



Bureau of Land Management - Fire and Aviation
National Critical Incident Stress Management Program

1/27/2016

To: Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support Program Applicant Supervisors
From: BLM, National Critical Incident Program Manager
Subject: CISM Peer Supporter Expectations and Information

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management's National Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support Program I would like to thank you for your support in allowing your employee to participate as a Peer Supporter. While this is a BLM initiative, we provide interagency Critical Incident Peer Support Groups when requested for crisis intervention (CISM response).

The National Critical Incident Peer Support "CIPS" Program does not maintain standing "CISM Teams" with traditional availability periods. CIPS Groups are assembled at the time of request through the appropriate Geographic Area Coordination Center in coordination with the Geographic Area CISM Coordinator. Each CIPS Group will be comprised of trained and credentialed CIPS personnel selected at the time of request and based on their backgrounds of those involved in the critical incident (helitack, engines, smokejumpers, etc). Peer Supporters are selected based on the employee's availability and supervisor's approval at the time of request.

CISM or Peer Support Group assignments are unique. While a CIPS assignment rarely lasts 14 days, working long hours each day and driving substantial distances is common. Due to the nature of the crisis intervention and the exposure to tragedy, and trauma, Peer Supporters may be impacted emotionally. Critical Incident Peer Support Group Leads are responsible for monitoring the CIPS Group members but Peer Supporters are also responsible for their own personal well-being. We recommend Peer Supporters take a day off after returning from an assignment to decompress. After extremely difficult assignments, CIPS Group Leads or CISM Coordinators may provide a letter approving Administrative Leave.

CISM/CISM personnel are required to follow the attached Code of Ethics. Peer Supporters should never be used outside of the scope of the training. CISM personnel are required to have a variety of Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) courses based on their skillset and willingness to acquire additional qualifications and your support.

Again, thank you for your support. More information can be found at: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/cism/>
If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 702-515-5081 or nstclair@blm.gov.

/s/ Nelda St. Clair