

Los Angeles Police Department
LD7 Crimes Against Persons/Death Investigation
EV6 Crimes Against Persons
S13 Death Investigation

Date Revised: December/2019

Course Goal: Recruit officers will receive basic knowledge of their responsibilities as police officers when responding to a death investigation. Recruit officers will know how to assess a situation, and take an appropriate course of action based on their preliminary investigation.

Learning Objectives:

Peace officers who are first to arrive at a scene involving a death must be aware of their responsibilities to assess the situation, and take an appropriate course of action based on their preliminary investigation. **[7:V]**

- Identify information that should be obtained and documented when conducting an investigation involving the death of a child. **[7.V.A]**
- Identify indicators that a child's death may be due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) **[7.V.B]**
- Identify appropriate actions for responding officers interacting with parents or care givers involved in a SIDS Incident. **[7.V.C]**
- The student will participate in a learning activity regarding the actions which should be taken during a preliminary investigation of any crimes against persons, which includes a felonious assault on a victim(s). The activity shall address Initial actions, sources of information, establishing the elements of the crime, and physical evidence considerations. **[7.VII.A, A1, A2, A3, A4]**
- The student will participate in a learning activity regarding the actions which should be taken during a preliminary investigation of any crimes against persons, which includes a felonious assault on a victim(s), The student will participate in a learning activity that identifies actions to be taken during a preliminary investigation of a SIDS death. The student will participate in a learning activity to identify the types of information and community resources that may assist SIDS survivors. The student will participate in a facilitated learning activity identifying actions to be taken during a death investigation. **[7.VII.B, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6] [7.VII.C, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6]**
- The student will participate in a facilitated learning activity identifying actions to be taken during a death investigation. The learning activity must address, Initial actions, Sources of information, Establishing, the elements of the crime, Physical evidence considerations. **[7.VII. D, D1, D2, D3, D4]**

Session Time: 3 hours

Resources:

- Handout: Field Notebook Divider (Death Investigation)
- Handout: Guidelines for Death Investigation matrix
- Handout: Homicide Manual: Investigation Responsibilities (Uniformed personnel)
- Handout: Death Investigation Report and Exemplar.

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Summary: Recruit officers will learn how to complete a death investigation, determine how the person died, and make appropriate notifications.

