

## **Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline**

### **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING**

#### **Objective:**

To inform all Fire Department personnel as to when a defusing and/or a debriefing should be conducted.

#### **General Information:**

Falmouth Fire-EMS responds to nearly 2,000 emergencies each year. These range from motor vehicle crashes, to fires, to EMS calls. The potential for members to witness and act in dangerous and stressful scenes is high. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing is an informal review session with individuals from outside the agency who are trained to help first responders deal with such incidents.

#### **Guidelines:**

When members of a crew handle a critical incident (*serious trauma, fatality, serious injury to a child, etc.*) any member or officer may request to the Fire Chief that a Critical incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) be performed.

CISD teams are available through Atlantic Partners EMS (APEMS). The Fire Chief, or designee will contact APEMS to set up the CISD.

All members who performed on or at the incident should be invited to the CISD. Dispatchers and Law Enforcement Officers should also be invited to the CISD as they may be dealing with the incident as well. Members who were not involved in the incident should not attend the CISD.

It is the goal of the CISD to discuss the event in a controlled atmosphere and allow first responders to talk amongst themselves to cope with the event.

If a member(s) needs to talk with a counselor, the Falmouth Employee Assistance Program should be contacted.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.