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- Information presented in this training is presented solely for the purpose of inspiring the student to think about his or her own feelings on the topics.

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Goals of the Training

- · Be aware of risk factors for and prevalence of mental health and substance use issues in their professional communities.
- Recognize the warning signs of mental health and substance use issues in yourself and your peers.
- · Discuss mental health and substance use-related issues with colleagues to help reduce stigma.
- · Identify and use stress management and healthy coping strategies.
- · Be aware of and share practices and resources for increasing capacity to cope with stressors



Keys to Training Success

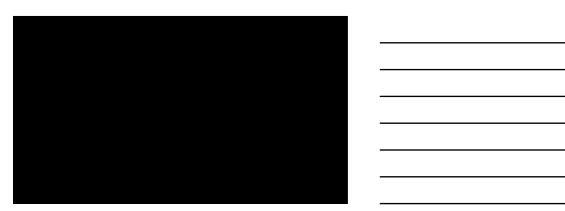
- You must be willing to be:
 - Vulnerable

 - Honest with yourself
 Willing to ask hard questions
- You can share, but only if:
 You feel comfortable

 - · You want to share



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It's Okay to Talk... vs.

7



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Anything But Typical	
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Heroes

- · Heroes don't have human limits
- "No one is bigger than life, stronger than gravity, or able to defy the laws of physics. It is simply not possible to save every building, put out every fire, or save every victim."
- Don't live off adoration and adrenaline.



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Duffle Bag of Bad Memories



- You'll see more tragedy in a few months or years than most humans will see in their entire lifetime.
 - Slides of bad and tragic calls
 - Slides of routine calls
 - Slides of good calls
- Goal of Training:
 - To Not Add More Baggage/Slides



About Our World

- Much of what you see is preventable
 This often makes it harder to process the "why?"
- What you see is difficult to talk about, so you
 - Emphasize the medical aspects over the emotional ones

 - Depersonalize the victim with humor about the situation
 Assume your family won't understand the "medical" side, so you don't talk about it (forgetting they understand the grief, frustration, and helplessness that you may be feeling ... those are human emotions).

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About Our World

- You must do your work...
 - Quickly
 - Compassionately
 - Often in the worst circumstances
- · Your patients are not always...
 - Cooperative
 - Grateful
 - Honest
 - Clean



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- You must make decisions with...
 - Minimal information
 - · Little time
 - Interrupted sleep patterns
- Everything you do, or fail to do...
 - has consequences



About Our World

- A new form of intimacy
 You respond to trauma and illness surrounded by photos of people's lives, smells of their homes, and imprints of what you had to do to them in that setting.
 - This, coupled with other calls and life events over time, can lead to compassion fatigue ... a state of apathy in which you adopt an uncaring attitude.

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What is Compassion Fatigue?

What is compassion?

Definitions

- A feeling of deep sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanies by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.
- "To suffer together"



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How do we show compassion?



- Empathy
- Gently Touching
- Showing Emotions/Kindness
- Being an Advocate
- Showing Respect
- Active Listening (Activity)

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Poll:

When you're feeling stressed, do you ask for help?

Yes

No



Problems with Asking for Help...



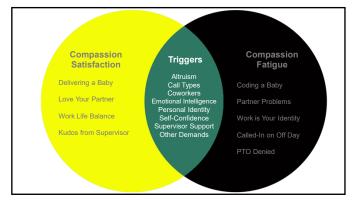
- · Increased stress decreases willingness to ask for help
- · When we do ask for help, we aren't specific.

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What is Compassion Fatigue?

- What is Compassion Fatigue?
 - An extreme state of tension and preoccupation with the suffering of others to the degree that secondary traumatic stress develops in the individual providing aid
 The realization that you cannot take anymore "people pain"
- Lost a healthy balance between work, life and self
 - Poor personal boundaries
 - · History of unresolved trauma
 - Lack a sense of self or interests outside of work

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Compassion Fatigue Symptoms









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Causes of Compassion Fatigue

change.

- When I am...
- When I have...
- When I have...
- When I have...
- When I have...
- · When I am...
- When I have...
- · Lack of personal boundaries.

· Lack of healthy coping skills.

