



# **“Critical Incident”**

The term critical incident is most often used to describe a potentially psychologically traumatic event experienced by public safety personnel (PSP) that evokes unusually strong emotional reactions.

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# **“Critical Incident”**

A critical incident may occur when a person is overwhelmed by the scope, severity, personal connection to, or degree of exposure to a potentially psychologically traumatic event.

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# “Critical Incident”

Often used interchangeably with:

- Potentially psychologically traumatic event (PPTE);
- Psychologically traumatic event;
- Potentially psychologically traumatic stressor;
- Psychologically traumatic stressor (PTS);
- Traumatic event;
- Traumatic stressor; or,
- Trauma.

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# ***Critical Incident Support Management (CISM)***

The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) - Canada, Inc., offers information, resources, and training opportunities to develop and maintain peer support programs within public safety organizations. CISM is an evidence-based approach to assist PSP in coping with the psychological demands of their professions.

**For more information, please visit:**

**<https://icisfcanada.com/>**



# Glossary of Terms

## Background

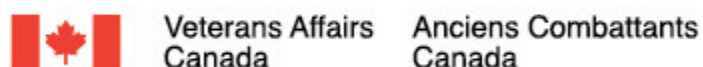
The Glossary of Terms was created to promote a shared understanding of many common terms used to describe mental health challenges arising from exposure to potentially psychologically traumatic events and stressors.

The initial iteration of the glossary was intended to:

1. Facilitate open discourse and conversations among the many partners and stakeholders at the National Conference on PTSD held in 2019; and
2. Assist in developing the Federal Framework on PTSD. To date, Act C-211 stands as the only federal government Act that acknowledges the importance of work-related risk factors in the development of PTSD in certain professions.

# COLLABORATING

The Glossary of Terms brings together a diverse, multi-institutional, pan-Canadian group of academics, clinicians, and policy makers. Together, we are working towards a broadly accepted set of terms for clinicians, scientists, policymakers, people with lived experience, and the general public.



Canadian Institute for  
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