Risk Assessment

CSI Workshop

Activity

CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) / forensic science workshop involving practical forensic activities and demonstrations.

Location

Classroom, science laboratory, hall, or workshop venue.

Persons at Risk

- Students / participants
- Teachers / workshop leaders
- Laboratory technicians
- Visitors or observers

Description of Activities

Activities may include:

- Fingerprint collection and analysis
- Footwear impression casting
- DNA extraction demonstrations
- Chromatography
- Fibre and hair analysis
- Blood spatter demonstrations using defibrinated horse blood
- Presumptive blood testing (e.g., Kastle–Meyer)
- Evidence collection and packaging
- Microscopy activities

Hazard Identification and Control Measures

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Chemicals and reagents	Skin/eye irritation, ingestion, inhalation	Use only low-hazard school-safe chemicals where possible. Follow COSHH guidance. Wear PPE. Clearly label all containers.	Low
Hydrogen peroxide and testing reagents	Irritation or burns	Use dilute solutions. Wear goggles and gloves. Avoid splashing.	Low
Powder dusting for fingerprints	Respiratory irritation or mess	Use minimal amounts. Avoid creating airborne dust. Clean surfaces thoroughly after use.	Low
Biological samples	Contamination risk	Treat all unknown samples as hazardous. Dispose of safely.	Low
Sharp objects (tweezers, broken glass)	Cuts and puncture wounds	Use safety tools where possible. Supervise closely. Store sharps securely. Dispose of broken glass in sharps container.	Low
Electrical equipment (microscopes, lamps)	Electric shock or trip hazard	Check equipment before use. Keep cables tidy and dry. Do not overload sockets.	Low
Spillages	Slips or chemical exposure	Clean spills immediately using appropriate procedures. Inform supervisor immediately.	Low
Crowded working areas	Trips, collisions, unsafe movement	Maintain clear walkways. Limit group sizes. Organise	Low

		workstations carefully.	
Allergic reactions (latex, powders, chemicals)	Skin or respiratory reactions	Check participant allergies beforehand. Use nitrile gloves instead of latex where possible.	Low
Food contamination	Accidental ingestion of chemicals	No eating or drinking during workshop activities. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards.	Low

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Participants should wear:
- Safety goggles
- Laboratory coat or apron
- Disposable nitrile gloves
- Closed-toe footwear

Additional PPE may be required depending on the activity.

Safe Working Procedures

1. Participants must receive a safety briefing before activities begin.
2. Follow all teacher or workshop leader instructions.
3. Long hair should be tied back and loose clothing secured.
4. Eating and drinking are prohibited during activities.
5. Only trained staff should handle higher-risk equipment or chemicals.
6. Use small quantities of chemicals and reagents.
7. Wash hands thoroughly after practical activities.
8. Ensure all workstations are cleaned after use.
9. Evidence handling activities should use simulated evidence only unless approved otherwise.
10. Emergency exits and fire procedures should be explained at the start of the workshop.

First Aid Measures

Incident	Action
Chemical splash to eyes	Rinse immediately with water for at least 10 minutes and seek medical attention.
Skin contact with chemicals	Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
Inhalation of fumes or powders	Move to fresh air and seek assistance if symptoms persist.
Cuts from sharp objects or glass	Clean wound, apply dressing, and seek first aid assistance.
Burns	Cool under running water for at least 10 minutes and seek assistance.
Fire	Follow evacuation procedures and use suitable fire extinguisher if trained to do so.

Emergency Procedures

- Report all accidents, injuries, and spillages immediately.
- Follow site evacuation procedures in the event of fire.
- Ensure first aid equipment is accessible.
- Ensure supervising staff know the location of emergency exits and extinguishers.

Disposal

- Dispose of chemical waste according to school or laboratory procedures.
- Dispose of contaminated materials in designated waste containers.
- Dispose of broken glass and sharps in approved sharps containers.
- Clean reusable equipment thoroughly after use.

Supervision Requirements

- Activities must be supervised by qualified staff.
- Ratios should be appropriate to the age and needs of participants.
- Additional supervision may be required for practical or chemical-based activities.

Risk Level Summary

Stage	Risk Level
Before controls	Medium
After controls	Low

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- **Approval**
- Dany Green
- Manager & Workshop Tutor

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- 02.09.2025