Outline	Instructor Notes
<p>I. Death Investigations</p> <p>A. Death Recognition/Indications of Death</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cessation of breathing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No movement of upper abdomen is observed b. No breath sounds can be heard 2. No detectable pulse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No neck or wrist pulse can be felt b. Bleeding of wounds has ceased c. Skin appears waxy or translucent due to lack of blood circulation 3. Cessation of eye movement: pupils dilated and fixed and don't respond to light 4. Body temperature: skin is cool or room temperature to touch <p>B. Postmortem Observation/Obvious signs of death</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livor mortis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Also referred to as postmortem lividity b. Purple discoloration resulting from gravity induced pooling or settling of blood within the body c. Staining is due to clotted blood and remains permanently d. Begins immediately at time of death but not first noticeable until 30 minutes to one hour after death 	<p>ASK: What are some signs that a person may be dead?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cessation of breathing • No detectable pulse • Cessation of eye movement • Body temperature • Postmortem lividity • Rigor mortis • Putrefaction • Insect infestation • Traumatic injuries <p>Lecture: Death Investigation</p> <p>Distribute: Death Investigation Matrix</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">e. Usually well developed within three to four hours and becomes “fixed” eight to twelve hours after deathf. May provide an indication of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) The time of death2) Position of the body at death3) Whether or not the body was moved or repositioned after death <p>2. Rigor mortis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Gradual stiffening or hardening of muscle tissueb. Caused by the breakdown of enzymes and the accumulation of lactic acid in the muscle tissuec. Takes place at the same time throughout the body but is first observable in the neck and jaw musclesd. Can first appear 1-6 hours after death; full rigor at 6-24 hours after death; begins to disappear until completely gone 36-60 hours after deathe. An unreliable method of indicating time of death because onset and duration may vary if: - conditions are abnormally cool or hot - the individual experienced a high fever, heavy muscle activity, convulsions, or fright prior to death - death was due to specific conditions (e.g., Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)f. May provide information	
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<p>regarding the posture or positioning of the body at the time of death</p> <p>3. Putrefaction</p> <p>a. Natural decomposition or breakdown of body tissue due to bacterial or fungi activity or normal chemical reactions within the body</p> <p>b. Onset and rate are dependent on environmental temperatures</p> <p>c. Usually begins in lower abdomen and genitals as a greenish discoloration</p> <p>d. Can be marked by the formation of blisters filled with gas</p> <p>e. Proceeds in stages until the body is reduced to a skeleton</p> <p>4. Other</p> <p>a. Insect infestation indicating a time of death based on the normal insect development cycle (specifically the presence of insect eggs, larvae, and/or adult insects)</p> <p>b. Loss of tissue caused by wild or domestic animals eating off the body</p> <p>c. Traumatic injuries leading to a possible cause of death (e.g., burns, decapitation, mutilation, etc.)</p> <p>C. Responding Officers' Responsibilities</p> <p>1. Find indications individual still alive</p> <p>a. Call for emergency medical services and render appropriate</p>	<p>LAPD Manual 4/238.20 An ambulance shall be requested at the scene of an apparent death when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no doctor in attendance and there is a possibility, even if remote, that the person may be alive. • If a death has occurred, rescue ambulance paramedic's information shall be obtained from the crew and attached to the death report. <p>LAPD Manual 4/238.10 Determining Death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except when a person is obviously dead, it shall be the responsibility of the emergency ambulance crew to determine if death has occurred. <p>Lecture: Officer's Responsibilities [7:V] Obvious signs of death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the scene • Inner/ outer perimeter
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<p>first aid</p> <p>b. Coordinate the efforts of those at the scene rendering medical assistance</p> <p>c. Determine if a crime has been committed, if possible, and conduct a preliminary investigation</p> <p>2. If obvious signs of death</p> <p>a. Contain, secure, and protect the body and incident scene</p> <p>b. Identify and locate possible witnesses and other sources of information</p> <p>c. Determine, if possible, the manner of death and if a crime has been committed</p> <p>d. Identify and arrest suspect(s), if possible</p> <p>e. Notify dispatch as soon as possible with information regarding the circumstances of the death</p> <p>f. Make any other required notifications (e.g., medical examiner/coroner's office)</p> <p>g. Collect available information necessary to write a clear and accurate preliminary investigative report.</p> <p>D. Officers should take precautions for safety and be wary of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Live electrical wires 2. Explosive materials 3. Toxic fumes 4. Flammable substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime scene log • Conduct a visual examination of area & ID evidence • If applicable, searches involving exigent circumstances are allowed • Crime scene searches for evidence shall be made by detectives • Preserve the integrity of the crime scene <p>Locate/ identify P/R and/ or witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a field interview card (FI card) • Document knowledge of crime on FI card • Request to remain until detectives arrive. • Initiate a crime broadcast. <p>Make any other required notifications (e.g., medical examiner/coroner's office)</p> <p>Lecture: Officer Should Take Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible suspect • Others in the location • Or possible hazardous materials
