

“First Responder”

A first responder is a public safety professional with specialized training who arrives at the scene of an emergency to provide immediate medical or evacuation help. The emergency could be a motor accident, a natural disaster, or a terrorist attack.

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“First Responder”

Historically, first responders have included firefighters, paramedics, and police officers.

Some people also consider other trained members of organizations that provide professional assistance during an emergency (e.g., public safety communicators, such as 911 operators or dispatchers) to be first responders.

All first responders are public safety personnel.

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“Public Safety Personnel (PSP)”

This is a broad term to describe the people who ensure the safety and security of the public.

In Canada, the term PSP includes border services officers, serving Canadian Armed Forces members and Veterans, correctional service and parole officers, firefighters (career and volunteer), Indigenous emergency managers, operational intelligence personnel, paramedics, police officers, public safety communicators (e.g. 911 dispatchers), and search and rescue personnel.

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Find more resources here:

For PSP:

<https://www.cipsrt-icrtsp.ca/>

<https://www.pspmentalhealth.ca/>

<https://www.oncallapp.ca/>

<https://cmha.ca/resilient-minds/>

<https://www.cipher-iceisp.ca/projects/bos/>

For Families:

<https://www.pspnet.ca/en/for-families-of-psp>

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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.

