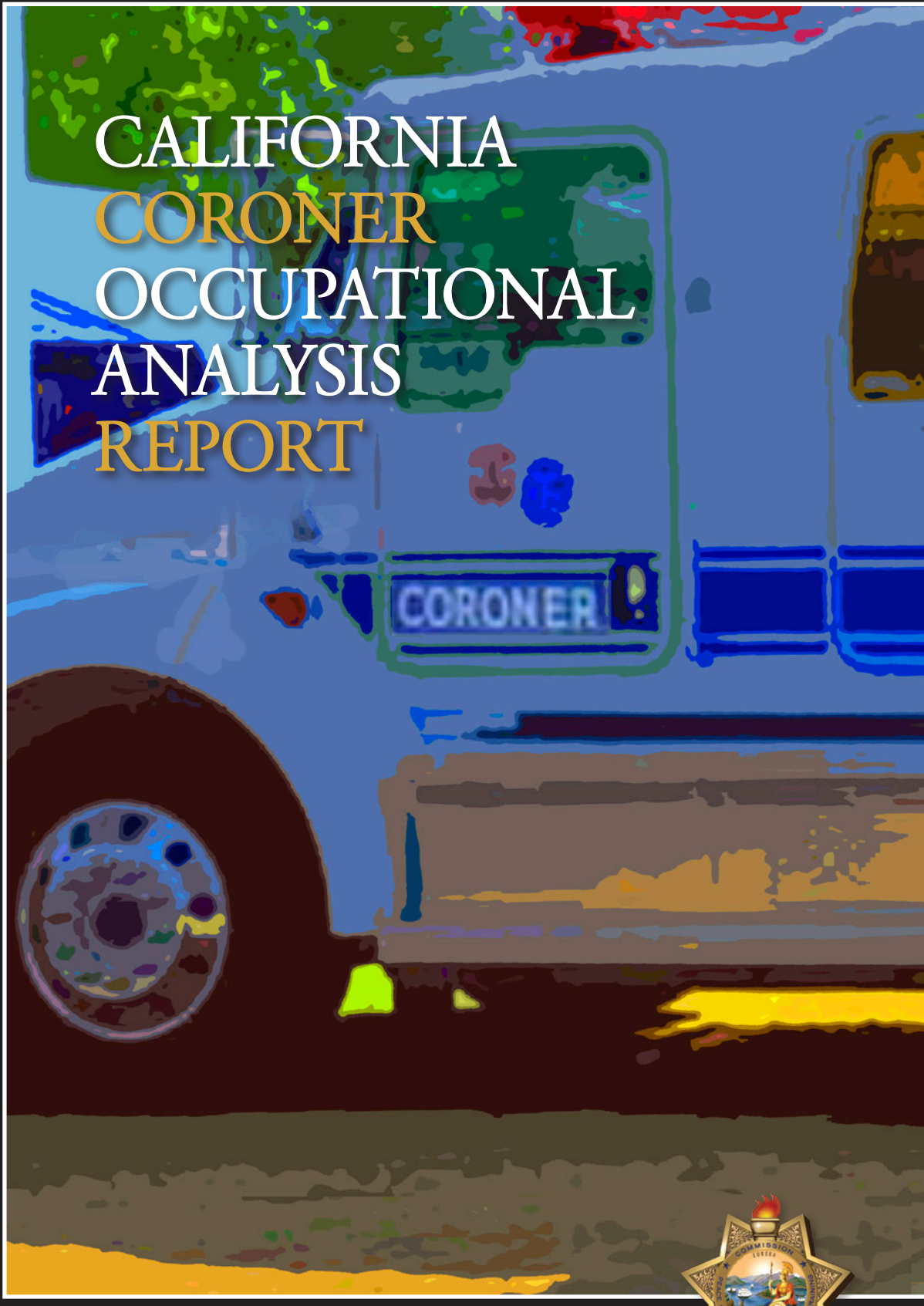


# CALIFORNIA CORONER OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT

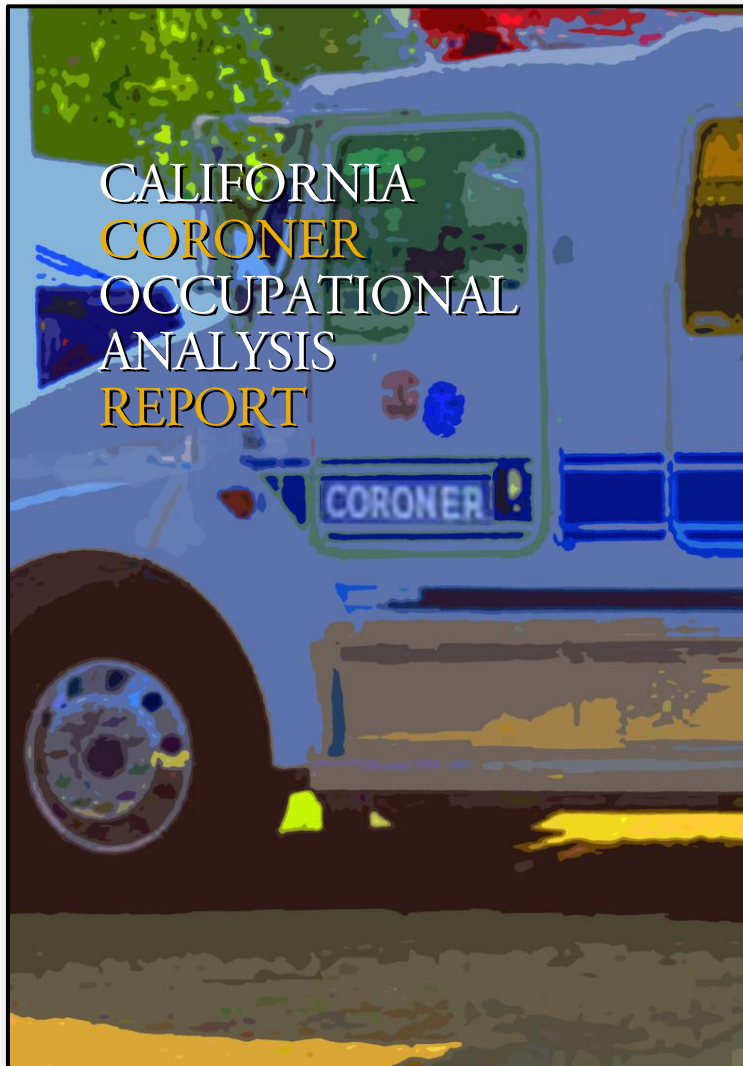
POST2010SEB-0404



California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training



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Developed by

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California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

Standards & Evaluation Services Bureau (SEB)

Bob Stresak, Bureau Chief

August 2010

## CALIFORNIA CORONER OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT

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POST2010SEB-0404

# POST Mission Statement

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**The mission** of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is to continually enhance the professionalism of California law enforcement in serving its communities.

