

## CIRT ACTIVATION

The MCBHC CIRT can be activated in two ways. First, anyone employed by the BHC can be contacted directly by someone of another organization requesting assistance. A second route is through our county 911 system. As crisis calls come through the 911 system the BHC crisis worker on call may activate the system. Because 911 is aware of ongoing or developing incidents before the general public they are often the first ones asked to provide BH assistance. The 911 system can also contact the team to disseminate information. The MCBHC CIRT never responds without a formal invitation.

Through either method of activation, critical information on the incident is collected and disseminated to the CIRT Coordinator. The CIRT Coordinator will then triage the event to determine what level of intervention(s) are needed, assigns an on site team leader, makes the determination as to how many responders are needed, where the team will meet and what will be a general course of action. This information is then used to activate the phone chain. A response plan is enacted and the intervention is provided. The CIRT Coordinator will provide debriefing for the team after the event and a follow up phone call or visit to those affected.

There is no cost associated for the services provided by the CIRT or DCORT teams. All of the workers participate on a voluntary basis and are only deployed to a scene when officially invited. The team is available to meet the critical incident emergency behavioral health needs of the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

# Critical Incident Response Team

**Mercer County  
Behavioral Health  
Commission, Inc  
8406 Sharon-Mercer Rd  
Mercer, PA 16137**

**724-662-1550 Administration  
724-662-2230 Central Intake Unit  
724-662-2227 After hours Emergency**

