

Crisis Intervention Procedures

Aviation Exploration Base

If a traumatic incident or accident occurs at EAA AirVenture and is witnessed by or involves Explorers/Advisors the following protocol will be followed

1. According to the American Psychiatric Association, a traumatic stressor “is an event in which the person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or others and the person’s response involved intense fear, helplessness, or horror” (American Psychiatric Association, 1994, p.431).
2. Once a crisis is identified, a crisis team should be assembled. Communication should be maintained between Homebuilt Aircraft Area Chairman and the Chairman of the Aviation Exploration Base. Radio communication should be limited. Information must be verified.
3. During the event, no psychological interventions should be attempted. The Explorers/Advisors are to perform crowd control (seal off high-risk area) and not divulge any information to the public or the media. If a base participant needs to be removed from the line, they are to talk to an adult and head back to base camp for debriefing. If they are unable to walk back to camp by themselves, someone will call the camp and have the base participant picked up by someone.
4. After the base participant has been relieved from duty, they are to return immediately to the base camp and go immediately to the office area for further direction.
5. Gathering the base participants together allows them time to sit and process the incident. They may talk with the other participants that were on the flight line thus avoiding spreading gossip among the others in the Aviation Exploration Base that were not present at the event. They may get something to eat and drink if they would like.
6. A staff member will start a list of the base participants affected by the incident and compile a complete list of those involved. Staff members are also to quell rumors and unfounded observations.
7. A trained staff member will talk with the Explorers/Advisors directly affected by the incident. Another staff may talk to people in a different area about what they experienced, what they may have heard and how they are feeling about the incident. (Only talk about the facts and not hear-say information and do not divulge unnecessary information) “Highly stressed” individuals need to be identified and need to meet with a crisis team member. These individuals will be monitored and seen by a medical professional if needed.
8. Staff members’ stress levels need to be assessed and staff members should be counseled if necessary. Outside counseling will be recommended for overly stressed individuals.
9. A staff member will contact parents of those involved in the incident and let them know about the incident and the intervention that occurred. Also tell the parents to talk to their children and see if they need counseling services when they return home.
10. The Aviation Exploration Base Chairman will contact the local Boy Scout offices of those affected by the incident.
11. Continue to monitor Explorers, Advisors and staff members throughout the week and provide support when needed.
12. Only the Aviation Explorer Base Chairman will coordinate with agency authorities and the media.