

## What Does MIRT Do?

In the immediate aftermath of a major incident many people will be affected. They may be survivors of the incident, relatives of these survivors or of those who die, or they may be affected simply by being involved in the response to the incident.

Some of these people may need trauma support after such an incident, but in a short time they recover sufficiently to readjust to some sort of normality. Some people, however, will need a higher level of trauma support for some time after the incident and a few will need continued support over many years. This also applies to anyone involved in the rescue and support function.

We work closely with the statutory and voluntary agencies, providing the following services::

- Support to individuals, families, communities and also to staff who have been affected by a traumatic incident, employing the skills of Mental Health and Psychological First Aid in a straightforward and safe manner
- Managing and coordinating Rest Centre's
- immediate practical support in the aftermath of an extraordinary event/emergency incident
- emotional support
- telephone support
- support for friends and relatives either individually or in the event of an evacuation at rest centres
- support to the Police Casualty Bureau
- duty at a temporary mortuary
- post-incident support to victims and relatives
- support to Incident Response staff
- support for Emergency Services personnel responding to an incident



## Major Incident Response Team

Coping with Crisis – we're here to help

For further information contact us:

By phone: 07974 745194 (24hr)

By e-mail: [alex.sutcliffe@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:alex.sutcliffe@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **The Major Incident Response Team (MIRT)**

MIRT is part of North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council's 24 hour emergency response. The Team comprises of professionals from a range of different backgrounds such as Social Care, Health and the Voluntary and Public Sector who volunteer their time to the MIRT service.

MIRT is normally called out by the Emergency Services, the Local Authority Emergency Planning Units or professional partners. However this list is indicative rather than exclusive.

The role of the Team is to offer practical and emotional support and to respond to the individual needs of anyone who finds themselves caught up in extraordinary situations. In order to carry out this work effectively and safely all team members are trained in Mental Health and Psychological First Aid and ongoing training is a fundamental and essential activity.

Offering a 24 hour service, each incident is assessed and the appropriate response is put in place. This flexibility of approach allows the Team to respond to any incident, large or small in number if the outcome of the assessment demonstrates that a positive contribution can be made by the Team.

MIRT is also responsible for the management of Rest and Reception Centres throughout the County including the City of York and once called out, will coordinate the multi-agency response within the Centre requesting support and resources via the Emergency Planning Unit.

The Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) provides a confidential and non-intrusive support service to anyone who may find themselves caught up in an incident or event that is outside of "normal" life.

We define a Major Incident as any event that is beyond our usual experience and is, more often than not, determined by external factors.

It need not involve large numbers of staff or whole communities but as these are extraordinary events, it can have the effect of leaving any one who has been involved feeling vulnerable or out of control.

Our aim is to offer a professional and sensitive service by offering emotional and practical support so that a sense of normality and control can be regained.

We work wherever we are needed which can be with individuals or communities but we are also here to support staff who have experienced challenging or traumatic events outside of their normal working situations.

**“When the worst happens,  
the least we will do is our very best”**