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<p>5. Blood borne pathogens</p> <p>6. Other hazardous materials</p> <p>E. Manner of death will dictate notifications, which could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supervisory personnel 2. Special investigative units 3. Additional backup units 4. Evidence technicians 5. Special crime scene photographers 6. Medical examiner/coroner <p>F. Body should be considered a crime scene and officers should</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure the body and immediate area along with any other areas associated with the death scene 2. Refrain from touching, disturbing, or moving the body or any other potential evidence in any manner 3. Officers should also prevent any other unauthorized individuals from doing so as well 4. Ensure that the scene is documented by use of photographs, sketches, and field notes before the body is moved 5. Attempt to identify the deceased through witnesses, family members, the reporting party, or other individuals, if possible <p>G. Time of death</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not officers' responsibility to determine time of death but should gather information to help medical examiner/coroner in making the determination <p>H. Medical Examiner</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under California law, if death is 	<p>Manner of death will dictate notifications:</p> <p>LAPD Manual 4/238.40</p> <p>Notification to investigating officers of death: Officers assigned a death investigation shall telephone, without delay, the concerned geographic investigating officers and notify them of the circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They shall be informed if there is any indication that a death might be suicide or homicide. • Detective Support and Vice Division shall be notified of the circumstances if the concerned investigating officers are not available. • Officers shall abide by instructions of the investigating officers. <p>Time of death: It is not officers' responsibility to determine time of death but should gather information to help medical examiner/coroner in making the determination</p>
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<p>sudden, unexplained, suspicious, or unnatural, medical examiner/coroner has authority to investigate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Falls under jurisdiction of coroner's county <p>I. Once law enforcement conducts preliminary investigation, medical examiner responsible for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. searching the body and premises for personal effects and identification 2. Taking custody of and safeguarding the personal effects and property (e.g., papers, money, jewelry, etc.) found on the body of the deceased and on the premises until otherwise lawful disposition can be made 3. Determining if the premises should be locked and a seal applied to the door(s) prohibiting entrance until arrival of a legally authorized representative of the deceased is present (Such action cannot interfere with any law enforcement investigation that is being conducted.) 4. Estimating the actual time of death 5. Performing an autopsy 6. Conducting a death investigation 7. Generating a death certificate 8. Releasing to the investigating law enforcement agency or district attorney's office any evidence necessary for a criminal investigation, including a receipt for all evidence <p>J. Cooperation b/w medical examiner & law enforcement</p>	<p>Medical Examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under California law, if death is sudden, unexplained, suspicious, or unnatural, medical examiner/coroner has authority to investigate <p>Lecture: Searching a dead boy is <u>unlawful</u> for any person (including law enforcement officers) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search for or remove any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers • Money • Valuable property • Weapons • From the person of the deceased • The premises of the deceased • Prior to the arrival of the medical examiner/coroner <p>LAPD Manual 4/238.30 SEARCHING DEAD BODIES. The officer in charge at the scene of a dead body shall prevent any person, other than a deputy coroner, from searching the body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever possible, a witness, preferably a relative of the deceased or a member of the household, shall be requested to remain at the scene with the officer. • The name and address of this person, and a statement verifying his
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<p>1. It is unlawful for any person (including law enforcement officers) to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Search for or remove any: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Papers 2) Money 3) Valuable property 4) Weapons b. From the person of the deceased c. The premises of the deceased d. Prior to the arrival of the medical examiner/coroner <p>2. If it is apparent that a crime has been committed and that a criminal investigation and prosecution will take place, the medical examiner/coroner cannot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Disturb or remove the body b. Any related evidence c. Until law enforcement personnel have had a reasonable opportunity to respond to the scene <p>K. Homicide Investigations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responding officers should secure scene, conduct preliminary investigation, and look for add'l wits, victims, and suspects. 2. Crime scene containment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inner perimeter should be set up and should include but not limit <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Location of any evidence 2) Path of access or egress of a suspect 3) Signs of struggle between people 	<p>presence, shall be included in the Death Report, Form 03.11.00.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever personal effects and possessions of the deceased are taken by the deputy coroner, a receipt shall be obtained (Manual Section 4/238.48). This receipt shall be attached to the Death Report. <p>Lecture: Homicide Investigation</p> <p>Play: video "187 Crime Scene,"</p> <p>Note: the video is a radio broadcasts, of a shooting that just occurred in Southeast Division.