

Subject: **Critical Incident Stress**

Purpose: The establishment of a policy for addressing critical incident stress.

Scope: All NPPFD personnel

A critical incident is any situation faced by emergency service personnel that causes them to experience unusually strong emotional reactions that have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later.

It can be expected that under selected circumstances that members will feel the emotional effects of the incident. Therefore, it shall be mandatory that all personnel involved with the incident receive a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing during or after the incident.

Circumstances that may require a debriefing session include, but are not limited to:

- The serious injury or death of an emergency team member in the line of duty.
- The serious injury or death of a civilian resulting from emergency service operations.
- An incident that is charged with profound emotion, such as the sudden death of an infant under particularly tragic circumstances.
- An incident that attracts extremely unusual attention from the news media.
- Loss of life that follows extraordinary and prolonged expenditures of physical and emotional energy in the rescue.
- Any incident that can be considered a serious physical or psychological threat or sudden loss to the rescuers.
- Any incident in which the circumstances are so unusual or sights and sounds so distressing as to produce a high level of immediate or delayed emotional reaction that surpasses the normal coping mechanisms of the members.

By the Order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: _____