

Introduction

If you're the first person at the scene of a possible fatality, you must carry out the initial investigation – don't just report it.

Follow these steps, as well as the instructions in the [General investigation policy](#). (For non-suspicious deaths, follow the advice in the [Death investigation policy](#).)

The five building blocks

Your priorities are:

1. Preserve life.
2. Preserve the scene(s).
3. Secure the evidence.
4. Identify the victim.
5. Identify the suspect(s).

Preserve life

First, check the victim. If there's any possibility they're alive, apply first aid and call an ambulance.

Golden hour

Act as quickly as you can during the hour after a crime has been committed. This will help you minimise the amount of evidence that could be lost to the investigation and maximise the chance of gathering evidence that will be admissable in court.