</p> <p>[7.VII.A, A1, A2, A3, A4] [7.VII. D, D1, D2, D3, D4]</p> <p>Provide the following scenario to the class: Officers responded to a shooting that just occurred at Imperial Hwy and Success Ave.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Outer perimeter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Location where the initial assault took place 2) Location where the victim actually died 3) Points of entry and escape from the crime scene 3. Access should be allowed to authorized personnel which may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Medical examiner/coroner b. Assigned investigators c. Other personnel whom the investigators authorize 4. Types of evidence that may need to be preserved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Body materials: Blood, bloodstain patterns, semen, hair, skin and other tissue, saliva b. Instruments of the death: gun, knife, etc c. Objects associated w/ the crime: Tools, documents d. Prints and pattern markings: fingerprints, tire tracks, footprints 5. Trace and transfer evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hair, fibers, blood, gunshot residue b. Suspects should not be allowed to wash hands, change clothes, or use toilet 6. Information witnesses can provide include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Motive of the individual who committed the act b. Manner in which the suspect left 	<p>Upon the officers' arrival, they observed two male victims down in the intersection with multiple GSWs. There's a large gathering of unruly people around the victim and as well as more people coming out of houses to see what happened. Possible gang affiliation.</p> <p>Lecture: Scene access Access should be allowed to authorized personnel which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical examiner/coroner • Assigned investigators • Other personnel whom the investigators authorize. • Coroner <p>Lecture: Preserving evidence</p> <p>Facilitate: Discussion on video</p> <p>Ask: First what information do we have about the call? (Analysis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooting just occurred • Possibly gang related • Two victims down w/ multiple GSWs • Possibly dead victim • Large unruly crowd gathering • Loosing integrity of crime scene • Shooter(s) possibly still in the area <p>Ask: Utilizing CAPRA, as the first units on the scene what would you do?</p> <p>Ask: What resources do you need? (Partnerships)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backup units to secure scene • Rescue Ambulance • P/R & witnesses • Detectives <p>Ask: What do you think our responsibilities</p>
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<p>the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Identification and background of the victim or suspect d. Circumstances of the crime (e.g., identification of unusual people or vehicles in the area, neighbors who heard shouting, etc.) <p>7. Crimes associated w/ criminal homicide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Murder (Penal Code Section 187) b. Voluntary manslaughter (Penal Code Section 192(a)) c. Involuntary manslaughter (Penal Code Section 192(b)) d. Vehicular manslaughter (Penal Code Section 192(c)) <p>L. Suicide Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicators of Suicide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No apparent signs of a struggle b. An instrument of death (weapon, objects, etc.) being present c. Injuries that appear to be self-inflicted d. Existence of hesitation marks or previously self-inflicted wounds e. Position of the body f. Manner of death being consistent with the physical capabilities of the person g. Presence of prescription medications h. Presence of written matters pertaining to suicide 2. Mode of death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pills, carbon monoxide, gunshot b. Officers should carefully describe 	<p>at the scene of a homicide?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve life • Protect scene • Arrest suspect <p>Note: Homicide Manual Appendix A LAPD Manual 4/ 238.83</p> <p>Homicide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first officer to arrive at the scene of a homicide shall immediately isolate the vicinity where the crime was committed, or body was found. It shall be his/her responsibility to see that no one be permitted to approach the scene until investigating officers arrive and take charge of the investigation. Officers assigned to any duty at the scene shall remain until the investigating officers relieve them. Avoid contaminating the scene <p>Lecture: Suicide Investigation</p>
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<p>the body and scene as fully as possible through photographs, sketches, and detailed field notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Officers should pay close attention to self-inflicted injuries and note direction of delivered injury 4. Attempt to obtain factual information (e.g., mental condition, financial problems, sudden unemployment, ill health, etc.) that could lead to a possible motive 5. Possible motives for suicide <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Old age b. Illness / health c. Relationship problems (e.g., marital, illicit affairs) d. Financial problems e. Unemployment f. Drug or alcohol abuse g. Mental disorders, including depression h. Death of a loved one i. End Of life Option <p>II. Suicide Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Suicide notes don't automatically prove that the death was self-inflicted b. Not all suicides have notes c. Verify authenticity of notes by gathering evidence such as <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Suspected writing instrument 2) Samples of the same type of paper 3) Impressions left on the surface where the note was written 	<p>Lecture: End of Life Option Act. Effected June 9, 2016 (Penal Code Section 443, 443. 1-443.21) Authorized an adult who meets certain qualification and who has been determine by his or her attending physician to be suffering from a terminal disease, to make a request for a drug prescribed for the purpose of alleviating suffering and ending his or her life. The act provides certain immunity from civil or criminal liability for Doctors and persons present when patient self-administers the drug. The intent of the law is to allow people to help a terminally ill person as long as the ill patient takes an "Affirmative, conscious, and physical act to ingest the medication into their body." The act does not authorize ending a patient's life by lethal injection, mercy killing, or active euthanasia.</p> <p>Patient requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 18 years or older • Be a resident of California • Be capable to Self-administer medication. • Suffering from a terminal disease Resulting in death within 6 months • Submit 2 verbal request to their physician at least 15 days apart, and submit written request within 48 hours. • The patient must sign a Final