• Placing needs of others before our own.

· Lack of self awareness, limits growth and

• Unresolved past trauma and pain.

- Inability to communicate needs.
- · Giving cares to others under

stress/burnout.

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Happens Gradually





Burnout and Boreout

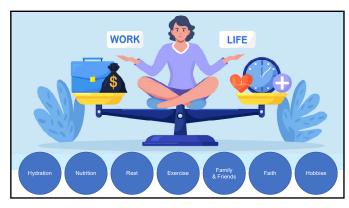
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EMS Burnout Signs & Symptoms

- Sense of Dread
 "Nervous" Stomach Before Shift
- Fatigue
 Feeling Tired Most Of The Time, No Energy
- Easy To Anger
 Initiability, Lack of Tolerance, Lack of Interest
 Low Self-esteem
 Feelings Of Low Mood And Depression

- Negative Outlook On Life
 Life or Job are Meaninglessness
 Sense of Being Trapped
 Without Options, "Boxed In"
- Signs of Tensions
 Headaches, Increased Migraines, Muscle Aches
- Increased Use of / Substance Abuse
 Alcohol, Nicotine, Or Other Drugs Alcohol, Nicoline, Or Other Drugs
 Sleep Disturbances
 Anxiety Dreams Or Nightmares
 Sexual Dysfunction
 No Desire, Inability To Perform, Hypersexuality
 Uncharacteristic Negative Behavior
 Acting Out*

- 'Acting Out'
 Lack of Concern for Behavior Consequences
 Carelessness on the Job
 Poor Medical or Personal Safety Measures
 Increased Citzen and Family Complaints
 Increased Problems with Coworker's Supervisors





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EMS Boreout Signs & Symptoms

- Feeling of Being:
 Understreched

 - Underworked
 - Underutilized
 - Reason: "Job Mastery"
- Feeling of Being:
 - Overwhelmed • Reason: "Promotion"
- · Overall Reason:
 - Lack of identification with work
- Solution
 - Get Creative

 - Ask for additional responsibilities
 - Ask for clarification on responsibilites

What is Resiliency Training?

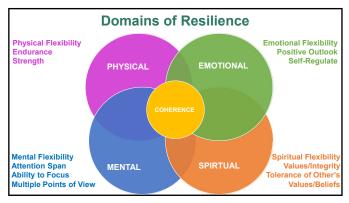
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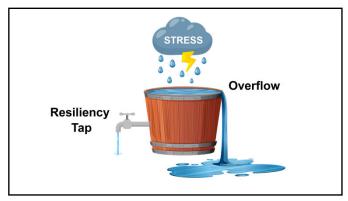
What is Resilience?

- Resilience is the capacity to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from stress, adversity, and trauma.
- Resilience is a learned pattern of feelings, thoughts, and behaviors.
- What is learnable is teachable.



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What is Stress?

"His life was defined by one moment \dots he felt imprisoned by the helpless feeling of not knowing how to heal."

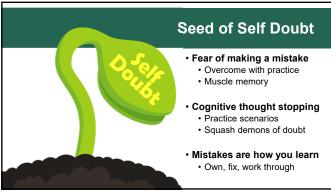
-Dan Willis, Bulletproof Spirit

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What is Stress?

- Stress happens in conditions where an environmental demand exceeds the natural regulatory capacity of an organism
- As the totality of demands of every day living increase, the magnitude of the stress response increases.





Unique Stressors Faced by EMS

- Responding to calls with
 Domestic violence
 Involving children
 Suicide
 Homicide
 Sexual abuse
 Car accidents
 Traumattic injuries
 Hearing stories of calls others have responded to
 Sleep interruption
 Team responsibility
- Team responsibility
- Unfamiliar locations
- Heightened state of awareness

Produces negative effects

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Stressor vs. Challenge Challenge Particular type of stressor Motivating Total and the stressor Stressor Demands that cause stress Seen as a difficulty

