



Key Questions for each Debriefing Phase

Introductory Phase (Introduce team members)

- 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 to 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

- What were some of your immediate reactions?
- What reaction are you experiencing now?
- What was the worst part of the event for you?
- If you could change one thing (but not the outcome) from the event, what would that be?

Symptoms Phase

- 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

- 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

- 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 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.