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## POST Commissioners

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<b>Lai Lai Bui</b> <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Sergeant Sacramento Police Department
<b>Walter Allen</b>	Council Member Covina City Council
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<b>Collene Campbell</b>	Public Member
<b>Robert Cooke</b>	Special Agent-in-Charge California Narcotic Officers' Association
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<b>Linda Soubirous</b>	Public Member
<b>Edmund G. Brown, Jr.</b>	Attorney General, <i>Ex Officio</i> Member
<b>Paul Cappitelli</b>	POST Executive Director

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## Executive Summary

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**At the request of POST's** Coroner Curriculum Development Committee (CCDC), POST's Standards and Evaluation Services Bureau (SEB) conducted a validation study to identify critical job activities performed by Sheriff/Coroner, Coroner, and Medical Examiner professionals (death investigators) in California. The purpose of the occupational analysis was to define the tasks that new death investigators must perform safely and competently. This occupational analysis will serve as the basis for the development of statewide training for death investigators. Local agencies can also opt to use results to develop selection criteria for new death investigators in their jurisdiction.

SEB followed professional training and testing standards and guidelines to develop a legally defensible training outline for CCDC. A content validation strategy was employed to capture and describe the content of the death investigator's job. SEB conducted on-site interviews with death investigators throughout the state. The participants were asked to identify both the major content areas of their practice and specific job tasks performed in each content area. Participants were also asked to identify the knowledge necessary to perform each job task safely and competently. SEB transcribed the information gathered during the interviews into a preliminary list of job tasks and knowledge statements. The list was then organized into functional dimensions or content areas of practice.

In January 2010, SEB staff met with CCDC to gather input on the preliminary list of job tasks and knowledge statements. CCDC suggested minor modifications and compared SEB's work to curriculum under development. Subsequently, two panels of death investigators were convened for two-day workshops in March 2010 and April 2010 to evaluate the accuracy and scope of the content areas and their associated job task and knowledge statements. The panels confirmed that job task and knowledge statements were independent and non-overlapping. Job task and knowledge statements were refined, augmented, and modified as needed. These panels also established linkage between job tasks and knowledge statements to create a draft training outline.

The draft training outline was electronically disseminated to 34 death investigators who had participated in various stages of the project for final review and additional input. Based on input from all project phases, a training outline with seven content areas was finalized. The training outline specifies the job tasks that death investigators are expected to master to perform safely and competently. The training outline on page v provides an overview of the final training outline discussed in [Chapter 4](#).

The Commission on POST gratefully acknowledges the efforts of CCDC members and the cooperation extended by law enforcement agencies that committed resources to this project.

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# Training Outline: Synopsis

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CONTENT AREA (DOMAINS)	DESCRIPTION
<b>I. Initial Information Intake</b>	The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
<b>II. Death Investigation Evidence</b>	The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
<b>III. Unidentified Decedents</b>	The death investigator makes every reasonable effort to identify the decedent and notify next of kin in cases where evidence is sparse and conclusive identification is difficult.
<b>IV. Notification of Next of Kin</b>	The death investigator identifies and notifies the decedent's next of kin.
<b>V. Death Investigation Summary and Documentation</b>	The death investigator records the cause and manner of death and ensures documentation and records retention in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
<b>VI. Release of Remains and Property</b>	The death investigator ensures that the decedent and his/her property are released in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
<b>VII. Critical Incident/ Stress Management</b>	The death investigator fulfills legal mandates, maintains personal safety, and uses resources that promote emotional wellness and stability.

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### PURPOSE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS

POST's Coroner Curriculum Development Committee (CCDC) requested that POST's Standards and Evaluation Services Bureau (SEB) conduct a validation study to identify and define critical job activities performed by Coroner, Sheriff Coroner, and Medical Examiner professionals (death investigators) in the state of California. This occupational analysis is part of CCDC's comprehensive review of the practice of death investigators in California. The purpose of this occupational analysis is to define practices for a death investigator in terms of the actual tasks that new investigators must be able to perform safely and competently. The results of this occupational analysis serve as the basis for training of entry-level death investigators. Local jurisdictions can also opt to use the information in this report when developing selection criteria for death investigators.

There are several laws, codes, and regulations that define the roles and responsibilities of death investigators in California. According to the [California Health and Safety Code](#) (General Provisions, Division 102, Part 1, Article 3, Section [102850](#)), the coroner must be notified immediately when a death occurs:

- a) Without medical attendance.
- b) During the continued absence of the attending physician and surgeon.
- c) Where the attending physician and surgeon or the physician assistant is unable to state the cause of death.
- d) Where suicide is suspected.
- e) Following an injury or an accident.
- f) Under circumstances as to afford reasonable grounds to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another.

Any person who does not notify the coroner as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section [102860](#) of the same code further stipulates that:

The coroner shall state on the certificate of death the disease or condition directly leading to death, antecedent causes, other significant conditions contributing to death and other medical and health section data as may be required on the certificate, and the hour and day on which death occurred. The coroner shall specifically indicate the existence of any cancer, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section [103885](#), of which he or she has actual knowledge.

The coroner shall within three days after examining the body deliver the death certificate to the attending funeral director.