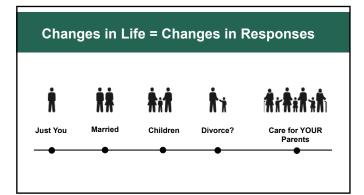
Re-Energizing

Usually ... no negative effects

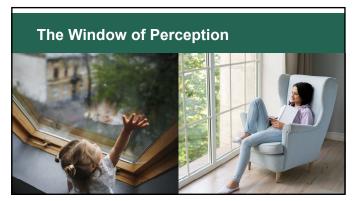
Stressor vs. Challenge

- What determines the difference?
 - Type and intensity of stressor
 - Perceived capability to cope with stressor
 - Available support and resources
 - Personality characteristics
- Not every stressor is going to affect everyone the same
- Not every call is going to affect everyone the same

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The Window of Perception			
	Cultural	Emotional	
	Physical	Spiritual	

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Activity: Johari Window			
	Known to Self	Not Known to Self	
Known to Others			
Not Known to Others			

Activity: Johari Window			
	Known to Self	Not Known to Self	1
Known to Others	Arena	Blind Spot	
Not Known to Others	Facade	Unknown	



Types of Stress

Causes of Stress









Relationship Stress

Family Conflicts

Heavy Emotions

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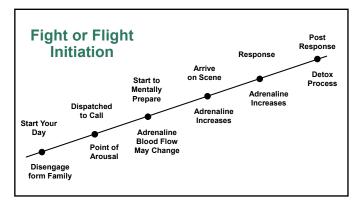


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Fight or Flight

- Stage 1: Alarm
 Initial response to perceived threat
 Body release hormones that affect brain function
 Stage 2: Resistance
 Internal stress response continues
 External symptoms or arousal disappear
 Individual ATTEMPTS to cope with stressful condition

 - Stage 3: Exhaustion
 Prolonged activation of stress response depleted body
 Result can be permanent physical damage, or death
- Homeostasis
 Coping efforts to maintain physiological, emotional & psychological balance.





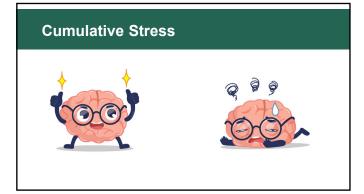
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Manage Fight or Flight

Mindfulness Exercise

- 5 See Hands, sky, plant, vehicle, clothing
 4 Feel Ground, chair, texture, pocket rock
 3 Sounds Birds, breathing, music, insects
- 2 Smells Coffee, essential oil, perfume, candles, air
 1 Taste Gum, fresh air, mint, candy
- · Goal: Draw your attention to the present

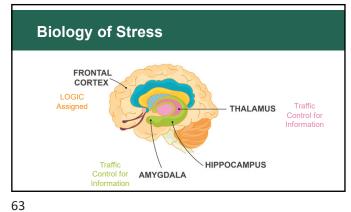


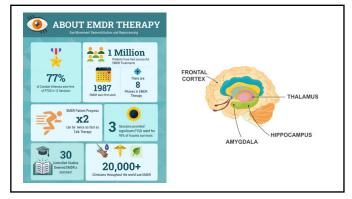


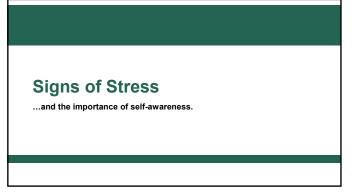












First Responder

Toxt Street Self-Assessment

Tox self-assessment

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Signs of Excessive Stress

- Impaired judgment

 - Mental confusionUncharacteristic indecisiveness
- Aggression
 - Temper tantrums
 - "Short fuse"
 - · Continually argumentative
- · Increased irritability / anxiety
 - Feeling like a "time bomb"Increased apathyDenial of problems
- · Loss of interest
 - · In family, friends, and activities
- · Increased feelings of
 - Insecurity with lowered self esteem
 - · Feelings of inadequacy

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Warning Signs of Excessive Stress

- Sudden changes in behavior
 Usually uncharacteristic of the person
- · Gradual change in behavior
 - · Indicative of gradual deterioration
- · Erratic work habits and poor work attitude
- · Increased sick time due to minor problems / frequent colds
- Inability to concentrate, impaired memory, or impaired reading comprehension

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Warning Signs of Excessive Stress

