

Definitions

Critical Incident Stress Management: Commonly referred to as “CISM” is a comprehensive, phase sensitive, integrated, multi-component approach to crisis intervention. CISM is a coordinated program of tactics that are linked and blended together to alleviate the reactions to traumatic experiences.

Catastrophic Incident: Catastrophic incidents are those situations which have an extreme impact on numerous individuals or organizations. These incidents may draw significant media attention. The level of trauma to personnel, families and a community is often substantial.

National Critical Incident Peer Support Program: The National Critical Incident Peer Support Program establishes and maintains the national framework, recruits peers, coordinates training sessions and workshops, and seeks out new clinicians, stays current with research, technology, and other initiatives in trauma and crisis management to enhance the program.

Critical Incident Peer Support Group:

A group of individuals consisting of fire, aviation, and possibly other related peers which includes a licensed Mental Health Care Professional trained in crisis intervention that specializes in trauma and is familiar with the wildland fire community. The CIPS Group will have a CIPS Group Leader, a mental health care professional and usually three or four peer group members. The actual size of the group depends on the incident, numbers of individuals affected, geographic area distances between affected groups, and the impacts to the event on the local (or other) organizations. The CIPS group is assembled by the CIPS Coordinator.



Crisis Management Briefing (CMB): This is a structured meeting designed to provide information about the incident, control rumors, educate about symptoms of distress, inform about basic stress management, and identify resources available for continued support if desired. The goals of a CMB include providing factual information, instill a sense of leadership and reduce chaos. The CMB is designed to assist those involved directly or indirectly with the incident with information and is not intended for the media.

Defusing: A three-step crisis intervention tool designed to assist a homogenous group of people after an exposure to the same significant traumatic event. The purpose of a defusing is to mitigate the impact of the event, accelerate the recovery process, and assist the need for additional services. **The defusing was never intended for use on a single primary victim.**

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD): Often provided as a seven-step crisis intervention tool designed to assist a homogenous group of people after an exposure to the same significant traumatic event. It may be used as part of an integrated package of interventions within the Critical Incident Peer Support response. A CISD requires that a licensed Mental Health Care Professional be present when this intervention method is applied.

CISD is the most misunderstood and overused term in Critical Incident Stress Management processes. The term “debriefing” is used loosely and as a “catch all” for a variety of crisis intervention protocols that are substantially different than the CISD application and structure.

For More Information or Assistance Contact:

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