



Access the entire webinar series here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-healthcare-system-preparedness-considerations-speaker-series-summary.pdf>

Access the speaker bio here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/speaker-series---tn-dmhst---speaker-bio.pdf>

Access the recording here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8903943442690336783>

T R A C I E

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Healthcare System Preparedness Considerations- Speaker Series

July 2022

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TRACIE

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

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Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team



Department of
**Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services**



Department of
Health



Ken Tartar, MA CHEP
Regional Hospital Coordinator

Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team

A Statewide Team with Two Functions

- **Disaster Mental Health**
 - Provide disaster triage
 - Provide Mental Health First Aid
 - Provide timely referrals
- **Emergency Responder Crisis Intervention**
 - Support responders with support following critical events
 - Provide triage
 - Provide timely referrals



Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team

Strengths

- Emergency responders are field-ready
- Accustomed to deployments
- Trained-up in crisis intervention
- Experienced with trauma
- Work under guidance of licensed mental health professionals

Challenges

- Very few available licensed mental health professionals
- Mental health not well conditioned to traumatic field conditions

Results

- Formal counselling is not normally done in the field setting
- Triage and referral are most crucial functions during disaster



Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team

- **Utilize existing Statewide Crisis Response Network**
- **Recruit and train additional people throughout the state into Network**
- **Initial Curriculum:**
 - CISM: Individual and Group Crisis Intervention [27 hours]
 - Mental Health First Aid and PsyStart [9 hours]
 - Deployment Fundamentals [4 hours]
- **Partner with American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health**
 - Psychological First Aid



Training

- **Additional Training**

- Strategic Planning for Response Teams
- Response for Families and Children
- Advanced Group Crisis Intervention
- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Intervention
- CIT Training (Law Enforcement Model)
- ASSIST Suicide Intervention
- Pastoral Crisis Intervention
- Radio Communications

- **Annually, the team offers:**

- Initial 40 Hour Training (5 days)
- 2-Day Trainings (Twice a year – 1 East TN / 1 West TN)
- Regional Meeting / Training (Quarterly)



Training Academies



2019 – initial training academy



2020



2022

What We Offer

- Multi-component crisis intervention system designed to help people deal with their trauma at the time of the incident.
- An outcome-driven continuum of care.



What We Offer

- **Pre-Incident Training:** Education before critical incidents equips emergency service agencies with the **skills** to recognize and understand the signs and symptoms of critical incident stress. Training also provides agencies with **resources** and **practical tips** for coping with stress.
- **Acute Incident Assistance:** Critical incident stress management begins at the scene through **onsite support** and demobilization. We provide support to individuals, victims, and survivors who are showing obvious signs of stress as well as providing **advice** and **counsel** for command staff.
 - **Crisis Management Briefings:** A brief large group presentation to inform responders and/or the community about the incident, control rumors and increase cohesion.
 - **Respite Centers:** Provides relief from the incident, rest and refreshments, stress, screening, triage and support (similar to rehab).
 - **Demobilization:** Helps ease the transition back to “normal” life by assessing stress, educating about stress indicators, and checking on basic needs.



What We Offer

- **Post-Incident Support:** Services are available to Fire Department, EMS personnel and their families to help **cope** with the stresses of emergency service. The type of **intervention** used depends on the situation, the number of people involved, and their proximity to the event.
 - Peer-to-Peer Support
 - Defusing
 - Debriefing
 - Continual Care Referral



Support Services

- **Peer-to-Peer Support:** Offers one-on-one support before, after or during a crisis.
- **Defusing:** Offered immediately after the incident to help assure those involved that their feelings are normal, what symptoms to watch for over the short term and to offer resources for further support.
- **Debriefing:** Offered within 72 hours of the incident and giving responders involved the opportunity to talk about their experience, how it has affected them, discuss coping mechanisms, identify individuals at risk, and offer resources for further support.
- **Continual Care Referral:** If stress levels require professional assistance, CISM provides additional resources and referrals.