### CONTENT VALIDATION STRATEGY

To ensure that the occupational analysis reflects the actual tasks performed by death investigators, SEB implemented a content validation strategy. This strategy involved both the observation and interview of a diverse cross section of practitioners in their work place to gain a comprehensive understanding of actual job duties performed and knowledge required to perform those duties. SEB drafted preliminary task and knowledge statements and used the technical expertise of death investigators to verify the comprehensiveness and accuracy of draft statements. Death investigator expertise was also employed to establish a link between the job tasks and the knowledge statements.

### ADHERENCE TO LEGAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Several statutes, guidelines, and case law enumerate procedures that must be followed when developing professional selection and training criteria. These include the [Federal Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection Procedures](#), the [Civil Rights Act of 1991](#), and Section [12944](#) of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. All applicable codes, laws, standards, and regulations were followed for this occupational analysis.

## CHAPTER 2 | Occupational Analysis Process

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### UTILIZATION OF EXPERTS

CCDC and SEB identified death investigators who represent diverse practice settings to provide technical expertise as subject matter experts (SMEs) in all phases of the occupational analysis. Some of the death investigators participated in individual interviews. Others participated in panel meetings to develop and review job task and knowledge statements. In addition to including information from SMEs in all types of death investigator systems (i.e., Coroner, Sheriff Coroner, and Medical Examiner), SEB ensured that SMEs were diverse both geographically and in experience.

### INTERVIEWS AND RIDE-ALONGS

Between July and November 2009, SEB conducted on-site interviews with 33 death investigators throughout the state. As indicated in [Table 1](#), death investigators representing all types of death investigation systems (i.e., Coroner, Sheriff Coroner, and Medical Examiner) from counties in all 10 regions of the state (see [Figure 1](#)) were included in the process. Interviews often included tours of death investigation facilities and/or ride-alongs. Interviewees were asked to identify major content areas of their practice and the job tasks performed in each content area. They were also asked to identify the knowledge necessary to perform each job task safely and competently.

### LIST OF JOB TASKS AND KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS

SEB transcribed the information gathered during interviews into a preliminary list of job tasks and knowledge statements (see [Appendices](#)) so that the statements had a consistent format and language. The list was then organized into functional dimensions or content areas of practice.

In January 2010, SEB met with the CCDC to present preliminary occupational analysis findings, including draft task and knowledge statements. Input was incorporated and in March of 2010, a panel of 10 death investigators was convened for a two-day workshop to evaluate the technical and conceptual accuracy and comprehensiveness of the draft occupational analysis documents. Workshop participants reviewed proposed content areas, task statements, and knowledge statements and linked tasks to their associated knowledge statements.

Revisions were made based on input from the March workshop, and in April of 2010, a separate panel of 12 death investigators was convened in Sacramento to further review and refine occupational analysis documents. In addition to editing documents, participants provided technical expertise for the linkage of tasks to underlying knowledge statements.

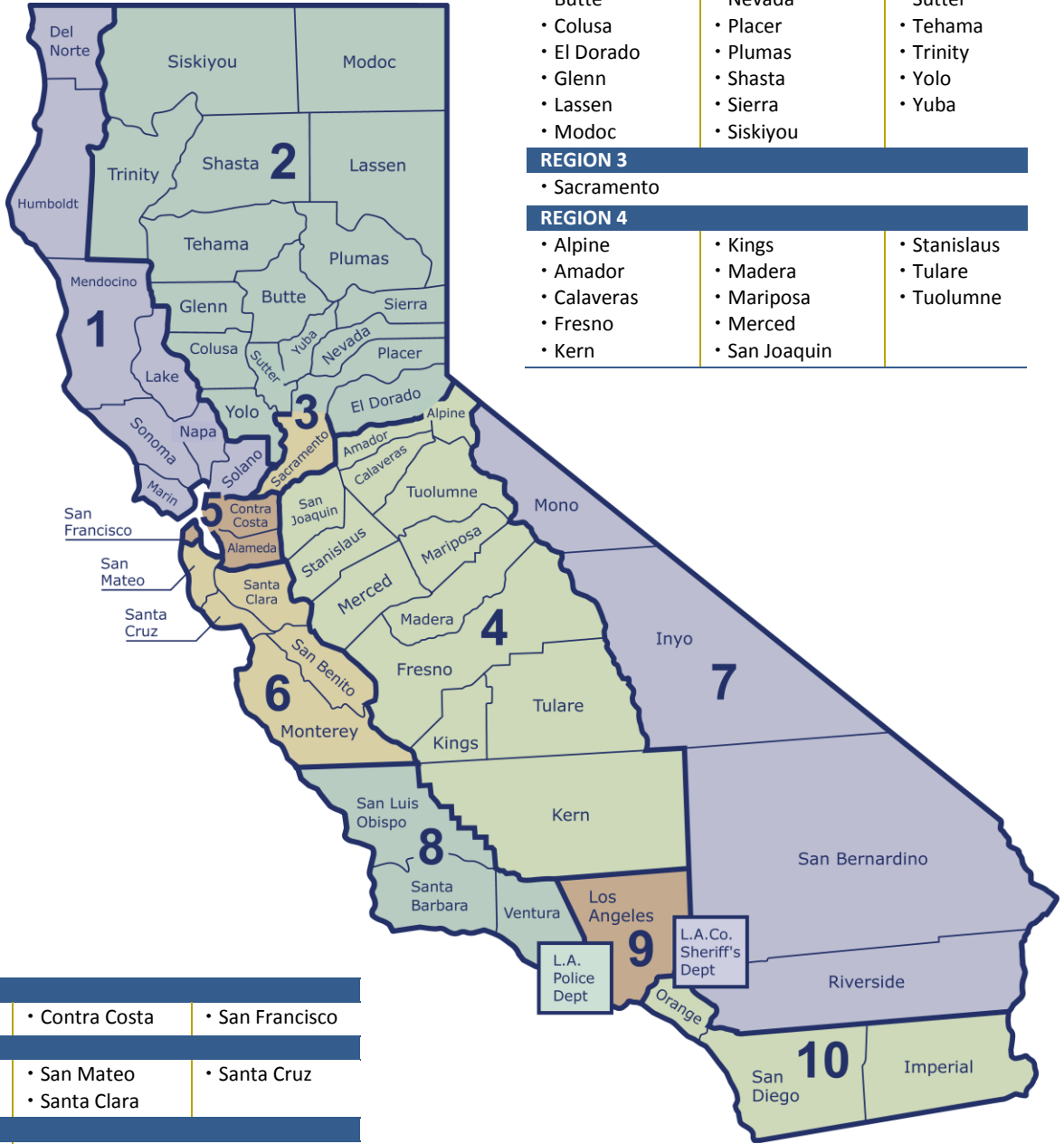
Subsequently, all death investigators who participated in the occupational analysis process were provided with drafts of all occupational analysis documents and encouraged to provide final input. Final tasks and knowledge statements reflect information and input from all occupational analysis phases.

