



Key Questions for each Debriefing Phase

Introductory Phase (Introduce team members)

Statements: This is not a critique/PIA/assessment.

Don't have to talk or participate, but you may help someone else by sharing, but please observe confidentiality.

No breaks; turn off pagers, phones, PDAs.

No ranks in room; everybody OK with all participants? Anybody missing?

Please state your name first time around and feel free to ask questions pertaining to the event only. Public safety-state which unit they were assigned on the event.

Fact Phase (Select appropriate questions from each Phase set of queries)

Community- Who are you?

What is your relationship to the victim?

Where were you at the time of the event?

How did you hear of the event (if not on scene)?

What happened?

Public Safety-What did you do at the scene?

What happened from your point of view?

What was your assignment?

Thought Phase

Community- What thought has been stuck in your head since the event?

What was your initial thought when you heard/saw the event?

Public Safety-Share your first thoughts after you came off "auto pilot".

Reaction Phase

Community- What were some of your immediate reactions?

What reaction are you experiencing now?

What was the worst part of the event for you?

Community- If you could change one thing (but not the outcome) from the event, what would that be?

Public Safety-Same questions...

Symptoms Phase

Community- What have you noticed about yourself that is different since the event?

Share information about any reactions you have experienced or are experiencing including: physical reactions, emotional reactions, cognitive (thinking) reactions, and behavioral reactions.

Are you experiencing the same things today (now) as it was when the event occurred?

Teaching Phase

Statements: Reassure participants that they are normal, with normal thought processes and feelings, reacting to an abnormal event.

Their reactions and symptoms are normal.

They had no control over what happened, but do have some control on how they react to the event.

How they have used coping mechanisms in the past may possibly help them in this event.

Discuss coping strategies and information on handouts.

Re-Entry Phase

Statements: Indicate any post-meeting sources of additional assistance.

Encourage participants to continue talking about the event to each other and (if appropriate) loved ones.

While this defusing/debriefing may begin the healing, symptoms may continue for some time.

Have each participant state one thing that they are going to do to take care of themselves.

Anything anybody would like to add?

Remind participants about confidentiality.