

# **Crisis Intervention Procedures**

## **Aviation Exploration Base**

### Definitions

- 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).
- For the purposes of this document, an “AEB Witness” means a participant of the Aviation Exploration Base who was present at a crisis or incident.

### Protocol

1. Identify the Crisis
  - a. Once members of the Aviation Exploration Base are alerted to a crisis situation, the AEB leadership will be notified.
  - b. Communication will be maintained between the Homebuilt Aircraft Area Chairman and the Chairman of the AEB.
  - c. Radio communication should be limited. Information must be verified.
2. During the Event
  - a. No psychological interventions should be attempted during the event.
  - b. Explorers and Advisors will perform crowd control (sealing off high-risk areas) and will not divulge information to the public or media.
  - c. If an AEB Witness must be removed from the line, they will talk to an AEB adult and return directly to the AEB camp for debriefing. If they are unable to walk back to camp by themselves, someone will call camp and have the AEB Witness picked up.
3. Immediately Following the Event
  - a. Upon being relieved by replacement, AEB Witness(es) will return immediately to the AEB camp and report directly to the office area for further guidance.
  - b. Gathering AEB Witnesses together allows them time to process the incident. They may talk with other AEB Witnesses who were present for the incident, avoiding spreading gossip among others in the AEB.
  - c. AEB Witnesses may get something to eat and drink if they want.
4. Debriefing and Assessment
  - a. A member of the AEB Staff will compile a list of AEB Witnesses affected by the incident, including a complete list of all who were present and/or involved. During this time, AEB Staff will quell rumors and unfounded observations.

- b. A trained member of the AEB Staff will talk with the AEB Witness(es). Another Staff member may talk to people in a different area.
    - i. These discussions will include what the AEB Witness(es) experienced, what they may have heard, and how they are feeling about the incident.
    - ii. These discussions will not include hear-say or divulge unnecessary information.
    - iii. “Highly stressed” individuals will be identified and will meet with a crisis team member. These individuals will be monitored and seen by a medical professional if needed.
  - c. AEB Staff stress levels will be assessed, and AEB Staff should be counseled if necessary. Outside counseling may be recommended for high levels of stress.
5. Follow-Up Procedures
- a. A member of the AEB Staff will contact the parents/guardians of AEB Witness(es) to inform them about the incident and any subsequent intervention. Parents/guardians will be advised to talk to their children and determine if counseling services are needed once they return home.
  - b. The Aviation Exploration Base Chairman will contact the local Scouting America offices of the AEB Witness(es).
  - c. AEB Witness(es) will continue to be monitored by AEB Staff throughout the week and supported as necessary.
  - d. Only the Aviation Exploration Base Chairman will coordinate with agency authorities and the media.