

CASE STUDIES

For

PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF BIOTERRORISM



CASE STUDY #1: CASE OF ANGRY EXPRESSOR

Situation:

Peter is a line worker at the automobile plant just outside of town. He was called off the line when his wife called and said the grade school reported that their child might have been exposed to smallpox as a terrorist act at the school's playground. It has not been established that the children were actually exposed to smallpox, but the school had sent the children home until it could be established. Peter brings his family to the public health building demanding smallpox immunization for his entire family and becomes very upset because he has heard that there are no immunizations available.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LONGER TERM PLAN?

CASE STUDY #2: CASE OF RESTAURANT BOMBING

Situation:

Mary was at a local restaurant having lunch with a group of childhood best friends. The group was having a wonderful time reminiscing old times with lots of laughter and recall of fond memories. Mary went to the ladies room and while gone, a lone suicide bomber enters the restaurant and pulls the fuse near her friends, killing them all. Mary feels the blast, but since she was a distance from her table, she is physically unhurt. You happened to be at the scene. The police and Emergency Medical Technicians are managing the few injured patron in the restaurant, but you are asked to manage Mary.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LONGER TERM PLAN?

CASE STUDY #3: CASE OF THE CEO SHOOTER

Situation:

You are the occupational health nurse at your company and one of your responsibilities is to manage the employees who are out on medical leave. Paul is an executive assistant to the CEO of your company. An employee that was fired from the company entered the office several months ago and requested to see the CEO. Paul said he was in a meeting, but the employee forced the door open, took out a gun and shot the CEO and then turned the gun on himself. The CEO died from the incident and the gunman died from his self-inflicted wound. Paul observed the whole incident, but could not do anything. After the incident occurred he returned to work and seemed to be handling the situation well. After three months, he started taking a number of sick days from work and other employees had voiced concern about how down he had been acting. His primary physician who stated he was having personal problems placed Paul on sick leave. Paul had been the "right hand" to the CEO. The Human Resources Director was appropriately concerned about him. You make a home visit to talk with Paul. From your conversations, you are aware that he has been referred to a mental health clinician.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LONGER TERM PLAN?

CASE STUDY #4: CASE OF THE SCHOOL YARD

Situation:

On a sunny day a huge blast occurs at the Federal Building in town. Across the street from the Federal Building is an elementary school. Jane is crying and upset for two reasons. First her cousin is killed as one of the 110 victims killed in the bombing, and second, her nine-year-old son was out on the playground at the elementary school when the blast occurred and saw the immediate aftermath. She does not know what to do with him since all he will do is watch TV news reports on the bombing.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LONGER TERM PLAN?

CASE STUDY #5: CASE OF THE SABATOGED WATER

Situation:

The phone is ringing off the hook at the Public Health Department since it was announced one hour ago that the community water supply was contaminated with botulism. Community residents are in a panic. Now the phone lines are jammed and the nurse, Chris, does not know where to begin. She is also concerned about herself since she had a glass of water about an hour before the announcement.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS SITUATION?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LONGER TERM PLAN?