- · Excessive accidents or injuries
 - Due to carelessness or preoccupation
- · Energy extremes: no energy or hyperactivity
- · Sexual promiscuity or sexual disinterest
- Grandiose or paranoid behavior
- · Increased use of sick leave for "mental health days"

Warning Signs of Excessive Stress

- Excessive worrying and feelings of inadequacy
- Excessive use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Peers, family, & others begin to avoid the person Because of attitude/behavior
- Excessive complaints
 - Negative citizen contact or family member complaints
- Not responsive to corrective or supportive feedback

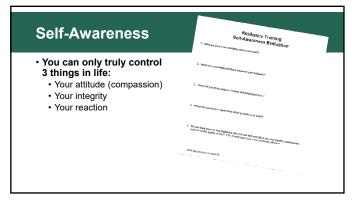
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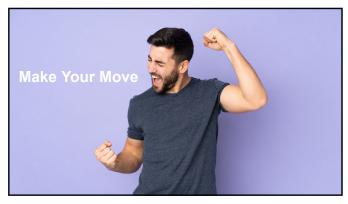
Transactional Nature

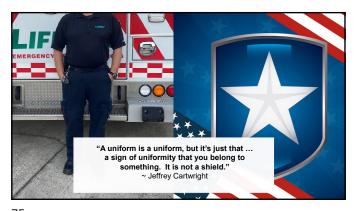
- "It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."
 Epictetus
- "It's not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it."
 -Hans Selye
- Stress has less to do with a person's actual situation than with how the person perceived the strength of his own resources

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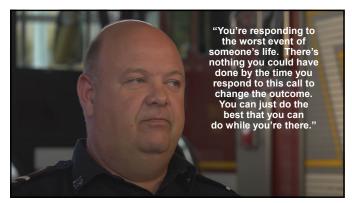
Four Ways to Deal with Stress I'm Okay Compartmentalization Depersonalization Denial











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Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress

- Intrusion (Relive Event)
 Intrusive memories or thoughts
 Distressing dreams
 Dissociative reactions (flashbacks)
 Intense psychological or physical distress when exposed to related cues

- Avoid people, places, things that remind you of event
 Avoid feelings or thoughts associated with event

- Feeling on Edge
 Irritability or verbal outbursts
 Reckless self-destructive behavior
 Hypervigilance
 Exaggerated startled response
 Poor Concentration
 Sleep Disturbance

Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress

- Negative Emotions
 - Persistent exaggerated negative beliefs about self, others, or the world
 - Self-Blame caused by distorted beliefs about cause of event
 - Sustained negative emotional state (horror, anger, guilt, etc...)
 - Inability to experience positive emotions
 - Difficulty recalling parts of the event
 - · Loss of interest in usual activity
 - · Feeling detached from others

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PTS vs. PTSD				
Traum	atic Stress Reactions: Key Differer	ices		
Post Traumatic Stress	Acute Stress Disorder (ASD)	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)		
Any durationImpaired daily functioningOne of more symptom in any area	 3 days to 1 month Impaired daily functioning 9 or more symptoms in any area 	1 month or longerImpaired daily functioningSymptoms in all areas		

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3 Elements Raise Risk for PTSD

- Truly Terrifying Incidents
 - Trapped inside of a burning building
 - Patient pulls a knife or gun on a paramedic
- Dissociative Reaction
 - Feel like you're in a movie
 - Can't recall much of what occurred
- Persistent, Intrusive Images of Event
- Early intervention is best way to prevent PTSD

How to Recover from Traumatic Stress

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Ways to Recover from Traumatic Stress

- Accept emotions as a normal part of the recovery/survival process.
- Talk about the event and your feelings
- Accept you may have experienced fear and confronted your vulnerability.
- Use your fear or anxiousness as a cue to utilize your EMS safety skills.
- Realize your survival instinct was an asset at the time of the incident and it remains intact to assist you again if needed
- Accept you cannot always control events, but you can control your response.

