



KOOTENAI COUNTY FIRE MODEL PROCEDURE

SECTION 11 – Critical Incident Stress Management Team Request

Adopted: April 10, 2014

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This model procedure is endorsed by the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association as a template for planning and training for all fire departments and districts in Kootenai County.
- 1.2 The purpose of the model procedure is to outline a process for securing a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team when it is needed.

2.0 REFERENCES - None

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Critical Incident: A critical incident is any situation faced by emergency service personnel that causes them to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later.
 - 3.1.1 Examples of critical incidents include but are not limited to traumatic injury to children, unusual/severely traumatic deaths, mass casualty situations, LODD or serious injury to co-worker, highly hazardous operations, major disasters, threatening event to emergency responders, death or injury resulting from emergency service operations and any event that draws significant media coverage.

4.0 MODEL PROCEDURE

- 4.1 The CISM team responds, upon request, to assist emergency service personnel who have participated in special, highly emotional situations. The CISM team may be contacted by any individual who has been involved by a critical incident. For 24-hour CISM Team Activation call 1-800-632-8000 (State Com).

- 4.2 The CISM Team available through State Com is called the North Idaho Critical Incident Management Team.
- 4.3 The 'normal procedure' would be hold a formal debriefing for the emergency workers directly involved from 24 to 72 hours after the incident (team response to assist).
- 4.4 At least one of the team members will be a trained mental health professional.
- 4.5 The remaining team members will be emergency workers, "peers" of those involved in the incident.
- 4.6 The debriefing session is typically two (2) to four (4) hours in length.
 - 4.6.1 Invites will be made to all involved in the incident.
 - 4.6.2 Requires an adequate and quiet location.
- 4.7 Once the debriefing begins nobody is allowed to leave until the debriefing session is completed.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1 Kootenai County fire agencies are encouraged to review this model procedure on an annual basis and notify the Association if there are any changes to the notification process.