

CRIME SCENE LEADERSHIP



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TRAINING CENTER



Introduction

Crime Scene Leadership prepares supervisors to command scenes where decisions are made once, under time pressure, and reviewed for years afterwards. The first officer on scene sets the tone: whether the area is secured, evidence is preserved, roles are clear, and the investigation starts on a sound footing. This Crime Scene Leadership Training Course builds the command skills that scenes demand, covering scene assessment, cordon and contamination control, role assignment, briefing, and documentation discipline. Participants work with the standards that govern scene work, including the ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory framework, the UK FSS Code of Practice, and the Locard exchange principle. Furthermore, the course addresses multi-agency coordination, welfare, media boundaries, and handover to investigators. As a result, leaders leave able to protect both the evidence and the team.

Crime Scene Leadership Course Objectives

- Apply scene command principles from first arrival through handover.
- Assess scene risk and set safe, proportionate cordons and access routes.
- Protect scene integrity using the Locard exchange principle and contamination control.
- Assign roles and structure teams using clear command and control arrangements.
- Conduct structured scene briefings and handovers using standard frameworks.
- Manage exhibits, chain of custody, and documentation to evidential standards.
- Coordinate with police, forensic, medical, and emergency services at multi-agency scenes.
- Apply quality and competency requirements from ISO/IEC 17025 and the FSS Code of Practice.
- Manage scene welfare, fatigue, and the wellbeing of team members.
- Lead under uncertainty, media pressure, and public scrutiny.

Course Methodology



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The course applies interactive, practice-based methods:

- Facilitated workshops on scene command decision-making.
- Tabletop and walk-through scenario exercises.
- Role-play of briefings, cordon decisions, and handovers.
- Case studies of scene management successes and failures.
- Practice with documentation, exhibit logs, and chain-of-custody records.
- Action planning that converts each procedure into a scene routine.

Who Should Take This Course

- Police officers and detectives leading scenes.
- Crime scene managers and coordinators.
- Forensic and evidence recovery team leaders.
- Emergency service supervisors and incident commanders.
- Security and investigations managers.
- Supervisors in organizations that preserve evidence for legal proceedings.

Crime Scene Leadership Course Outlines

Day 1: Foundations of Crime Scene Leadership

- Defining the crime scene leader's role and legal duties.
- Understanding the Locard exchange principle and scene value.
- Reviewing scene types: primary, secondary, and linked scenes.
- Examining the investigative cycle and evidence's place in it.
- Reviewing quality standards, including ISO/IEC 17025 and the FSS Code of Practice.
- Assessing leadership behaviours needed under pressure.



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- Reviewing your own scene command experience and gaps.

Day 2: Scene Assessment, Safety, and Cordon Management

- Conducting dynamic risk assessment on arrival.
- Identifying hazards: biological, chemical, structural, and environmental.
- Establishing inner, outer, and strategic cordons.
- Setting access and egress routes and common approach paths.
- Managing scene security, logging, and unauthorized entry.
- Applying personal protective equipment and contamination control measures.
- Practicing cordon and access decisions in scenario exercises.

Day 3: Team Structure, Briefing, and Coordination

- Applying command and control structures at scenes.
- Assigning roles: scene manager, exhibits officer, searchers, and loggist.
- Running structured briefings and debriefings.
- Coordinating with police, forensic, medical, and fire services.
- Managing multi-agency priorities and information sharing.
- Handling handover to senior investigators.
- Practicing briefing and handover in role-play.

Day 4: Evidence, Exhibits, and Documentation Discipline

- Applying evidence recovery principles and search methods.



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- Managing exhibits with chain of custody and continuity records.
- Recording scene documentation, sketches, and photographic logs.
- Preventing contamination and cross-contamination.
- Handling digital evidence and device seizure basics.
- Reviewing documentation for evidential quality.
- Auditing a scene file for completeness and accuracy.

Day 5: Sustained Command and Professional Judgement

- Leading long scenes with shift rotation and continuity planning.
- Managing welfare, fatigue, and stress in scene teams.
- Handling media presence and public scrutiny within policy.
- Documenting decisions and rationale for later review.
- Learning from scene reviews and post-incident analysis.
- Applying ethical judgement and impartiality.
- Finalizing a personal crime scene leadership action plan.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Crime Scene Leadership, participants will have acquired practical command knowledge for scene management, covering assessment and cordons, contamination control, team structure and briefing, exhibit and documentation discipline, and multi-agency coordination. They will have gained skills in scene command, evidential documentation, contamination control, and decision-making under pressure, plus a personal action plan. Gentex Training Center designed this program to build leaders who protect evidence and people alike.





FAQs

Q1 What is the "Crime Scene Leadership" course about?

It develops the command skills needed to lead a scene from first arrival to handover. Participants study scene assessment, cordons, contamination control, role assignment, briefings, exhibit documentation, and multi-agency coordination.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Crime Scene Leadership" course?

Participants gain more confident scene command, better evidence protection, and cleaner documentation that withstands scrutiny. Teams also work more safely, coordinate more smoothly with partner agencies, and avoid the procedural errors that can weaken a case.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Crime Scene Leadership" course?

You will develop four core skills: crime scene command and decision-making, evidence protection and contamination control, evidential documentation and chain-of-custody management, and multi-agency coordination with team welfare management.



Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Crime Scene Leadership" course?

The course covers the Locard exchange principle, inner, outer and strategic cordon models, common approach paths, chain of custody and continuity records, the ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory quality framework, the UK FSS Code of Practice, dynamic risk assessment, and scene documentation with sketches and photographic logs.

Q5 How is the "Crime Scene Leadership" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply the methods to live scenarios, such as conducting a risk assessment on arrival, setting cordons, assigning scene roles, running a briefing, logging an exhibit, and handing over to an investigator. Each module ends with an action commitment, so learning transfers directly into operational duty.