

Disaster Victim Identification Workshop

Sunday May 19, 2019 8am–5pm -- St. Louis, Missouri

Pre-registration is required at ascldsymposium.com

This workshop is valuable to laboratory directors and managers in learning how Rapid DNA can be used in a mass fatality incident.

Historically, DNA was only used as a last resort for the identification of human remains following a mass fatality. However, the use of DNA is becoming increasingly common, especially in cases where fragmentation or decomposition is present. Governments and the public are expecting DNA testing to be conducted quickly and accurately. Since crime laboratories are often the DNA experts for a state or local government, it is important that forensic laboratories are prepared for a mass fatality DNA response. Rapid DNA is becoming an important tool in DVI operations and the workshop is designed to give laboratory directors and supervisors the opportunity to experience how Rapid DNA instruments are used in identification efforts during a mass fatality response.

The workshop will include short lectures, a tabletop exercise and the opportunity for participants to proceed through seven interactive workstations focused on Rapid DNA's role in the Family Assistance Center (FAC), Incident Morgue and Identification operations. After completing the workshop participants will understand:

- How Rapid DNA can be used in DVI operations
- Who the mass fatality response stakeholders are (i.e., DMORT, NTSB, FEMORS, OMORT, MOMORT)
- FAC, Incident Morgue, and Identification operations, specifically focused on the use of DNA, with hands-on experience
- ASCLD's Rapid DNA Mass Fatality Task Force deliverables including: the Rapid DNA Needs Assessment Checklist, Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (mutual aid agreements among states to share resources during times of need), the Rapid DNA Deployment Checklist, and DNA Operations Process Maps
- How a Rapid DNA mass fatality response can be a cooperative endeavor to support the local jurisdiction impacted by the mass fatality

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

- Short lectures on DVI and Rapid DNA
- Tabletop exercise focusing on a Rapid DNA response
- Interactive stations:
 - » **Station 1** — Family interviews with the Victim Information Profile (VIP) antemortem form
 - » **Station 2** — DNA pedigree and DNA sample collection
 - » **Station 3** — Running family reference samples
 - » **Station 4** — Public information awareness
 - » **Station 5** — Collecting postmortem samples
 - » **Station 6** — Running postmortem samples
 - » **Station 7** — Kinship analysis and making the Rapid DNA match

Conducted by ASCLD's DVI Rapid DNA Subcommittee, The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, The National Institute of Justice Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, and SNA International

