

Grissettown Longwood Fire & Rescue

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

The purpose of this policy is to provide for early intervention in relief of emotional or behavioral problems, which tend to result from incidents involving an unusually high level of stress to emergency workers. Critical incident stress may be acute, affecting members during emergency operations, or may be more delayed, affecting members after the incident is over. Whichever the case may be, officers are responsible for being aware of the types of situations, which may cause critical incident stress and for monitoring the response and condition of personnel.

A. If a member exhibits signs of failure to cope with stress during emergency operations an officer is to call for relief and replacement of the affected member. At earliest opportunity, the officer is to recommend follow-up evaluation and assistance for the member.

B. If an incident occurs which is unduly stressful to members such as the injury or death of fellow workers or other emergency workers, large disasters, very extended operations, particularly gruesome circumstances, extensive media attention, etc., the officer is to recommend critical incident stress debriefing (CISD), including recommendation for date and time of the debriefing. If it is felt that emotional support is needed for members even while extended operations continue, it should be requested immediately.

C. Upon receiving recommendations or requests for CISD the chief or his designate shall arrange for appropriate professionals to meet with affected members at the earliest reasonable time. Such arrangements may be made through a designated critical incident stress debriefing facilitator as assigned by the chief.

D. Follow-up of CISD will occur according to the recommendations of the CISD personnel.

E. To activate the CISD, contact Ellen Dorsett, Program Coordinator, at 910-457-5493 or cell 520-8490.

BE AWARE THAT COMMAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN ANY INCIDENT.