 2019

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| 7:30 – 8:00 | Registration |
| 8:00 – 9:30 | Introduction to Forensic Archaeology and Mass Disaster Scenes (Dirkmaat)
Introduction to forensic anthropological and forensic archaeological techniques, principles, and methodologies. |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Break |
| 9:45 – 12:00 | Mass Disaster Scene Recovery Protocols (Dirkmaat)
Introduction to mass disaster scenes. Discussion will begin with a discussion of what evidence has historically been prioritized at these types of scenes. Then, discussion will shift to introduce proper mass disaster scene recovery protocols, including the Weldon Spring Protocols. |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 – 2:30 | Mapping at a Large-Scale Outdoor Scene (Hochrein)
Discussion on using forensic archaeological mapping techniques to document spatial information including association, context, and provenience at the outdoor scene. There will be a focus on the use of the electronic Total Station, Survey-grade GPS, 3D Scanning, and Drone technology. |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Break |
| 2:45 – 4:00 | Mapping of Large-Scale Scenes: Cases (Hochrein) |

Discussion will focus on actual forensic cases and the mapping techniques necessary for those scenes.

- 4:00 – 5:30 Scene Recovery Protocols and Cases (Dirkmaat)
Discussion of proper archaeology protocols for mass disaster recoveries continued.
Discussion will focus on past recovery efforts at incidents, such as United Flight 93 (9/11/2001) and Colgan Air, and the creation of the Clarence Center condensed scene recovery protocols.
- 5:30 – 6:00 Review and Certificates Awarded