**TABLE 1** | Synopsis of Coroner Occupational Analysis Site Visits

COUNTY	TYPE OF DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM			SITE VISIT INCLUDED			GEOGRAPHIC REGION (See Map)*
	Coroner	Sheriff Coroner	Medical Examiner	Death Investigator Interviews	Tour of Facilities	Ride-Along	
Alameda		●		●	●		5
El Dorado		●		●	●		2
Los Angeles	●			●	●		9
Marin	●			●			1
Orange		●		●	●		10
Placer		●		●	●	●	2
Riverside		●		●	●	●	7
Sacramento	●			●	●	●	3
San Bernardino		●		●	●		7
San Diego			●	●			10
Santa Cruz		●		●	●		6
Shasta		●		●	●		2
Stanislaus		●		●	●		4
Tehama		●		●	●		2
Ventura			●	●	●		8

\*See [Figure 1](#): POST Regional Map on next page.

**FIGURE 1 | POST Regional Map**



**REGION 1**

- |             |             |          |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| • Del Norte | • Marin     | • Solano |
| • Humboldt  | • Mendocino | • Sonoma |
| • Lake      | • Napa      |          |

**REGION 2**

- |             |            |           |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| • Butte     | • Nevada   | • Sutter  |
| • Colusa    | • Placer   | • Tehama  |
| • El Dorado | • Plumas   | • Trinity |
| • Glenn     | • Shasta   | • Yolo    |
| • Lassen    | • Sierra   | • Yuba    |
| • Modoc     | • Siskiyou |           |

**REGION 3**

- Sacramento

**REGION 4**

- |             |               |              |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Alpine    | • Kings       | • Stanislaus |
| • Amador    | • Madera      | • Tulare     |
| • Calaveras | • Mariposa    | • Tuolumne   |
| • Fresno    | • Merced      |              |
| • Kern      | • San Joaquin |              |

**REGION 5**

- |           |                |                 |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| • Alameda | • Contra Costa | • San Francisco |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|

**REGION 6**

- |              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Monterey   | • San Mateo   | • Santa Cruz |
| • San Benito | • Santa Clara |              |

**REGION 7**

- |             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Inyo      | • San Bernardino                    |
| • Mono      | • L.A. County Sheriff's Departments |
| • Riverside |                                     |

**REGION 8**

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • San Luis Obispo | • Ventura                         |
| • Santa Barbara   | • City of L.A. Police Departments |

**REGION 9**

- All Other Agencies within L.A. County

**REGION 10**

- |            |          |             |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| • Imperial | • Orange | • San Diego |
|------------|----------|-------------|

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## CHAPTER 3 | Development of the Training Outline

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### GROUPING OF TASKS

To create a useful foundation for training, tasks were grouped into content areas. Each content area represents tasks that are meaningfully related. Content areas can serve as the foundation for information to be covered in blocks of training that are developed.

### DOMAIN DESCRIPTIONS

For each group of tasks, a content heading or domain description was developed. The domain description summarizes information within the domain. SMEs provided input on both domain titles and domain descriptions.

### LINKAGE OF KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS TO JOB TASKS

The final step in the development of the training outline was to establish a link between job tasks and knowledge statements. Both the March 2010 and April 2010 SME groups worked to link job tasks to knowledge statements. SMEs reviewed each task and determined which knowledge statements were associated with the task being reviewed. SMEs verified that every task statement had a set of knowledge statements associated with it and every knowledge statement was associated with a task.

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OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING OUTLINE

The training outline is divided into seven content areas. Forty-four tasks were grouped by topic to serve as the foundation for the development of training. The largest content area is “Death Investigation Evidence” (See Table 2 below). The specific tasks and associated knowledge statements contained in each content area are detailed in [Table 3](#).\*

TABLE 2 | Summary of Content Areas

CONTENT AREA / DOMAIN DESCRIPTION		NUMBER OF TASKS
<b>I</b>	<b>INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE</b> The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.	6
<b>II</b>	<b>DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE</b> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	12
<b>III</b>	<b>UNIDENTIFIED DECEDENTS</b> The death investigator makes every reasonable effort to identify the decedent and notify next of kin in cases where evidence is sparse and conclusive identification is difficult.	6
<b>IV</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN</b> The death investigator identifies and notifies the decedent’s next of kin.	4
<b>V</b>	<b>DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION</b> The death investigator records the cause and manner of death and ensures documentation and records retention in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	5
<b>VI</b>	<b>RELEASE OF REMAINS AND PROPERTY</b> The death investigator ensures that the decedent and his/her property are released in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	5
<b>VII</b>	<b>CRITICAL INCIDENT / STRESS MANAGEMENT</b> The death investigator fulfills legal mandates, maintains personal safety, and uses resources that promote emotional wellness and stability.	6
<b>TOTAL TASKS</b>		<b>44</b>

\*Refer to the [Appendices](#) for a complete listing of tasks and knowledge linkages in order by number.

