Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Suicide Postvention Training

EMS providers are often the first officials to respond to the scene of a suicide death. They play a key role in interfacing with law enforcement investigating the death, as well as providing support to family members/friends who are at the scene. Since knowing someone who has died by suicide is one of the highest risk factors for suicide, taking steps to reduce risk and promote healing (postvention) becomes an important part of prevention efforts.

Connect Postvention training is a proactive planning tool to provide an integrated community response with other key service providers after a suicide death. Using National Best Practice protocols, participants will learn how to reduce the risk of contagion and create a comprehensive response plan in the event of a suicide.

The training includes nationally designated best practice protocols, case scenarios, discussion, exercises, PowerPoint and printed materials. Ideally, postvention training is provided in advance, so that first responders are prepared for responding to a suicide and organizations can incorporate postvention protocols into their policies and procedures. Training and/or technical assistance can also be provided following a suicide death.

**Suicide Postvention training highlights:**

- National Best Practice protocols for EMS/first responders when responding to a suicide death
- The role of key service providers and ways EMS/first responders can become part of an integrated and effective community response to a suicide death
- The complexity of suicide related grief and cultural considerations regarding suicide
- Skills for responding to the next of kin
- Familiarity with resources for survivors (family members, friends and community members who have lost a loved one to suicide) including emotional support and cleaning services
- Understanding the benefits of an integrated, community-based model for responding to suicide deaths

**Length:** 6 hours or tailored for specific audiences

**Audience:** EMS/first responders including emergency medical services, fire and safety, search and rescue and disaster response teams. This training is appropriate for all levels, including administrative staff, chiefs/superintendents, dispatch and all responders in a department or facility.

**Location:** your community

For more information contact The Connect Program

603-225-5359  info@theconnectprogram.org

*Using a holistic, socio-ecological model, Connect examines suicide in the context of the individual, family, community, and society.*