



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA CITY OF LOS ANGELES CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

WHO WE ARE

- The Crisis Response Team (CRT) was formed in 1998, in the Mayor's Office, at the request of Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments.
- CRT works in collaboration with many city, county and community-based organizations.
- Program is funded annually by generous grants from foundations and businesses.
- CRT program is the only program of its kind in the United States.

OUR MISSION

- CRT's mission is to provide immediate on-scene crisis intervention as well as emotional support and referrals to victims and their families involved in traumatic incidents.

THE NEED

- According to mental health experts, following a traumatic event, crime or disaster, people may feel helpless, confused, and undergo emotional shock.
- Victims' and families' experiences in the critical hours immediately following a traumatic event strongly influence how these tragedies will impact the rest of their lives.
- Those receiving effective support are more likely to eventually resume healthy and productive lives, while those who do not are at higher risks of mental and physical health disorders.
- Some examples of the thousands of real life incidents that CRT has responded to include:
 - Two young children discovered their parent's bodies in a double suicide.
 - An infant inside her car is hijacked in front of the parents in parking lot.
 - Father was killed in a drive-by shooting in front of his young children.

ROLES OF THE CRT

- CRT volunteers provide a range of support to victims and families, which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - Attend to immediate survival and comfort needs;
 - Activate support systems including family, friends & clergy;
 - Act as a liaison between victim, family and emergency personnel including the Police, Fire, Coroner and Hospital emergency room staff;
 - Provide short & long term resources & referrals such as counseling & funeral arrangements.

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FACTS

- CRT employs one full-time staff member, and over 125 screened and highly trained volunteers.
- Respond to over 700 requests a year from the L.A. Police and Fire Departments 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Since 1998, CRT has responded to over 5,940 call-outs, over 720 in 2006 alone.
- Volunteers respond within twenty minutes after a police or fire request for assistance, and many have multi-lingual capability to serve residents in their native languages.
- The program's success has attracted worldwide recognition from cities interested in developing similar programs.
- Crisis Response Team calls include but are not limited to:
 - Major Traffic Accidents
 - Death Notification Assistance
 - Drive-by Shootings
 - Fires
 - Homicides
 - Mutli-Casualty Incidents
 - Natural Deaths
 - Suicides
- By reducing the amount of time that emergency personnel are needed at scenes, the CRT has enabled savings for LAPD/LAFD from November 1998 through October 2007: **\$2,268,000.00**.
- Savings for past fiscal year: **\$ 252,000.00**

PROGRAM GOALS

- Relieving police and fire officials of much of the responsibility for victim/witness consolation and other "soft tasks," allowing them to focus on their primary duties;
- Freeing up substantial amounts of emergency personnel time;
- Bringing a calming presence to potentially volatile scenes;
- Generating goodwill toward the City, LAPD, and LAFD; and
- Maintaining a large, organized, trained and experienced force of locally based crisis intervention specialists who can immediately respond to major catastrophes.

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