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area

CONTENT AREA I	INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE – TOTAL TASKS: 6 The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T1</b> Determine if the reported death falls under the coroner’s jurisdiction by gathering preliminary information about the circumstances surrounding the death.</p>	K1 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	K2 Knowledge of investigative techniques
	K3 Knowledge of interview techniques
	K4 Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
	K8 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation
	K9 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification
	K10 Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin
	K18 Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	K20 Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
	K24 Knowledge of causes of death
	K25 Knowledge of manners of death
	K26 Knowledge of indicators of suicide
	K27 Knowledge of indicators of homicide
	K28 Knowledge of indicators of accidental death
	K29 Knowledge of indicators of natural death
	K36 Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	K37 Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
	K38 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the collection and destruction of prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs.
	K42 Knowledge of effect of environmental factors on postmortem changes
	K44 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
K46 Knowledge of basic human anatomy and physiology	
K48 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property	
K49 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s remains	
K57 Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator	
K58 Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition	

CONTENT AREA I *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA I	INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T2</b> Interview witnesses/ informants to determine the appropriate level of coroner involvement in the case.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques</p> <p><b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques</p> <p><b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification</p> <p><b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin</p> <p><b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin</p> <p><b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation</p> <p><b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations</p> <p><b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations</p> <p><b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process</p> <p><b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death</p> <p><b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with death investigation</p> <p><b>K24</b> Knowledge of causes of death</p> <p><b>K25</b> Knowledge of manners of death</p> <p><b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene</p> <p><b>K37</b> Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses</p> <p><b>K53</b> Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information</p>
<p><b>T3</b> Determine the need for a death scene investigation by gathering preliminary information about the circumstances surrounding the death.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques</p> <p><b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques</p> <p><b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations</p> <p><b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation</p> <p><b>K30</b> Knowledge of traumatic injuries</p> <p><b>K38</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the collection and destruction of prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs</p>

CONTENT AREA I *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA I	INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T4</b></p> <p><b>Coordinate death investigation efforts with first responders and other appropriate parties.</b></p>	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K8</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation
	<b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification
	<b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin
	<b>K12.</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14.</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	<b>K38</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the collection and destruction of prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs
	<b>K39</b> Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms
<b>K40</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying and safely handling drug paraphernalia and other hazardous materials	
<b>K41</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes	
<b>K59</b> Knowledge of mass fatalities and mutual aid plans, laws, and procedures	

CONTENT AREA 1 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA I	INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T5</b> Coordinate requests for organ and tissue donation in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<p><b>K8</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation</p>
	<p><b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification</p>
	<p><b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin</p>
	<p><b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations</p>
	<p><b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations</p>
	<p><b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process</p>
	<p><b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to an autopsy</p>
	<p><b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation</p>
	<p><b>K21</b> Knowledge of basic medical appliances and their prescribed uses</p>
	<p><b>K30</b> Knowledge of traumatic injuries</p>
	<p><b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation</p>
	<p><b>K24</b> Knowledge of causes of death</p>
	<p><b>K25</b> Knowledge of manners of death</p>
	<p><b>K52</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information</p>

CONTENT AREA 1 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA I	INITIAL INFORMATION INTAKE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers and evaluates information provided by first responders and/or other appropriate parties to determine legal and logical next steps.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T8</b></p> <p>Arrange for the extrication and transport of the decedent in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin
	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to an autopsy
	<b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation
	<b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	<b>K41</b> Knowledge of maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
	<b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property
	<b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of a decedent’s property
	<b>K53</b> Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information
<b>K49</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s remains	
<b>K59</b> Knowledge of mass fatalities and mutual aid plans, laws, and procedures	
<b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition	

TABLE 3 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

<b>CONTENT AREA II</b>		<b>DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE – TOTAL TASKS: 13</b> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER		KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER	
<b>T7</b> Use department-issued death investigation equipment in accordance with case conditions.		<b>K5</b>	Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
		<b>K6</b>	Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
		<b>K7</b>	Knowledge of identification techniques employed in death investigations
		<b>K12</b>	Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
		<b>K32</b>	Knowledge of techniques for estimating time of death
		<b>K33</b>	Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
		<b>K35</b>	Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
		<b>K36</b>	Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
		<b>K37</b>	Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
		<b>K39</b>	Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms
<b>T10</b> Evaluate the decedent’s postmortem changes using visual and physical indicators.		<b>K2</b>	Knowledge of investigative techniques
		<b>K5</b>	Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
		<b>K6</b>	Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
		<b>K20</b>	Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
		<b>K31</b>	Knowledge of methods for evaluating and interpreting postmortem changes
		<b>K32</b>	Knowledge of techniques for estimating time of death
		<b>K42</b>	Knowledge of the effect of environmental factors on postmortem changes
		<b>K43</b>	Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence
		<b>K46</b>	Knowledge of basic human anatomy and physiology
		<b>K50</b>	Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports

CONTENT AREA II *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA II	DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T11</b> Perform an external body exam to document physical findings.	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
	<b>K21</b> Knowledge of basic medical appliances and their prescribed uses
	<b>K22</b> Knowledge of manifestations of natural disease processes
	<b>K30</b> Knowledge of traumatic injuries
	<b>K34</b> Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively capturing case details
	<b>K43</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence
	<b>K46</b> Knowledge of basic human anatomy and physiology
<b>T12</b> Identify witnesses/informants who may provide information pertinent to the death investigation.	<b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification
	<b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin
	<b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin
	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K43</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence
<b>T13</b> Interview witnesses/informants to determine the circumstances surrounding the death.	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques
	<b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in a death investigation
	<b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin
	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
	<b>K22</b> Knowledge of manifestations of natural disease processes
	<b>K34</b> Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively documenting case details

CONTENT AREA II *continues*



TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA II	DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T14</b> Identify evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.</p>	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to an autopsy
	<b>K21</b> Knowledge of basic medical appliances and their prescribed uses
	<b>K24</b> Knowledge of causes of death
	<b>K25</b> Knowledge of manners of death
	<b>K26</b> Knowledge of indicators of suicide
	<b>K27</b> Knowledge of indicators of homicide
	<b>K28</b> Knowledge of indicators of accidental death
	<b>K30</b> Knowledge of traumatic injuries
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	<b>K37</b> Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
	<b>K40</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying and safely handling drug paraphernalia and other hazardous materials
<b>K43</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence	
<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation	
<b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property	
<p><b>T15</b> Document evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.</p>	<b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K50</b> Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports
	<b>K34</b> Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively documenting case details

