**Small Group Exercise (Debriefing)**

**Building Collapse**

The community center is the hub of youth activities in your small town: dances, basketball games, club meetings, etc. all happen here. There is an awards ceremony for the championship football team scheduled this Saturday evening, so the building will be packed with team members and their families, coaches and school personnel.

The weather this fall has been strange, with thunder and lightning moving in swiftly after beautiful 80-degree mornings. Crowds gather to the community center under darkening skies, rain starts to fall, and the wind starts to pick up.

As the ceremony starts, the winds become stronger. A rogue burst of wind lifts the roof off the structure and the walls fall down—two falling outward, two falling inward. The roof comes back down to rest on the partially collapsed stage. Underneath the void, there are over a hundred people, most walking wounded, a handful of critically injured. Getting them out is relatively easy, and they move to the church across the street. There are six fatalities, including the head coach and star running back.

The fire department responded from across town where they were watching downed power lines due to the storm. When they arrive on scene they quickly set up a triage area and transport eight people with serious injuries to the local hospital. Among the fatalities is the fire captain’s daughter.

Within the hour, a news team is on the scene and the aggressive reporter talks herself into the incident command center. She makes her first live report and states the names of the victims.

The small community rallies to help in the first 12 hours after the tragedy: medical aid is delivered at the high school gym, meals are supplied by the pizza restaurant, school and private counselours are available at a rest & rehab site near the church.

This intervention is taking place at the school 48 hours after the event.

**For this exercise you will need:**

**Six to eight volunteers (give role-playing cards). You can add a person to the PARENT roles to make couples.**

**Allow each volunteer to read their role and encourage them to “play it real”.**

**Four to five CISM team members.**

**Allow the CISM team members to decide what roles (Lead, Education, Doorkeeper, etc.) they will take.**

**Debriefing should take about 50-60 minutes, and then discuss for 15 minutes or so…**

**Questions:**

**-Anybody you’d “red flag” as needing further help?**

**-What were some of the “normal” reactions expressed?**

**-Was the CISM information delivered adequately? Key terms used?**

**-Anything to add?**

**Civilian Role**

**Teacher**

**You are a math teacher who also is the friend of the head coach. You’re concerned that the images of the deceased will continue to appear in your nightly dreams because you have been deeply affected by the loss of your friend. Share how you have been thinking of the memorial service coming up, what you have been doing to cope, and how you plan to move out of the community. Your demeanor is somber with little hope for your future.**

**Civilian Role**

**Student**

**You are a student that was attending the awards ceremony because your friends were on the football team. All your closest friends survived. You have been helping out with the support services in town, delivering meals to families, and even organizing a drive to create a memorial garden at the school. Your demeanor is positive despite the tragedy, and you believe that the town will recover to be even stronger.**

**Civilian Role**

**Parent**

**You are a parent of a surviving student. You were not present at the community center that night due to your job. You are angry that the there hasn’t been more support services for the victims and their families: counseling, financial aid, and legal help. You place blame on the outdated community center and are convinced if a new center had been built when the town could have afforded it this tragedy wouldn’t have happened. Your demeanor is anger and frustration.**

**Civilian Role**

**Student**

**You survived the collapse, but saw many people push others aside for their own safety, and this bothers you. You personally helped others get out before walking out yourself, even carrying an elderly woman to the exit. Why did this happen to this town? Is the biggest question you have. Your demeanor is disbelief.**

**Civilian Role**

**Parent**

**You are the parent of a critically injured student still in the hospital, and is expected to live, but will have to have an arm amputated. You are thankful for all the help that the community has shown to you and others. The windstorm also ruined your home which is uninhabitable, so you are concerned on where you are going to live. Your demeanor is cautiously optimistic as you face the next chapters of your life.**

**Civilian Role**

**Student**

**You have survived the collapse, but are bothered that you lived while others were injured or died. You wonder *why?* Since the tragedy you have been talking to whoever will listen to you, even to the point of close friends avoiding you because you “can’t get past it”. Your demeanor is frustration, yet hopeful for your future.**