

Post Incident Protection of Evidence

The collection and protection of evidence is critical.

To give the investigating authorities the best chance of apprehending the perpetrators, it is important that evidence is preserved in the correct manner. Companies, Masters and crew should refer to **IMO Guidelines on Preservation and Collection of Evidence A28/Res. 1091 and other industry guidance**. The quality of the evidence provided and the availability of the crew to testify will significantly help any investigation or prosecution that follows.



The Master and crew can protect a crime scene until the nominated law enforcement agency arrives by following these basic principles:

- Preserve the crime scene and all evidence if possible.
- Avoid contaminating or interfering with all possible evidence – if in doubt, do not touch and leave items in place.
- Do not clean up the area, including hosing it down. Do not throw anything away, no matter how unimportant it may seem.
- Take initial statements from the crew.
- Take photographs of the crime scene from multiple viewpoints.
- Protect VDR for future evidence.
- Make a list of items taken (e.g. mobile phones with numbers).
- Facilitate access to the crime scene and relevant documentation for law enforcement authorities.
- Make crew available for interview by law enforcement authorities.

INTERPOL can also be consulted to discuss recommended practices for the preservation of evidence that could be useful to law enforcement agents pursuing an investigation.

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