CONTENT AREA II *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA II	DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T16</b> Identify evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
	<b>K34</b> Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively capturing case details
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	<b>K37</b> Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
	<b>K39</b> Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms
	<b>K40</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying and safely handling drug paraphernalia and other hazardous materials
	<b>K41</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes
	<b>K42</b> Knowledge of the effect of environmental factors on postmortem changes
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
	<b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property.
<b>T18</b> Preserve the scene upon arrival in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
	<b>K27</b> Knowledge of indicators of homicide
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
	<b>K41</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes
	<b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property
	<b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property

CONTENT AREA II *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA II	DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T20</b> Identify the decedent using techniques relevant to case circumstances.</p>	<p><b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques</p> <p><b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques</p> <p><b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation</p> <p><b>K7</b> Knowledge of standard identification techniques employed in death investigations</p> <p><b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin</p> <p><b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents</p> <p><b>K31</b> Knowledge of methods for evaluating and interpreting postmortem changes</p>
<p><b>T25</b> Collaborate with other agencies to facilitate law enforcement efforts related to the death investigation.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations</p> <p><b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death</p> <p><b>K54</b> Knowledge of legally mandated reporting requirements related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K59</b> Knowledge of mass fatalities and mutual aid plans, laws, and procedures</p>
<p><b>T19</b> Safeguard the decedent’s property in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations</p> <p><b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin</p> <p><b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence</p> <p><b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence</p> <p><b>K36</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene</p> <p><b>K39</b> Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms</p> <p><b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property</p> <p><b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property</p> <p><b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator</p>

CONTENT AREA II *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA II	DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE <i>continued</i> The death investigator gathers, processes, retains, and maintains the integrity of evidence in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T35</b> Retain DNA and other evidence in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
	<b>K47</b> Knowledge of basic autopsy procedures

TABLE 3 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

<b>CONTENT AREA III</b> <b>UNIDENTIFIED DECEDENTS – TOTAL TASKS: 5</b> The death investigator makes every reasonable effort to identify the decedent and notify next of kin in cases where evidence is sparse and conclusive identification is difficult.	
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T21</b> Search missing persons databases using pertinent case details and available decedent information when standard identification techniques are not possible.	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K7</b> Knowledge of identification techniques employed in death investigations
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
	<b>K21</b> Knowledge of basic medical appliances and their prescribed uses
<b>T22</b> Interview individuals to generate leads for identification.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques
	<b>K7</b> Knowledge of identification techniques employed in a death investigations
	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
<b>T23</b> Conduct a thorough search of the area around unidentified decedents to ensure the collection and preservation of all relevant evidence.	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
	<b>K43</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence

CONTENT AREA III *continues*

TABLE 3 | Tasks and Knowledge Linkages by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA III	UNIDENTIFIED DECEDENTS <i>continued</i>
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T24</b> Submit available DNA samples to the California Department of Justice for processing and comparison with federal databases in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their applications
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
	<b>K17</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the reporting of unidentified decedents
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
<p><b>T44</b> Establish the decedent’s identity using a preponderance of circumstantial evidence when standard identification techniques are not possible.</p>	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K7</b> Knowledge of identification techniques employed in death investigations
	<b>K16</b> Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
	<b>K17</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the reporting of unidentified decedents
	<b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to an autopsy
	<b>K47</b> Knowledge of basic autopsy procedures

TABLE 3 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

<b>CONTENT AREA IV</b>		<b>NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION – TOTAL TASKS: 4</b> The death investigator identifies and notifies the decedent’s next of kin.	
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER		KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER	
<b>T9</b> Identify legal next of kin through interviews and investigation.	<b>K1</b>	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation	
	<b>K2</b>	Knowledge of investigative techniques	
	<b>K3</b>	Knowledge of interview techniques	
	<b>K4</b>	Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations	
	<b>K7</b>	Knowledge of standard identification techniques employed in death investigations	
	<b>K10</b>	Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin	
<b>T26</b> Notify legal next of kin the death has occurred.	<b>K3</b>	Knowledge of interview techniques	
	<b>K4</b>	Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations	
	<b>K9</b>	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification	
	<b>K11</b>	Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin	
	<b>K12</b>	Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation	
	<b>K13</b>	Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations	
	<b>K14</b>	Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations	
	<b>K15</b>	Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process	
	<b>K18</b>	Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death	
<b>K23</b>	Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to death investigation		

CONTENT AREA IV *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA <b>IV</b>	NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION <i>continued</i> The death investigator identifies and notifies the decedent’s next of kin.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T27</b> Provide legal next of kin with information about the investigative process.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K8</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation
	<b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification
	<b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to autopsy
	<b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
	<b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation
	<b>K47</b> Knowledge of basic autopsy procedures
	<b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property
	<b>K51</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates
	<b>K52</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information
	<b>K53</b> Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information
	<b>T28</b> Provide legal next of kin with information about resources available to families of the deceased.
<b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification	
<b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin	
<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation	
<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations	
<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations	
<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process	
<b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation	
<b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator	
<b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition	

TABLE 3 *continues*



TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

<b>CONTENT AREA V</b>	<b>DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL TASKS: 5</b> The death investigator records the cause and manner of death and ensures documentation and records retention in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER	
<b>T30</b> Determine the need for specialized analyses to support death investigation efforts.	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death	<b>K37</b> Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation	
<b>T31</b> Analyze information from all investigative phases to support the likely cause and manner of death.	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K19</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to an autopsy	
	<b>K24</b> Knowledge of causes of death	<b>K25</b> Knowledge of manners of death
	<b>K26</b> Knowledge of indicators of suicide	
	<b>K27</b> Knowledge of indicators of homicide	
	<b>K28</b> Knowledge of indicators of accidental death	
	<b>K29</b> Knowledge of indicators of natural death	
<b>T32</b> Document cause and manner of death in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques	
	<b>K24</b> Knowledge of causes of death	<b>K25</b> Knowledge of manners of death
	<b>K50</b> Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports	
	<b>K51</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates	
	<b>K52</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information	
	<b>K53</b> Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information	
	<b>K54.</b> Knowledge of legally mandated reporting requirements related to a death investigation	

