



TRAINING INSTITUTE on STRANGULATION PREVENTION

Strangulation Prevention E-Newsletter - Nov/Dec 2017

A MESSAGE FROM US

Welcome to the November/December edition of *Strangulation Prevention E-Newsletter*. The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention has launched this newsletter to provide you with the most current and succinct information about non- and near-fatal strangulation assaults. Our goal with E-News is to share important information regularly. Each E-News will focus on one subject, one organization or individual, and share one Featured Resource.



-Gael Strack, CEO & Sarah Sherman Julien, Program Manager

DISPATCHERS

We are honored to provide a chapter for dispatchers, the true first responders.

Dispatchers work evenings, weekends, and holidays - often working long shifts. They have to respond quickly and calmly in alarming and horrific situations. They tend to be underpaid and underappreciated. Yet they play such a vital role in the handling of domestic violence calls.



Gael Strack with 911 Dispatchers at Non-Fatal Strangulation Prevention Training in Wilmar, MN 2016

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are approximately **102,000** public safety telecommunicators in the United States.

Dispatchers are often the pathway to the safety of victims, children, and officers. 911 dispatchers can make the difference between life or death situations.

It is our hope that you will share this chapter with dispatchers and also extend your appreciation for the significant role they play in handling 911 calls.

Download Chapter

[First Responders to the Last Warning Shot: The Critical Role of Dispatchers in Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases](#)

RESOURCES FOR DISPATCHERS

- [New Study on 911 and Strangulation](#)
- IACP, [Police Response to Violence Against Women](#)
- IACP, [Domestic Violence Police](#), Revised 2006
- IACP, [On Scene Response](#) video
- 2017 [San Diego County-wide Protocol on Strangulation](#)
- [Signs and Symptoms \(Esperanza\)](#)
- A [30-minute online course](#) for law enforcement on strangulation co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association and the Pennsylvania Coalition on Domestic Violence
- A 90-minute [webinar on medical signs and symptoms of strangulation](#): Dr. Ralph Riviello
- The best 8-minute video on [Trauma and the Brain](#)
- [2012 Study](#) - Dispatchers Frequently Experience Trauma in Response to DV Calls
- IACP, [Vicarious Trauma Toolkit](#)
- [Strangulation: A Quick Reference Guide Brochure](#) with sample questions by Fresno PD
- [New advisal for the Strangled Victim/Patient](#) California Penal Code Section 13701(I)
- [Strangulation Assessment Card](#)



Gael Strack trained San Diego 911 Dispatchers on Non-Fatal Strangulation Prevention Training in 2017

FEATURED RESOURCE

Strangulation Assessment Card

The Strangulation Assessment Card was inspired by paramedics from the San Diego Fire Department. After attending the Advanced Course on Strangulation Prevention, Joe Russo, Daniel Bebee, and Mitch Mendler drafted a tool paramedics could use to assess the strangled victim/patient. The tool was then modified and reviewed by survivors, faculty, and staff from the Alliance.

The Strangulation Assessment Card is a small tool designed to help first responders, including dispatchers, quickly determine the signs and symptoms of strangulation by keeping it handy in their front pockets. It is currently being used by patrol officers to determine when to call the paramedics and used by paramedics to evaluate when the strangled victim should be transported.

It is also a tool any professional can give to strangled victims to assess their own injuries, especially hours after being strangled. And if the victim needs to seek subsequent medical attention, the victim can share the Strangulation Assessment Card with medical providers to alert them her strangulation assault and the imaging recommendations from the Medical Advisors of the Training Institute.