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<p>defects, unknown to the parents, that result in death (e.g., heart defects)</p> <p>3) Illness or disease</p> <p>c. Homicide</p> <p>2. Initial Officer's response</p> <p>a. Just as with all other possible death investigations, officers must immediately attempt to identify any signs that the child may still be alive.</p> <p>b. If they find any indications, or even suspect the child is still alive, emergency medical assistance should be immediately summoned and appropriate first aid rendered.</p> <p>3. Emotional Responses</p> <p>a. Parents, family members, caregivers</p> <p>1) Anger</p> <p>2) Frustration</p> <p>3) Denial or withdrawal</p> <p>4) Self-doubt or self-blame</p> <p>5) Guilt</p> <p>6) Intense grief</p> <p>7) Shock (no visible response)</p> <p>b. Law enforcement officers</p> <p>1) Identification with parents (e.g., urgent need to call home regarding the officer's own children)</p> <p>2) Withdrawal or avoidance of parent or care giver</p> <p>3) Sadness, depression</p> <p>4) Difficulty accepting or anger</p>	<p>Ask: What do you think would be the initial response as an officer when arriving at scene?</p> <p>Ask: What may be an emotional response from a parent, family members, or caregiver at scene?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anger• Frustration• Denial or withdrawal• Self-doubt or self-blame• Guilt• Intense grief• Shock (no visible response) <p>Lecture: Interviewing when death involves a child.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">related to the responses or actions of parents or care givers (e.g., parent's failure to initiate CPR)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Due to the circumstances, may be difficult to interview and require extra patience on the part of the interviewing officer [7.V.C]<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Be sensitive to their need to calm themselves prior to the interviewb. Express sympathyc. Use a calm and directive voiced. Explain:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Activities of the personnel involved in the investigation2) Procedures that will be followed3) Reasons for those procedurese. Inform the person to be interviewed why the interview is necessaryf. Inform the parents or care giver that they may receive follow-up contacts from others who will provide support or need to obtain additional information. (e.g., investigators, medical examiner/coroner's staff, public health nurse, etc.)g. Avoid using accusatory phrases or law enforcement jargon (e.g., "suspect," "crime scene," "homicide investigation," "victim," etc.)5. When interviewing caregivers and parents, use open-ended questions	
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<p>a. What happened? b. Who found the child? Where? c. What did that person do when the child was found? d. How was the child behaving earlier today?</p> <p>6. Information to document</p> <p>a. Child</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Name, date of birth, ethnicity, gender 2) Nature and extent of known medical conditions or problems at the time of death (e.g., colds, ear infections, etc.) 3) Description of chronic illnesses or injuries which the child may have experienced recently 4) Medications the child may have been taking 5) Recent vaccinations 6) Recent or past history of falls or abuse 7) Name of the child’s physician 8) Medical history - hospital of birth - places of recent treatment <p>b. Death Scene</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Location where the child was discovered 2) Position in which the child was found 3) Appearance of the child, including clothing and, if applicable, bedding 	<p style="text-align: center;">[7.V.A]</p> <p>Ask: In a death scene what are some important things should officer’s look for?</p> <p>Lecture: Death Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Position of child • Appearance of the child • Possible signs of abuse • Condition of the immediate area • Approximate temperature of the
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Any possible signs or indications of abuse (e.g., bruises, scars) 5) Description and condition of: - the immediate area where the child was found - the overall residence or general area 6) Approximate temperature of the area/room where child was found c. Circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Circumstances that led to the discovery of the child 2) Exact time the child was last seen alive 3) Time the child was found to be unresponsive 4) If the child was found in a crib or bed, the time the child was put down to rest 5) Name and relationship of the person who found the child 6) Description of any resuscitation attempts, including by whom and how long d. Other individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Name, address, phone number of parent(s) and/or care giver 2) Behavior of individuals present 3) Names, addresses, phone numbers of other individuals who may be able to furnish 	<p>room</p> <p>[7.V.B]</p> <p>Ask: What information would be important to obtain when investigating a child's death?</p>
