

# Communities During Crisis

Communities are usually unprepared to deal with the aftermath of a sudden traumatic incident. Services, networks and critical resources may be unavailable or insufficient. AR-CRT stands ready to help, always awaiting an invitation from the affected area.

## AR-CRT responds to:

- **Natural Disasters:** Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires
- **Technological Disasters:** Chemical spills, by-products, manufacturing
- **Man-Made:** Car crashes, terrorist attacks, homicides, suicides, school shootings, child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.



# AR-CRT Crisis Response Teams:

AR-CRT is the umbrella organization for local community and agency teams.

1. Arkansas School Counselors CRT
2. Arkansas School Psychologists CRT
3. Clergy CRT
4. Craighead County CRT
5. Episcopal CRT
6. Criminal Justice Institute CRT
7. Faulkner County CRT
8. Methodist Family Health CRT
9. Pulaski County CRT
10. Saline County CRT
11. Southeast Arkansas CRT
12. White County CRT

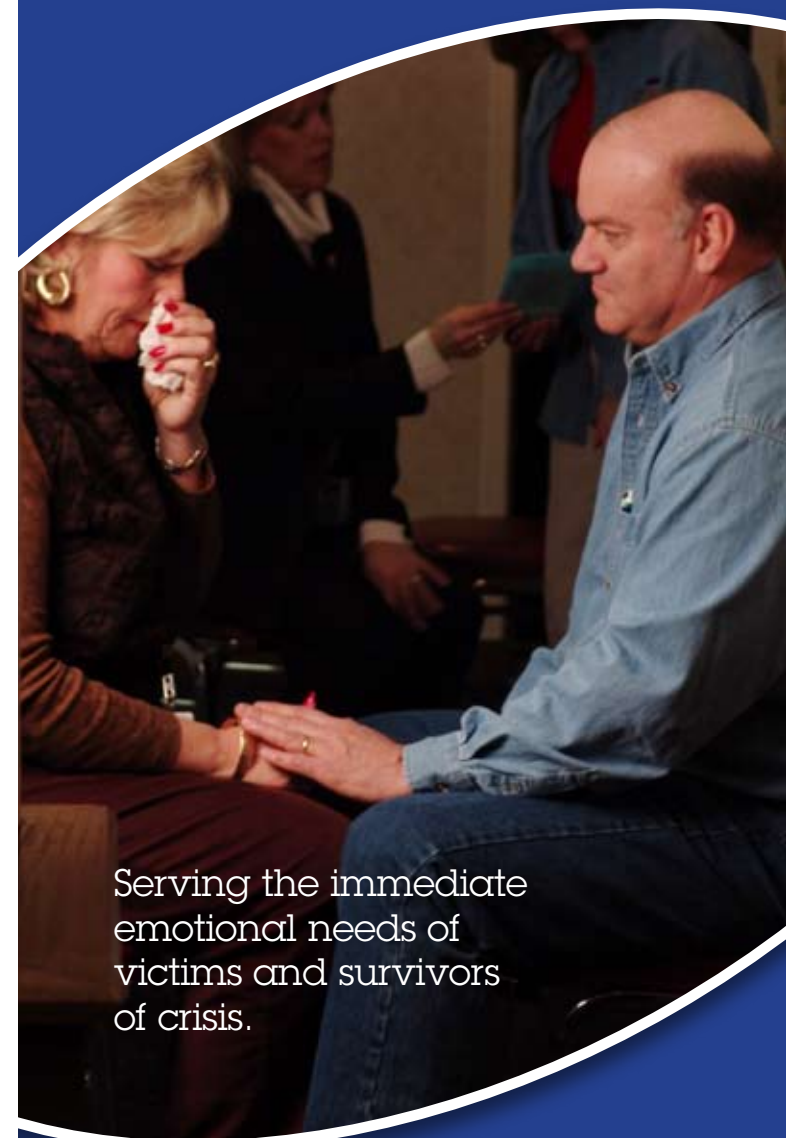
AR-CRT has bi-lingual members, able to provide assistance in multiple languages, too.

Thank you to our partners.



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AR-CRT is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization

# ARKANSAS Crisis Response Team



Serving the immediate emotional needs of victims and survivors of crisis.



# The Arkansas Crisis Response Team

The Arkansas Crisis Response Team responds to the emotional needs of victims, survivors and first responders in the immediate aftermath of a community crisis. AR-CRT, a certified NOVA team, covers the entire state of Arkansas. AR-CRT is an all-volunteer organization, whose members come from all walks of life, sharing their compassion and specific crisis intervention training with those in need.

## PROFESSIONALISM

While our members may be trained as police officers, clergy, administrators, judges, psychologists, teachers or in any other field, they must undergo rigorous training and testing to join our non-profit organization. AR-CRT representatives learn how to apply the NOVA model of providing assistance in real life situations. They meet and share their experiences with other members, broadening and deepening AR-CRT's collective expertise.

## AR-CRT exists to:

1. Provide trained crisis responders to Arkansas communities, and to communities in other parts of the nation, on request.
2. Provide support for existing local resources and grassroots crisis response teams.
3. Organize the training and continuing education of crisis responders.

# The Movement for Victims Rights and Assistance

The National Organization for Victim Assistance was founded in 1975 to advance the rights of and provide services to victims of crime and crisis. It has become known around the world for its National Crisis Response Team. AR-CRT is the first NOVA certified state team in the United States and Canada and uses the respected NOVA crisis response model.

## AR-CRT has assisted NOVA by deploying trained crisis intervenors to these sites:

- Hurricane Katrina - Mississippi Gulf Coast and Louisiana - 2005
- Wright, Wyoming Tornadoes - 2005
- Fulton County Courthouse Shootings - Atlanta, Georgia - 2005
- Hurricanes Charlie and Jean - Florida - 2004
- World Trade Center Terrorist Attack - 2001
- American Airline Crash - Little Rock, Arkansas - 1999
- Westside Middle School Shootings near Jonesboro, Arkansas - 1998

AR-CRT has also responded to hundreds of smaller crises within the state of Arkansas, including the Hurricane Katrina Decampment Center located in Fort Smith, Arkansas for the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Services.

# Crisis Intervention

Over the years, NOVA has developed an effective model for addressing the collective trauma experienced as the result of a range of disasters, violent crimes and crises. The foundation of this response is individual and group crisis intervention sessions facilitated by NOVA-trained AR-CRT members.

These crisis interventions seek to reduce acute emotional stress caused by proximity to an emergency. The Model addresses three main concerns:

**Safety and Security:** Team members work to instill a feeling of safety in victims and survivors, helping them to create defenses against future vulnerabilities.

**Ventilation and Validation:** Trained volunteers give survivors an opportunity to share their unique experiences and help them to recognize the pattern and commonality of trauma reactions.

**Prediction and Preparation:** Members help survivors address their concerns for the future and provide methods of planning for secondary injuries and / or ongoing emotional reactions.

Team members may provide training to community caregivers and also make referrals for post trauma counseling. Often first responders to a crisis, police, fire fighters, EMT, doctors and nurses, may benefit from crisis intervention sessions. AR-CRT members are prepared to handle these sessions with absolute confidentiality.