Organization & Funding

- **Team Organization**

- Executive Team (7)
- Clinicians (12)
- Regional Managers (15)
- Active Members (100)

- **Funding:**

- Sponsored by the State of Tennessee in Partnership with
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
 - Tennessee Federation of Fire Chaplains
- All Training, and Deployment Expenses
- 5-Year Contract for up to 50 new members each year



2019 Statistics

- 64 fully trained members
- 14 Clinicians
- 10 additional Master-level non-licensed
- 54 completed Continuing Education requirements one month early
- **36 group events answered state-wide (1 partnered with TSPN)**
- **346 persons served**
- 1 disaster event stand-by – cancelled
- 54 in line for January 2020 recruit class

2020 Training Statistics

- 39 participants completed the forty (40) hour academy. 1,560 hours
- 341 quarterly training classes attended at two (2) hours each. 682 hours
- 30 participants completed the twelve (12) hour communications class. 360 hours
- 35 participants completed the twenty (20) hour CIT (part I) Academy. 700 hours

TOTAL TRAINING CONDUCTED IN 2020 3,302 HOURS

2020 Crisis Response Statistics

- Group Crisis Intervention Services (1 partnered with TSPN) 65
- Crisis Management Briefings 2
- Agency Director Consultations 13
- Individual Crisis Interventions 155
- Pre-Incident Education Sessions 18

PERSONS SERVED 3,258



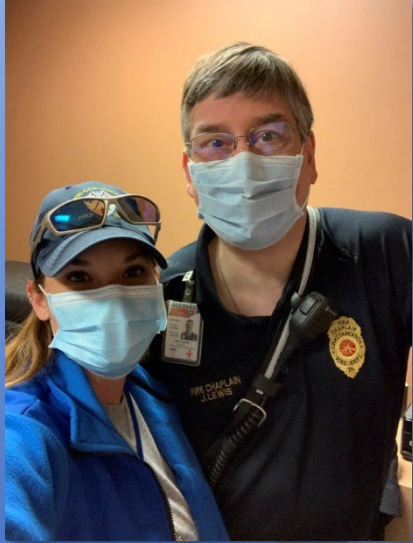
Disaster Response: Putnam County Tornado March 2020



- Team Members Deployed 20
- Requests for Service 28
- Group Interventions 12
- Individual Interventions 1,090

PERSONS SERVED 1,369

Disaster Response: Hamilton County Tornado April 2020



- Team Members Deployed
- Requests for Service
- Group Interventions
- Individual Interventions

31
42
2
1,378
1,424

PERSONS SERVED



New Tennessee Statewide Team Responds to Disasters

By: Jim Lewis, Executive Team & Mental Health Liaison, Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team

On the evening of Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, a series of tornadoes hit Chattanooga, Tennessee, affecting many of the same areas that were hit by tornadoes nine years prior; and this time in the middle of a global pandemic. [Read More](#)



The Gift of Quiet Presence

By: Jacque Panza, ICISF Member, Billy Graham Rapid Response Chaplain Team Member

As a long time hospice nurse, I was called out to home deaths as a regular part of my job. Often, I would arrive to find a variety of responses occurring at the same time among family members. It could be a challenge at times. When I took my first C.I.S.M. course in 2013, I was surprised to realize that there was an acronym for the way I had responded to deaths. [Read More](#)



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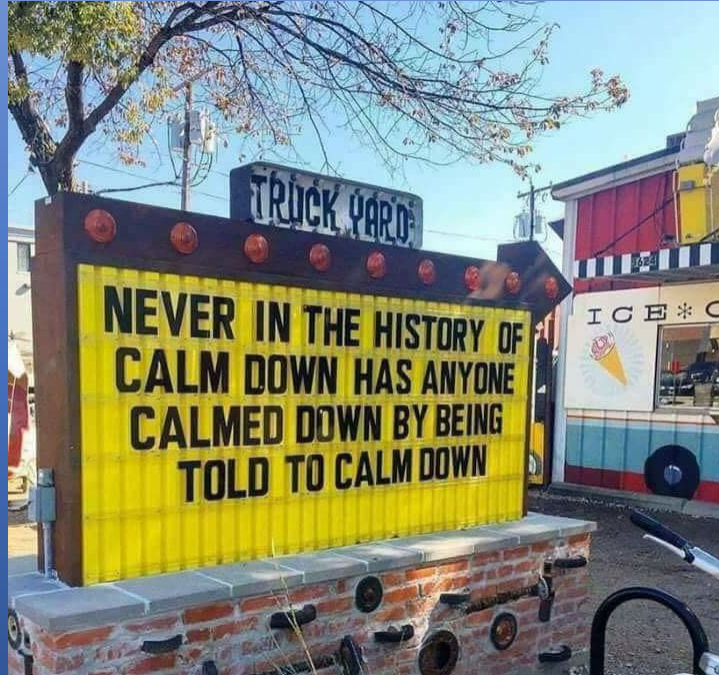
Tennessee Crisis Response Network



1.800.792.1033

Providing crisis intervention, mental health first aid and triage following traumatic events and disaster.

Ineffective Strategy





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Our Mission – To protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

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