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<p>information or access to the location and/or child prior to the incident</p> <p>7. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (S.I.D.S.)</p> <p>a. Sudden unexplained death of infant after a complete</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Postmortem examination and autopsy 2) Law enforcement investigation 3) Review of the child's medical history <p>b. Indicators of SIDS: child</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Was under the age of one year (The majority of SIDS deaths occur before six months with the largest number of deaths occurring between the ages of two to four months.) 2) Appeared to have been healthy prior to the death (with the exceptions of minor colds, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) 3) Died during a period of sleep <p>c. Had no visible signs of trauma or injury at the time of death</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Postmortem observations</p> <p>d. Skin tone: Skin may appear mottled, blue, or gray in color</p> <p>e. Pressure marks: Impressions left on the infant's face or body caused by lying against objects such as crib, blankets, or toys</p> <p>f. Discharge</p>	<p>[7.V.B]</p> <p>Ask: Who is familiar with SIDS death?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. <p>Ask: What are some indicators of SIDS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visible signs of trauma or injury. • Died during sleep. • Appeared to have been healthy prior death. • The majority of SIDS deaths occur before 6 months with the largest number of deaths occurring between the ages of 2 to 4 months. • SIDS is more common on boys than girls. • Skin may appear mottled, blue, or gray in color. • Discharge: A frothy or blood-tinged mucus or vomit present in or around the nose and/or mouth of the infant. <p>Note: SIDS has been studied for years, and many theories concerning its cause have been tested, but no definitive explanation exists.</p> <p>Lecture: Common sequence of events for SIDS death.</p>
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<p>1) A frothy or blood-tinged mucus or vomit present in or around the nose and/or mouth of the infant</p> <p>2) May also be found on clothing or bedding</p> <p>g. Rigor mortis: Progresses more rapidly in infants than in older children or adults</p> <p>h. Livor mortis: Lividity that can be easily mistaken for bruising</p> <p>8. Common sequence of events for SIDS death.</p> <p>a. The infant is found nonresponsive by a parent or caregiver; Attempts to revive the infant (e.g., CPR) are unsuccessful.</p> <p>b. 911 call is initiated.</p> <p>c. Local law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, or individuals from the local fire department arrive at the scene; Additional attempts are initiated to revive the child.</p> <p>d. The infant is transported to a medical facility, or pronounced dead at the scene.</p> <p>e. The medical examiner/coroner is called to the scene of the death (or hospital if the infant had been transported). An investigation to determine the manner and cause of death is undertaken by the medical examiner/coroner and law enforcement personnel.</p> <p>9. If death is attributed to SIDS</p>	<p>Note: Steps officers may take to assist a SIDS survivor cope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the possibility of SIDS being the cause of death. • Communicate SIDS information to the survivors, including the fact that SIDS cannot be predicted or prevented, and that SIDS is a known condition that occurs annually to about 800 infants in California, and about 7,000 nationwide. • Give a sense of order and control by taking charge and explaining what is happening during the investigation • Be thorough during the investigation. Although going through the process is often difficult, survivors want the officer to be thorough, which helps them better handle their feelings in the future. • It is important to maintain a non-accusatory approach during the investigation. Showing compassion and empathy makes a real difference in helping survivors to cope. • Do not treat the survivors as if they are suspects! • Do not take actions/ ask questions that would make them think that they are being criminally accused or investigated. • Use Partnerships, do not work in isolation.
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<p>a. The medical examiner/coroner's office notifies the local health department</p> <p>b. A representative of the local health department must (under California law) contact the family within three days and provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Counseling regarding SIDS2) Referral information for peer support <p>c. Both the medical examiner/coroner's office and the local health department must provide information to the state SIDS program</p> <p>10. Community resources</p> <p>a. Local law enforcement agencies shall provide responding officers with a list of community and other resources available to assist parents and care givers involved with the sudden death of an infant.</p> <p>b. Along with sources of information, officers should be able to provide the name, location, and telephone numbers of the local infant death support group and the SIDS statewide hotline number: 1-800-369-SIDS or on the internet at www.californiasids.com.</p>	<p>[7.V.C]</p> <p>Lecture: Differences between Child Abuse and SIDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child abuse rarely results in death, and the nationwide incidence of infant death in the U.S. due to child abuse is 300 per year, versus about 7,000 per year for SIDS• Child abuse is indicated by distinguishable and visible signs of injury or trauma, such as broken bones, cuts, abrasions, welts, scars, and burns. These injuries are not usually found on a SIDS infant.• An abused infant may appear obviously wasted away from malnutrition, and other siblings may show similar patterns of injuries
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	<p>commonly seen in abuse and neglect cases. This is not the case with SIDS. Although SIDS infants sometimes have small bruises on their bodies,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• these are usually due to the resuscitation attempts made by survivors or emergency responders, and are not an indication of abuse or criminal actions• In abuse cases, the parent's explanation often cannot account for injuries to the infant. <p>Distribute: Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Death Investigation Notebook Divider <p>Facilitate: Learning Activity #1</p>
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