Investigative Fundamentals (two parts)

Thoroughly investigating questionable activity involves a multi-step process encompassing various aspects of investigations. This module explores the fundamental steps common to all types of investigations, including determining the need for an investigation and assigning responsibility. Students will analyze a case study to identify how the investigative process uncovers problems, gathers evidence, and develops appropriate responses. Additionally, the module examines the concept of proof and the varying degrees of intent associated with serious violations of construction regulations, ranging from unintentional breaches to reckless endangerment.

Interviewing Techniques (two parts)

Well-planned and skillfully conducted interviews play a vital role in comprehensive investigations. In addition to gathering tangible evidence, interviews are instrumental in establishing and potentially substantiating a sequence of events. This module explores the nuanced techniques and expertise involved in conducting successful interviews, blending both scientific and artistic approaches. It covers strategies for interviewing individuals with special needs, the elderly, or those whose primary language is not English. Furthermore, students will evaluate the advantages and difficulties associated with conducting recorded interviews that yield effective outcomes.

Providing Testimony (two parts)

This module provides an overview of administrative hearings, criminal proceedings, and civil proceedings. It includes guidance on preparing for factual sworn testimony and examines the distinctions between different types of hearings, such as depositions, criminal and civil court proceedings, and administrative hearings. Students will gain insights into effectively navigating direct and cross-examinations when giving testimony. Additionally, the module covers how attorneys utilize open-source information to prepare for cross-examinations.

Report Writing

Proper documentation is crucial for the credibility and reliability of any comprehensive investigation. Without accurate and comprehensive documentation, the investigation will not withstand scrutiny. This module focuses on identifying the essential investigative steps and findings that require documentation, as well as providing guidance on how to document them thoroughly and succinctly. Recognizing the importance of including relevant information in the report, the module emphasizes that if an event or detail is not documented, it is as if it never occurred in the investigation's context.

Understanding Digital Evidence

In this module, students will gain an understanding of how digital evidence from computers, phones, and mobile devices can be utilized to establish or refute violations. They will learn a systematic approach that emphasizes the significance of identification, preservation, and analysis of such evidence in relevant cases.

Case Studies and Practical Exercises

Using the knowledge gained from previous modules, students will assess whether potential violations fall under regulatory, civil, or criminal categories. They will then learn how to develop an efficient investigative plan. Through problem-solving exercises, students will explore strategies for promptly and effectively responding to discovered violations, as well as the possible outcomes during inspections, spanning from the initial investigation steps to the resolution of litigation.