Ways to Recover from Traumatic Stress

- Focus on the fact that you had some control during the event. You used your strength to respond in a certain way
- Do not second-guess your actions
 Evaluate your actions based on your perceptions at the time of the event, not afterwards
- Understand your actions were based on the need to make a critical decision for action. The decision likely had to be made within seconds.
- Accept your behavior was appropriate to your perceptions and feelings at the time of the incident.
- Accept that no one is perfect. You may like/dislike some actions.
 Focus on things you did that you feel good about.
 Positive outcomes are often produced by less than perfect actions.
- Do not take personally the response of the system
 - Keep the needs and actions of the other agencies in perspective.

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You're Naturally Resilient

- · Accept what happened.
- · Accept fear or feelings of vulnerability are part of being human Vulnerability is not helplessness.
- · Accept no one can control everything
 - · Focus on your behaviors and the appropriate application of authority.
 - Keep a positive perspective.
- Learn and grow from the experience
 - Assess all future circumstances on their own merits.
 - · Recognize you will become stronger and smarter.

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You're Naturally Resilient

- · Include survivorship into your life perspective
 - · Re-evaluate life's goals, priorities, and meaning
 - · Gain wisdom that can come from survivorship
- Be aware of changes in yourself that may contribute to problems at home, work, and other environments
 - · Commit to overcome those problems
- · Increase the intimacy of your actions and communications to those you love
 - · Remain open to the feedback of those who love you

Ask for Help

- Only YOU can work through the aftermath
- Be open minded
- · Allow family, friends, peers to help
- · See professional assistance if
 - You feel "stuck"
 - "I don't feel like myself anymore"
- Friends and family notice dysfunctional emotional responses
- · Share your experience with others who care

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Moving Past Traumatic Events

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Moving Past Traumatic Events

- To move past a traumatic event, you must answer:
 - What happened?
 - Why did it happen?
 - Why did I act as I did?
 - Why do I act as I have since?
 - What if it happens again?
- · As you look at your answers:
 - Recognize unreasonable beliefs and expectations
 - Normalize your reactions
 - Identify strategies to reassert control over your emotions

Moving Past Traumatic Events

- · Unreasonable beliefs and expectations
 - "I must always succeed."
 - "I cannot show emotions in public or on the job."
- · Reframe the tragedy
 - What good can you find that came out of the event?

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Domestic Violence / Harassment

- Mild Signs of DV
 - Calling hurtful names
 - Controlling
 - Over-reacting
 - Anger

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- Isolating you from others
- Criticizing

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- Intense Signs of DV
 - Physical violence to you
 - Threats to life
 - · Threats to friends and family
 - Threats to security or safety
 - Damage to property

Alcohol Abuse

- Starts after first bad call
 Just one drink.
- Turns into every rough shift.
- Turns into every shift.
- Coping to fall asleep or escape.
- Lack of sleep + Alcohol Abuse = Depression / Limited Coping
- How to overcome alcohol abuse.
 - Recognize it's ruining your life
 - Taper back (set weekly goals)
- · Why should you overcome it?
 - You'll feel better
 - You'll have more clarity on calls



Managing Anger

- Awareness is the first step.
- Disrupt anger
- Relaxation
- Change your environment
- Try Silly Humor
- Solve Problems
- Learn Skills

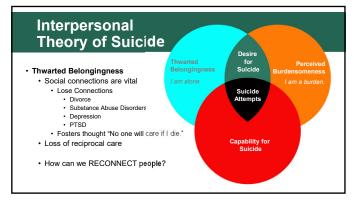


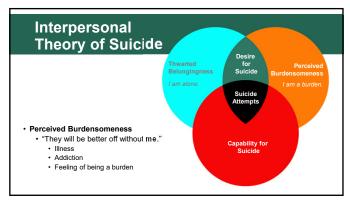
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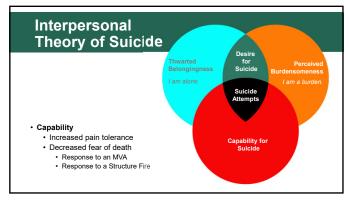
Depletion to Renewal Grid					
Depleting Emotions Sympathetic: High Heart Rate Renewing Emotions					
losi	Anger Frustration Anxiety	Excitement Courage Passion	P		
Burnout Impatience Contentment Withdrawal Fulfillment Resentment Ease					
Parasympathetic: Low Heart Rate					

