



STRANGULATION INVESTIGATIONS

Part 2: Anatomy & Mechanisms of Injury

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing Part 2, officers will be able to:

- Describe the physical internal consequences of an asphyxiation assault;
- Recognize all forms of asphyxiation, including strangulation;
- Identify the internal structures impacted by asphyxiation; and
- Ask questions to determine mechanisms of the assault and how these factors indicate the seriousness of the crime.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

If you would like RESPOND Against Violence to facilitate an extended version of this discussion, email info@respondagainstviolence.org to set up a virtual meeting.

1. Define asphyxiation and its different types. Which may be hardest to identify and why?
2. Describe what happens to the respiratory (breathing) and circulatory (blood flow) systems within the body when it is deprived of oxygen.
3. Was it surprising to learn how little force is required to impede breathing or normal blood flow? How does this information impact the way you will approach strangulation crimes in the future?
4. What factors during an assault contribute to potential injuries?
5. Review the mechanisms of asphyxiation assaults.
 - Discuss why each of these mechanisms is important to document.
 - How can proper documentation lead to a stronger case for prosecution?
6. Discuss how you might document witness when there is evidence of drowning. What evidence would you need to document/collect when investigating other forms of asphyxia?