



## About Us

This year the Colorado Crisis Support Network marks the nineteenth anniversary of crisis response services for emergency responders and hospital personnel in Colorado.

A critical incident has been defined as any event which has the ability to interfere, or potentially interfere, with an individual's ability to psychologically cope with the event. Examples of critical incidents include:

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| ☞ Line of duty deaths                                   | ☞ Events with excessive media interest                           |
| ☞ Serious line of duty injuries                         | ☞ Life-threatening experiences                                   |
| ☞ Suicides of emergency personnel                       | ☞ Severe abuse   |
| ☞ Disasters   | ☞ Homicides  |
| ☞ Law enforcement shootings                             | ☞ Terrorism  |
| ☞ Accidental injuries to others caused by one's actions | ☞ High publicity crimes of violence                              |
| ☞ Significant events involving children                 | ☞ Any significant event which overwhelms usual coping mechanisms |
| ☞ Prolonged incidents which end in a loss               |  |

Ultimately, a critical incident is defined by its impact on a group or individual.

The Colorado Crisis Support Network teams are available to provide the following interventions:

- ☐ Pre-incident education
- ☐ Crisis management briefings
- ☐ Defusings (same shift of incident)
- ☐ Debriefings (ideally within 24-72 hours of the event)
- ☐ Debriefings for family and significant others
- ☐ On-scene services for large scale/mass casualty incidents
- ☐ Demobilizations/de-escalations for large scale/mass casualty incidents
- ☐ One time one-on-one interventions

Crisis support teams are volunteer organizations and there is no charge for the services of the Colorado Crisis Support Network teams.

Critical incident stress management or crisis support are designed to mitigate stress following particularly stressful events. Crisis support techniques allow personnel to explore the physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral reactions to critical incidents. Crisis support techniques have both psychological support and educational components.

The Colorado Crisis Support Network recommends that activation of a crisis support team be included in county and agency plans for large-scale incidents and other appropriate incidents, such as line of duty death. Please contact the team nearest you to discuss available resources.

A brochure for the Colorado Crisis Support Network teams is available on the website, [www.healthONEems.com](http://www.healthONEems.com). Click on CISM and Colorado Crisis Support Network. For more information on the team in your region, please contact the team listing in the brochure.