[Click Here to download Strangulation Assessment Card](#)

Is there is question you would like answered? We are happy to help. [Contact Us!](#)

STRANGULATION ASSESSMENT CARD			
SIGNS	SYMPTOMS	CHECKLIST	TRANSPORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red eyes or spots (Petechiae) ● Neck swelling ● Nausea or vomiting ● Unsteady ● Loss or lapse of memory ● Urinated ● Defecated ● Possible loss of consciousness ● Ptosis – droopy eyelid ● Droopy face ● Seizure ● Tongue injury ● Lip injury ● Mental status changes ● Voice changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neck pain ● Jaw pain ● Scalp pain (from hair pulling) ● Sore throat ● Difficulty breathing ● Difficulty swallowing ● Vision changes (spots, tunnel vision, flashing lights) ● Hearing changes ● Light headedness ● Headache ● Weakness or numbness to arms or legs ● Voice changes 	<p>S Scene & Safety Take in the scene. Make sure you and the victim are safe.</p> <p>T Trauma The victim is traumatized. Be kind. Ask: what do you remember? See? Feel? Hear? Think?</p> <p>R Reassure & Resources Reassure the victim that help is available and provide resources.</p> <p>A Assess Assess the victim for signs and symptoms of strangulation and TBI.</p> <p>N Notes Document your observations. Put victim statements in quotes.</p> <p>G Give Give the victim an advisal about delayed consequences.</p> <p>L Loss of Consciousness Victims may not remember. Lapse of memory? Change in location? Urination? Defecation?</p> <p>E Encourage Encourage medical attention or transport if life-threatening injuries exist.</p>	<p>If the victim is Pregnant or has life-threatening injuries which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficulty breathing ● Difficulty swallowing ● Petechial hemorrhage ● Vision changes ● Loss of consciousness ● Urinated ● Defecated <p>DELAYED CONSEQUENCES</p> <p>Victims may look fine and say they are fine, but just underneath the skin there would be internal injury and/or delayed complications. Internal injury may take a few hours to be appreciated. The victim may develop delayed swelling, hematomas, vocal cord immobility, displaced laryngeal fractures, fractured hyoid bone, airway obstruction, stroke or even delayed death from a carotid dissection, blood clot, respiratory complications, or anoxic brain damage.</p> <p>Talaferno, E., Hawley, D., McClane, G.E. & Strack, G. (2008). Strangulation - Violence Against Women. Website Partner via NCJ 210000. A Head2-Source Perspective, Oxford University Press, Inc.</p> <p><small>This project is supported in part by Grant No. 2008-01-0001 awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Dept. of Justice to the authors. Authors' conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women.</small></p>

SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you for participating in our **Domestic Violence Awareness Survey** in October! Here are the results:

46% of respondents are screening for strangulation,
53% are providing written information about strangulation to victims, and
53% have talked to a survivor about their strangulation assault.

Please be on the lookout for our new Resource Library coming in 2018, but in the meantime, here's an easy way to find our [Library](#) of resources for survivors.

It's not too late to submit your response, please take the [survey here](#).

GRATITUDE

In addition to training, another way to mitigate trauma is gratitude. In 1991, Congress introduced "[National Public Safety Telecommunication Week](#)" (NPSTW). It is held during the second week of April. Plan now to share your gratitude for your local dispatcher in April. Here is a [sample proclamation](#).

[NPSTW.org](#) celebrates NPSTW all year long. Submit your stories to their regular feature "From the Frontline." Get staff recognition ideas and follow their twitter page [@APCOIntl](#) for the latest training events and stories.

After 43 years, Sergeant Dispatcher Irma Young from Marksville, LA retired from the only in-house dispatcher position. The Marksville City Police Department threw her a [surprise retirement party](#) and honored her service to the community.



Let's salute dispatchers everywhere. Let them know how grateful we are for their service, their compassion and ability to stay calm under the most stressful situations. Let's thank them for being the lifeline to many victims and helping to keep our officers safe.

Thank you for your commitment to this lifesaving work.

Gael Strack, CEO, Alliance for HOPE International

Casey Gwinn, President, Alliance for HOPE International

Sarah Sherman Julien, Program Manager, Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9, 2018	Webinar: What We Learned in 2017 - Register Here
January 11-12, 2018	Havre, MT
January 16, 2018	Denver, CO
January 19, 2018	Tampa, FL
February 6-9, 2018	Advanced Course - Register Now!
February 22, 2018	Webinar: Pediatric Strangulation, Part 2 - Register Here

[Click here for a full list of upcoming events](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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