**Emerald Coast Crisis Stress Team (ECCST): Background Sheet**

**About ECCST:**

The Emerald Coast Crisis Stress Team is an elite group of volunteers that responds to the mental health needs of first responders in the aftermath of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or critical incident. It’s an evidence-informed concept that has been successfully established in several states. The crisis stress team is trained and/or certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

**Our Mission:**

To lessen the adverse mental health effects of trauma on first responders

**Our Members:**

Team members come from many diverse backgrounds with experience such fields as human services, psychology, mental health, spirituality, veterinarian, Emergency Medical Technicians, firefighters, and nurses.

**Services Offered:**

ECCST provides a variety of interventions at a disaster scene, including but not limited to:

* Critical Incident Stress Management
* Psychological First Aid
* Behavioral Health Assessments
* Specialty Behavioral Health Intervention and/or referral for treatment based on initial assessment or screening
* K-9 Team Support

The team assists communities throughout the State of Florida. If necessary, in a large-scale incident, the team can deploy anywhere in the United States to fulfill an official request for assistance.

**Initial Training:**

Each team member will be trained and/or certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and complete the following National Incident Management System (NIMS) training:

* ICS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command;
* ICS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident;
* IS- 700 National Incident Management System: An Introduction;
* IS-800 National Response Framework: An Introduction.

Ongoing education includes topics such as:

Active Shooter Infectious Disease

Natural Disasters Shelter Operations

Infectious Disease PTSD