

CERT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/17/2010

Time: 7pm-8:30pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a presentation by Vince Ventura from the Cuyahoga County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team along with general announcements by Carolyn Jatsek.

A. General Announcements

1. Upcoming Events—please sign-up to volunteer for any of the following events
 - a. Brecksville Home Days, June 25th-27th: booth duty, fire extinguisher demo, fireworks patrol or to staff various stations for the 5K and 1 mile fun run.
 - b. Broadview Hts. Home Days, July 8th-11th: parking patrol
 - c. CERT Family Picnic/Cookout, August 19th at Blossom Hill: Need volunteers to plan the event.

2. Next Meeting—July 21st Brecksville Community Center

B. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)—Vince Ventura

1. A Critical Incident is any event with significant emotional power, strong enough to produce unusual or distressing reactions in emergency services professionals. A critical incident is so unusual that it overwhelms the normal coping abilities of emergency personnel and can include:

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| * Line of duty death | * Serious line of duty injury |
| * Multi-casualty incident | * Significant events involving children |
| * Victims known by the rescuer | * Extensive media coverage |

2. The CISM team is a non-profit grant funded service. The team usually facilitates police and fire in coping with stress from an incident when it starts taking it's toll and can be described as psychological first aid. The team may also respond to other segments of the emergency services community (i.e. CERT). Any member of police, fire or CERT can call the CISM team when the incident takes you beyond the ability to cope. Permission to call the team is not needed from any authority within these emergency services.
3. CISM services are provided at no charge and are delivered in a confidential manner. CISM teams have "protective privilege" which means they cannot be subpoenaed.
4. The CISM model is collaborative between the mental health community and emergency services and is based on the prevention of serious long term reactions to critical incidents with pre-incident education being the primary component. The team is not formally associated with or wholly dependent upon any governmental or private affiliation.
5. When activated, the CISM team member prefers to work with someone that is not directly involved in the incident before the intervention begins. The CISM team member will recommend, after consultation with the director of CISM, a plan to help deal with the incident.
6. All CISM team members have the same training no matter what part of the country they are from. Each person reacts to a traumatic event in a different way. The CISM team helps people understand how others are dealing with the situation to help them understand what's going on within themselves and their coworkers. The CISM team member allows the person to vent and to know they are not the only one feeling this way.
6. The CISM team can be reached 24/7 at 216-771-1363.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Schindler

Cc: E.Egut, J. Hajek, C. Jatsek, P. Koss