

Preparing for a Mass Violence Incident: Understanding the Most Crucial Needs of Victims, Survivors and Witnesses

The following list recommends the most crucial needs of victims, survivors and witnesses of a mass violence incident in order of timeliness. Please consider these needs when developing your community's mass violence preparedness plan.

1. Where to go and where *not* to go for help (i.e., do *not* show up at the crime scene!)
2. Medical care
3. “The basics” – shelter, food, clothing, safety
4. Information (about the MVI, victims’ rights, the case)
5. How to locate loved ones
6. Locations/rooms within Centers (Response, Family Assistance or Resiliency) to ensure victim privacy
7. Psychological First Aid needs
8. Mental health care
9. How to report missing persons
10. Provide information about common reactions to trauma
11. Information about victim compensation, and assistance in completing application forms
12. How to access resources, including the wide range of victim assistance services available in the immediate-, short- and long-term
13. Lodging (for family members)
14. Psychoeducation resources
15. Protection from the news media, and tips for dealing with the news media
16. Transportation (local, state, national, international)
17. Legal assistance and advice
18. Guidance in understanding the range of funds available to survivors (which will differ depending upon the MVI)
19. Liaison/intervention with the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain new identification/drivers’ licenses
20. Keys duplicated or made
21. Child care
22. Employer intervention