

## Crisis Factors that Increase Severity of Impact

There are many aspects of the crisis event that can either mitigate or increase the severity of the impact on the victim. Consider the following elements which increase the risk of a more severe negative reaction.

Was it...

Violent  
Human induced  
Intentional  
Preventable

Was there...

- Involvement of child victims
- Lack of warning
- Physical closeness to the event
- Perception of personal danger
- An intense situation that lasted a long time
- High level of uncertainty during the event (e.g., uncertain if will survive or be badly wounded)
- A long term consequence of the event (e.g., loss of limb, pregnancy from rape)

Did the person...

Have a significant role and responsibility at the event (e.g., leader, parent)  
Blame themselves for what happened  
Personally identify with the victim (e.g., victim was same age as own child)

Did others...

- Refuse to help during the event
- Behave in a critical or hurtful way during the event
- Respond negatively or critically after the event