**ACCIDENTAL DEATH**

Secure Scene  
  
1 .Record exact time of arrival  
2 .Secure possible witnesses and suspects, keep them separated  
3 .Nobody gets into the scene  
4 .Secure scene  
5 .Nobody gets into the scene  
6 .Skirt wall, walk along, not possible pathway of suspect/victim/witness  
7 .Same way in is the same way out  
8 .Examine area to determine if body location is consistent with possible cause of death.  
9 .Is the location of the body logical or true place of death?  
10 .Are the injuries consistent with position of body?  
11 .Is age a causal factor?  
12 .Is there evidence of intrusion versus secure premises?  
13 .Document scene: Doors locked or open, lights on or off, furniture moved  
14 .Is there evidence of violence or disarray? Blood trail, splatter, human tissue or fluid, weapons, obvious injury, disturbed clothing.  
15 .Examine body to ensure no evidence of foul play.  
16 .What is the ambient temperature Compare body temperature to the environment  
17 .Is there insect or vermin alive  
18 .Photos of scene and body  
19 .Preserve evidence  
20 .Who found body?  
21 .Who last saw the victim alive?  
22 .Next of KIN?  
23 .Medical history of victim  
  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS  
1. Medications Secure for pathologist, send with body  
2. Past Health issues Physical and/or mental  
3. Family Doctor  
4. Last seen by doctor Who, where, when, why  
5. When is next doctor’s appointment  
  
24 .Escort EMS, if they need to be in the scene  
25 .Discuss EMS findings  
26 .Time of death  
27 .Contact Coroner to advise of death  
  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS  
1. Advise of findings  
2. Determine if coroner is attending or not  
3. If attending, keep body secured  
4. If not attending contact Body Removal Services  
5. Determine if autopsy is to be conducted  
6. Determine if police are to attend autopsy  
  
28 .Tag body  
29 .Seize valuables on victim or turn over to family present  
30 .Query deceased on CPIC, if has criminal record, fingerprint  
  
  
Statements  
  
1 .From person who located body  
2 .Person who last saw the victim alive  
3 .Anyone that can further your investigation  
  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS  
1. Family that can provide medical history recent activities or behavior of the victim  
2. Friends who know history or recent activities or behavior of victim  
3. Any names that arise during investigation or statements that can further the investigation.  
4. Determine time between death and discovery  
5. Did the deceased complain of anything prior to death.  
6. Activities prior to death.  
  
4 .Any alcohol or drugs used at time of Death?  
5 .Update supervisor  
6 .Obtain names of persons on scene  
  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS  
1. EMS attendants  
2. Witnesses and family  
3. Firefighters  
4. Coroner  
5. Body Removal Team  
6. Other police officers  
  
7 .Follow up with family  
  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS  
1. Answer any questions  
2. Provide contact info for police and other services e.g. Where body will be located  
3. Offer any applicable services. Victim services  
4. Location of body  
  
8 .Conduct NOK's if needed  
9 .If autopsy to be conducted secure body and submit required documentation and forward required messages  
10 .If no autopsy to be conducted write up file and conclude  
  
  
First responder and Scene examination  
  
1 .If death took place at a workplace, contact workplace health and safety  
2 .All scene's must be assessed for potentially biohazardous material. Including the presence of a dangerous suspect  
3 .Do not enter a scene that you suspect has been exposed to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) agents  
4 .If cause of death was electrical, stay back and ensure local power company cuts power prior to approaching scene  
5 .Protect yourself and the public from further danger or exposure  
6 .Secure the scene and request assistance  
7 .If there is no indication of CBRN contamination or electrical hazards secure the scene for investigation  
8 .Do not allow unauthorized personnel to attend the scene and document all names and actions of persons entering and exiting the scene  
9 .Document who entered the scene prior to your arrival and their activities  
10 .Is there evidence of medications or drugs? Special places to look are medicine cabinet, purses, refrigerator and waste baskets  
11 .What may appear to be accidental or explainable death may be a homicide. The coroner/medical examiner is the only authority who may determine cause of death and may want to attend the scene. Advise supervisor and coroner of findings.  
12 .Symptoms of hypothermia can resemble death. Death can only be confirmed after the body has been warmed to normal temperature and resuscitation efforts have failed.  
13 .The death of a child caused by shaken baby syndrome is not readily detected during an external examination. The cause of such a death may be determined through pathological examination.  
14 .Most Shaken baby cases result in retinal hemorrhages. Ensure an ophthalmologist is consulted. Other injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome are grab sites (bruises around shoulders or chest) or fractures of skull, ribs, or legs. Neck injuries are rarely observed.  
15 .Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is defined as natural death which sudden and unexpected but remains unexplained. Possible cause of death have been ruled out by an examination of the scene, a thorough investigation, an autopsy, and a medical review.  
16 .Consider support services such as General Investigation section (GIS), Major Crimes Unit (MCU), Forensic Identification section (FIS)