

# THE FIRST RESPONDER TIMES



NO. 3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2021

ALL BADGES, ALL UNIFORMS, ALL SCRUBS

## FIRST RESPONDERS ARE UNDER PHYSICAL ATTACK

*Why Are First Responders Encountering  
this Mental Health Crisis?*

# TRIBES



FIRST RESPONDER TRAUMA COUNSELORS™

According to many experts, a major underlying reason for the increased violence and stress plaguing the fire service and other Emergency Services providers is the dramatic rise in medical call volumes. According to NFPA, fire service EMS calls have increased about 350 percent over the last 30 years,

including a nearly 50 percent jump in just the last decade. Emergency Room visits are at an all-time high as well. In New York, FDNY reports that more than 80 percent of the department's total runs are now medical-related, which is in line with the fire service nationally, according to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). Despite that, staffing levels have remained relatively flat for a decade or more.

- In the United States, over 60% of adults and 50% of children experiencing mental health conditions did not receive treatment in the previous year, according to data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The group estimates more than 40 million Americans have symptoms of anxiety, and more than 16 million live with major depression. With the advent of COVID-19 and massive lockdowns and unemployment this crisis is not getting better anytime soon. In addition to US mental health baselines alcohol sales are up 350% in 2020, in addition to the 71% increase in trackable drug sales.
- According to a 2015 the CDC report states that, workplace violence, (WPV) committed by patients on EMS workers is 3 times higher than all other occupations in America, and more than twice the national average for all occupations and is comparable to those of Law Enforcement and Firefighters at 12.7 per 100,000 workers per year.

## THIS JUST IN!!

*Pre COVID-19 report  
discovers; 65% of GLOBAL  
EMS workers reported a  
physical assault while  
providing care to patients.*

An international survey on violence against EMS personnel had 1,778 EMS respondents from 13 countries; a key finding was that 65% of the respondents had been physically attacked while on duty.<sup>5</sup> Those who had been assaulted noted that 90% of their attackers were patients and 5% were patient family members. Alcohol and drugs played a part in many incidents.

Jennifer Taylor, Director of the Center for Firefighter Injury Research & Safety Trends (FIRST) at Drexel University, has interviewed dozens of responders who have suffered violence on the job. Many of those responders feel abandoned, she says. "People on the EMS side of fire really want to talk about this issue, because nobody has been thinking about it," she said. "They feel like they get the s---t beat out of them and no one cares."

## AMERICA ON A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CLIFF

For years Law Enforcement has been trained in CIT, (Critical Incident Training), and there are not enough Co-Responder teams to handle the ever-bulging volumes of interactions that have Mental Health Components and may not be enough to protect not only the citizens but also ALL our 911 Front Line Emergency Workers & Hospital Emergency Department and ICU Staff.

FRTC's TRIBES program was developed to train ALL Emergency Service Workers who help the public on a 24 hour a day basis. TRIBES is another edition of FRTC's T.E.A.M. training (Targeted Education Access Modules), along with the flagship training the 40-hour National Peer Support Academy and their new, 911 AWARE, level 1 Peer Support program. TRIBES was developed to serve ALL Emergency Service Workers who may encounter people experiencing a Behavioral-Health Crisis. TRIBES provides training in enhanced communications and de-escalation techniques for the purposes of crisis intervention and increased safety when interacting with people in conflict. TRIBES focuses on, "real world, non-psychobabble", identifying psychiatric

symptoms and trained techniques at the ready for safe, effective interventions.

**REDUCE THE POTENTIAL  
for VIOLENCE AGAINST  
911WORKERS, JOIN TRIBES  
TODAY!**



Proudly Hosted By:

**Berthoud Fire Protection District**

**LOCATION:**

**275 Mountain Ave | Berthoud, CO 80513**

**DATE & TIME:**

**October 14th-15th, (8:30am-5:00pm)**

**Cost is only**

**\$350 per person**  
(member agencies)

**\$550 per person**  
(non-member agencies)

**\*PAYMENT DUE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION (NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2021)**

TRIBES, (Tactical Responder Interventions of Behavioral Health Education Strategies), may just be the answer the 911 System has been waiting for. **Isn't time you and your agency to join membership in TRIBES?**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**First Responder  
Trauma Counselors**

**19 Old Town Square  
Fort Collins, CO 80524**

**WE ACCEPT CHECKS  
OR CREDIT CARDS.**

**REGISTRATION COMPLETED  
UPON PAYMENT RECEIVED.**

**FOR RESERVATIONS  
CALL OR EMAIL:**

**KHARIS: 970-222-4193 OR  
ADMIN@911OVERWATCH.ORG**

## ASKING THE VICTIMS

The international survey took an unorthodox approach when it asked EMS personnel who had been the victims of assault what they thought, in hindsight, could have been done to prevent the incident. Recommendations from the assaulted personnel included:

- Specialized training such as for specific populations, de-escalation techniques, and self-defense, as well as training for improved situational awareness, were the respondents' top suggestions.

For registration, questions, and concerns, call: (970) 222-4193 or Email: [INFO@911OVERWATCH.ORG](mailto:INFO@911OVERWATCH.ORG)

[www.911OVERWATCH.ORG](http://www.911OVERWATCH.ORG)



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