



Responding to a Mass Violence Incident: Victim Assistance Agency/Organization “Go Kit”

There are many state and local level victim/survivor assistance agencies and organizations that provide leadership in responding to mass violence incidents (MVIs). It is important to prepare in advance in order to be ready to establish an initial response center, a family assistance center, and provide services and support to MVI victims, survivors and witnesses in the immediate - and short-term following an MVI.

The recommendations below for an agency/organization “Go Kit” are based upon the personal experiences of the leaders of agencies/organizations that have responded in the past to MVIs. Your organization can add or remove items from this “Go Kit” based upon the type, scope and location of the MVI it is responding to.

Important Information:

- ⇒ Electronic database of MVI Victim Service Professionals (VSPs) and vetted mental health providers in your community with current cell phone numbers and email addresses
- ⇒ Paper copy of electronic database of MVI VSPs
- ⇒ Sign-in sheets for MVI VSPs and vetted mental health providers (name, agency or organization, cell phone number and email address)
- ⇒ Electronic database and paper copies of all intake forms for the MVI response:
 - Victim/survivor/witness intake/documentation forms
 - Victim/survivor needs assessment forms
- ⇒ Victim compensation information and forms, including:
 - Victim compensation brochure
 - Abbreviated versions of the victim compensation application for victims/survivors of MVI
 - » *Forms may be color coded to indicate different types of MVI survivors; or that it is a “MVI- specific victim compensation application”*
 - Written information/fact sheet about how to access the state’s (or states’) victim compensation program website(s)
 - » *If MVI victims are from multiple states, information about victim compensation benefits and applications should be posted on the websites of all relevant victim compensation programs*
- ⇒ Written information or brochure about victims’ rights and services (which will vary depending on the nature of the MVI - international, Federal, state, Tribal or a cross-jurisdictional MVI)
- ⇒ Written information or brochure about common trauma reactions and vetted trauma-focused mental health providers

Signage:

Signage for designated tables and response areas (that is prepared in advance and laminated, for example):

- ⇒ American Red Cross
- ⇒ Cell Phone charging station
- ⇒ Crime Victim Compensation
- ⇒ Kids' Play Area
- ⇒ Lost or missing property
- ⇒ Restrooms
- ⇒ Transportation assistance
- ⇒ Victim/survivor/witness sign-in here
- ⇒ Witness interviews

Technology:

- ⇒ Cell phones and a roster of cell phone numbers of key MVI response leaders
- ⇒ Cell phone chargers (a variety of chargers for different types of cell phones, including plug-in and fully charged portable chargers)
- ⇒ Multiple USB charging cable adapter connectors
- ⇒ Solar charger; portable dual USB waterproof solar power bank
- ⇒ Cradle Point Mobile Broadband Router
- ⇒ Tablets (such as iPads) which, based upon experience, are easier to connect to the internet than laptops (fully loaded with relevant databases, victim/survivor/witness information, forms, etc.)
- ⇒ Laptops (fully loaded with relevant databases, victim/survivor/witness information, forms, etc.)
- ⇒ Portable printers
- ⇒ Megaphones/portable amplified speakers with batteries and backup batteries

Additional Supplies

- Activity books, crayons/markers, and stuffed toys and games for children and adolescents
- Aspirin
- Bottled water
- Brightly-colored vests for VSPs
- Color-coded bracelets that indicate the language(s) spoken by the VSPs
- Diapers (in various sizes for infants, toddlers and adults)
- Feminine hygiene products
- First-aid kits
- Hand sanitizers (individual and/or large bottles)
- Kleenex tissues
- Name tags for responders and volunteers
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Wet-naps



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