CONTENT AREA V *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

<b>CONTENT AREA V</b>		<b>DEATH INVESTIGATION SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION <i>continued</i></b> The death investigator records the cause and manner of death and ensures documentation and records retention in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER		KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER	
<b>T33</b> Maintain public records of a death investigation in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.		<b>K50</b>	Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports
		<b>K51</b>	Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates
		<b>K52</b>	Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information
		<b>K53</b>	Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information
		<b>K54</b>	Knowledge of legally mandated reporting requirements related to a death investigation
<b>T34</b> Manage death investigation records in applicable databases, registers, or files as prescribed by laws, codes, regulations, and policies.		<b>K1</b>	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
		<b>K50</b>	Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports
		<b>K51</b>	Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates
		<b>K52</b>	Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information
		<b>K53</b>	Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information

TABLE 3 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA VI	RELEASE OF REMAINS AND PROPERTY – TOTAL TASKS: 5 The death investigator ensures that the decedent and his/her property are released in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<p><b>T37</b> Release organ and tissue for donation when legally appropriate.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques</p> <p><b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques</p> <p><b>K8</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation</p> <p><b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification</p> <p><b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin</p> <p><b>K11</b> Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin</p> <p><b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations</p> <p><b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process</p> <p><b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death</p> <p><b>K20</b> Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation</p> <p><b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K47</b> Knowledge of basic autopsy procedures</p>
<p><b>T38</b> Release the decedent in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<p><b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K9</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification</p> <p><b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin</p> <p><b>K23</b> Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation</p> <p><b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator</p> <p><b>K49</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s remains</p> <p><b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition</p>
<p><b>T39</b> Release the decedent in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.</p>	<p><b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin</p> <p><b>K45</b> Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent’s property</p> <p><b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property</p> <p><b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator</p> <p><b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition</p>

CONTENT AREA VI *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA VI	RELEASE OF REMAINS AND PROPERTY <i>continued</i> The death investigator ensures that the decedent and his/her property are released in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T36</b> Determine indigent status in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property
	<b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator
	<b>K49</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s remains
	<b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition
<b>T29</b> Notify the public administrator when the legal next of kin is unavailable, unable, or unwilling to fulfill next of kin duties.	<b>K10</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin
	<b>K48</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s property
	<b>K57</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator
	<b>K49</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent’s remains
	<b>K58</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition

TABLE 3 *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA VII	CRITICAL INCIDENT / STRESS MANAGEMENT – TOTAL TASKS: 6 The death investigator fulfills legal mandates, maintains personal safety, and uses resources that promote emotional wellness, stability, and safety.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T6</b> Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with site conditions.	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K5</b> Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
	<b>K6</b> Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their application
	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K18</b> Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death
	<b>K27</b> Knowledge of indicators of homicide
	<b>K31</b> Knowledge of methods for evaluating and interpreting postmortem changes
<b>T17</b> Assess hazards to prevent unnecessary risks during the investigation.	<b>K12</b> Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
	<b>K39</b> Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms
	<b>K40</b> Knowledge of methods for identifying and safely handling drug paraphernalia and other hazardous materials
	<b>K41</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes
<b>T40</b> Use available tools and techniques to maintain the emotional wellness of death investigators when indicated.	<b>K13</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
	<b>K14</b> Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
	<b>K15</b> Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
	<b>K55</b> Knowledge of symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
	<b>K56</b> Knowledge of the resources, tools, and techniques that promote the emotional wellness of death investigators.

CONTENT AREA VII *continues*

TABLE 3 | Task and Knowledge Linkage by Content Area *continued*

CONTENT AREA <b>VII</b>	CRITICAL INCIDENT / STRESS MANAGEMENT <i>continued</i> The death investigator fulfills legal mandates, maintains personal safety, and uses resources that promote emotional wellness, stability, and safety.
JOB TASKS BY NUMBER	KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS BY NUMBER
<b>T41</b> Testify under oath when required by law.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K2</b> Knowledge of investigative techniques
	<b>K3</b> Knowledge of interview techniques
	<b>K33</b> Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
	<b>K34</b> Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively documenting case details
	<b>K35</b> Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
	<b>K44</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
	<b>K50</b> Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports
<b>T42</b> Respond to mass fatalities and mutual aid situations when required.	<b>K1</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
	<b>K59</b> Knowledge of mass fatalities and mutual aid plans, laws, and procedures
	<b>K56</b> Knowledge of resources, tools, and techniques that promote the emotional wellness of death investigators
<b>T43</b> Fulfill mandated reporting duties in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.	<b>K4</b> Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
	<b>K17</b> Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the reporting of unidentified decedents
	<b>K51</b> Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates
	<b>K54</b> Knowledge of legally mandated reporting requirements related to death investigation

The occupational analysis of death investigators described in this report provides a comprehensive description of current practice in California. The procedures of the occupational analyses are based upon a content validation strategy to ensure that the results accurately represent the practice of death investigators in California.

By adopting the training outline contained in this report, CCDC ensures that training reflects current practice. This report provides all documentation necessary to verify that the analysis has been implemented in accordance with legal, professional, and technical standards.

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## APPENDIX A | Job Tasks by Number

NUMBER	JOB TASK DESCRIPTIONS
T1	Determine if the reported death falls under the coroner's jurisdiction by gathering preliminary information about the circumstances surrounding the death.
T2	Interview witnesses/informants to determine the appropriate level of coroner involvement in the case.
T3	Determine the need for a death scene investigation by gathering preliminary information about the circumstances surrounding the death.
T4	Coordinate death investigation efforts with first responders and other appropriate parties.
T5	Coordinate requests for organ and tissue donation in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T6	Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with site conditions.
T7	Use department-issued death investigation equipment in accordance with case conditions.
T8	Arrange for the extrication and transport of the decedent in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T9	Identify legal next of kin through interviews and investigation.
T10	Evaluate the decedent's postmortem changes using visual and physical indicators.
T11	Perform an external body exam to document physical findings.
T12	Identify witnesses/informants who may provide information pertinent to the death investigation.
T13	Interview witnesses/informants to determine the circumstances surrounding the death.
T14	Identify evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.
T15	Document evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.
T16	Collect evidence pertinent to cause, manner, and circumstances of death.

