

ALBION LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING POLICY

The Albion Little River Fire Protection District Board of Directors recognizes that the nature of some of the calls that our volunteers answer can provoke psychological stress. This policy is designed to assist volunteers in coping with psychological stress caused by a Critical Incident.

For the purposes of this Policy, "Critical Incident" will be defined as follows:

Any event that has a stressful impact sufficient enough to overwhelm the usually effective coping skills of an individual. Critical incidents are abrupt, powerful events that fall outside the range of ordinary human experiences.

The volunteers will interview providers and form a pool of qualified professionals who will provide counseling support in the event of a Critical Incident (CI). Service providers must have, at minimum, a masters degree in a counseling field and will demonstrate sufficient knowledge and practical skill related to Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). The chief will approve the pool of available professionals.

In the event of a Critical Incident volunteers or the chief may call for a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. All volunteer personnel, whether at the incident or not, may attend the debriefing. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that a CISD be initiated within 24-72 hours of a CI. An approved professional will facilitate a debriefing session with volunteers. The chief is responsible for approving the request and scheduling the debriefing. A follow-up CISD session will be allowed upon volunteer request and approval of the chief.