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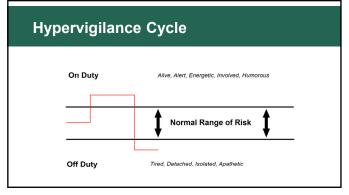


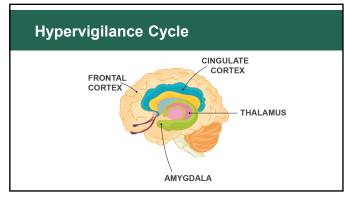






Problems at Home







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Overcoming Hypervigilance

- · Character Based Service
 - First Responder: Vocation of the Heart (Serve with Heart)
 - Service is to Promote Great Good Beyond Self-Interest
 - · Serve with Compassion, Integrity, and Honesty
 - Pass-On What You Know to Others
- "We should never forget that behind our badge is our heart, and our heart needs to be steadfastly put into our service for us to survive and be well"

Work Family	/ vs. Traditional	Family
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- We make a choice to pick one over the other
- Find a balance between the two
- · Divided loyalties and sense of responsibilities
- · Your spouse knows you as a "total person"
 - Your work family knows you as a "first responder"

Invisible Injuries

- Anguish, anger, fear, impatience ... covered by "bravery"
- Often put on a "front" at work or around friends ... but family gets the fallout
 - Lose patience with family members and kids

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Shift Work and Separation

- Loneliness
- · Missed holidays and special occasions
- Not there when things fall apart
- Unpredictable Schedules
 - Make time for planned outings
 - Don't miss "one time only" events

Self-Inflation

- Don't confuse doing important WORK with being an important PERSON
- · Be humble at home
- · You may be the supervisor at work, but don't be bossy at
- "I'm a dad and husband who happens to work on an ambulance..."

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Overprotective

- · You've seen it all (or will see it)
- · You'll be more likely to be overprotective
 - Scenes where you saw bad things happen (parks, schools)
- You may be less sympathetic when your kid gets a minor injury (you've seen much worse)
 - "Oh! just get over it!" instead of showing parental compassion

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How to Overcome It All at Home

- · Your might have to at work, but at home...
 - Don't try to solve all your family's problems
 Don't make split second decisions
- At home you shouldn't...
 Shutdown and go into zombie mode (watch TV, phone, etc...)
- Instead try...

 - Share you had an emotionally draining day
 Listen and emotionally support your family, too
 Plan activities for your days off ... and utilize your PTO

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- When you say YES to something, you're saying NO to something else.
- Yes to an extra shift = No to your family
- Yes to an extra community activity = No to your family
- Yes to being silent about your struggles = No to you

4 Stages of Marriage for the Non-First Responder

- Ignorance
 - Don't really want to know what goes on at work
- Preoccupation
 - Constant state of anxiety and worry about what's going on
- Denial
- · Don't talk about what goes on at work at all
- Accepting Concern
 - Available to listen as needed

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Divorce & Infidelity

- Infidelity
 - Morals, maturity, and satisfaction in your current relationship
 - Affairs are more about finding an intimate connection missing in a current relationships (friendship, support, attention, caring)
- Divorce
 - Don't throw in the towel if you're willing to forgive and work on what is missing in the marriage
 - Be open to sharing with your spouse openly instead of your colleagues

Where to Get Help

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National Resources

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255

• Fire/EMS Helpline 888-731-3473

• Copline 800-267-5463

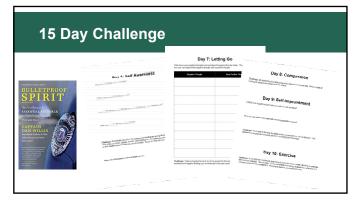
Veteran's Crisis Line
 800-273-8255

• www.codegreencampaign.org

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Peer-to-Peer Support Team

- People come to you for advice, words of wisdom, and guidance
- You are mature, kind, and open-minded individuals
- You do not judge your colleagues
- You do not badmouth or disparage the company
- You have overcome adversity
- · You made mistakes and overcome them in your healing
- You can keep your mouth shut
- You are willing to commit to being available at all hours, on holidays, and on weekends.
- · Commitment: 2 Years