NUMBER	JOB TASK DESCRIPTIONS
T17	Assess hazards to prevent unnecessary risks during the investigation.
T18	Preserve the scene upon arrival in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T19	Safeguard the decedent’s property in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T20	Identify the decedent using techniques relevant to case circumstances.
T21	Search missing persons databases using pertinent case details and available decedent information when standard identification techniques are not possible.
T22	Interview individuals to generate leads for identification.
T23	Conduct a thorough search of the area around unidentified decedents to ensure the collection and preservation of all relevant evidence.
T24	Submit available DNA samples to the California Department of Justice for processing and comparison with federal databases in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T25	Work collaboratively with other agencies to facilitate law enforcement efforts related to the death investigation.
T26	Notify legal next of kin the death has occurred.
T27	Provide legal next of kin with information about the investigative process.
T28	Provide legal next of kin with information about resources available to families of the deceased.
T29	Notify the public administrator when the legal next of kin is unavailable, unable, or unwilling to fulfill next of kin duties.
T30	Determine the need for specialized analyses to support death investigation efforts.
T31	Analyze information from all investigative phases to support the likely cause and manner of death.
T32	Document cause and manner of death in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T33	Maintain public records of a death investigation in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.

NUMBER	JOB TASK DESCRIPTIONS
T34	Manage death investigation records in applicable databases, registers, or files as prescribed by laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T35	Retain DNA and other evidence in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T36	Determine indigent status in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T37	Release organ and tissue for donation when legally appropriate.
T38	Release the decedent in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T39	Release the decedent's property to legal next of kin in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T40	Use available tools and techniques to maintain the emotional wellness of death investigators when indicated.
T41	Testify under oath when required by law.
T42	Respond to mass fatalities and mutual aid situations when required.
T43	Fulfill mandated reporting duties in accordance with laws, codes, regulations, and policies.
T44	Establish the decedent's identity using a preponderance of circumstantial evidence when standard identification techniques are not possible.

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NUMBER	AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE
K1	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to a death investigation
K2	Knowledge of investigative techniques
K3	Knowledge of interview techniques
K4	Knowledge of roles and responsibilities of parties involved in death investigations
K5	Knowledge of technological tools used in a death investigation
K6	Knowledge of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and their application
K7	Knowledge of standard identification techniques employed in death investigations
K8	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to organ and tissue donation
K9	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to legal next of kin notification
K10	Knowledge of methods for identifying legal next of kin
K11	Knowledge of techniques for compassionately communicating with next of kin
K12	Knowledge of hazards that may be encountered during a death investigation
K13	Knowledge of methods for maintaining personal safety in emotionally charged situations
K14	Knowledge of techniques for diffusing tense situations
K15	Knowledge of human behavioral responses related to the grief process
K16	Knowledge of methods for generating information about unidentified decedents
K17	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the reporting of unidentified decedents
K18	Knowledge of indicators of a suspicious death

NUMBER	AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE
<b>K19</b>	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to autopsy
<b>K20</b>	Knowledge of medical terminology associated with a death investigation
<b>K21</b>	Knowledge of basic medical appliances and their prescribed uses
<b>K22</b>	Knowledge of manifestations of natural disease processes
<b>K23</b>	Knowledge of religious and cultural issues related to a death investigation
<b>K24</b>	Knowledge of causes of death
<b>K25</b>	Knowledge of manners of death
<b>K26</b>	Knowledge of indicators of suicide
<b>K27</b>	Knowledge of indicators of homicide
<b>K28</b>	Knowledge of indicators of accidental death
<b>K29</b>	Knowledge of indicators of natural death
<b>K30</b>	Knowledge of traumatic injuries
<b>K31</b>	Knowledge of methods for evaluating and interpreting postmortem changes
<b>K32</b>	Knowledge of techniques for estimating time of death
<b>K33</b>	Knowledge of techniques for collecting evidence
<b>K34</b>	Knowledge of various techniques (e.g., photography, video, investigative notes) for comprehensively documenting case details
<b>K35</b>	Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of evidence
<b>K36</b>	Knowledge of methods for maintaining the integrity of the death scene
<b>K37</b>	Knowledge of common prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs and their uses
<b>K38</b>	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the collection and destruction of prescription, non-prescription, and illicit drugs
<b>K39</b>	Knowledge of methods for safely handling firearms
<b>K40</b>	Knowledge of methods for identifying and safely handling drug paraphernalia and other hazardous materials

NUMBER	AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE
K41	Knowledge of methods for maintaining the safety of self and others when securing death investigation scenes
K42	Knowledge of the effect of environmental factors on postmortem changes.
K43	Knowledge of methods for identifying potential evidence
K44	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to evidence gathered during a death investigation
K45	Knowledge of methods for preventing unauthorized individuals from tampering with the decedent's property
K46	Knowledge of basic human anatomy and physiology
K47	Knowledge of basic autopsy procedures
K48	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent's property
K49	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to the disposition of decedent's remains
K50	Knowledge of techniques for writing clear, concise, and compelling reports.
K51	Knowledge of legal requirements related to death certificates
K52	Knowledge of legal requirements related to the recording, maintaining, and releasing death investigation information
K53	Knowledge of methods for recording, storing, and archiving death investigation information
K54	Knowledge of legally mandated reporting requirements related to a death investigation
K55	Knowledge of symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
K56	Knowledge of resources, tools, and techniques that promote the emotional wellness of death investigators
K57	Knowledge of laws, codes, and regulations related to the public administrator
K58	Knowledge of laws, codes, regulations, and policies related to indigent disposition
K59	Knowledge of mass fatalities and mutual aid plans, laws, and procedures