**What is a critical incident?**

A critical incident is a sudden event or situation that involves actual, threatened, witnessed or perceived death, serious injury, or threat to the physical or psychological integrity of an individual or group. Critical incidents may include kidnapping, shootings, explosions, sexual assault and rape, among others.

**Casualties of UN personnel as a result of violence**

A persistent challenge to OCHA personnel is the increasingly complex global security context, and challenging high-risk environments in which we are operating. Every year, UN personnel are targets of diverse violent threats, including from armed conflict, crime, civil unrest and terrorism.

**What is OCHA’s objective?**

OCHA’s goal is to support the resilience and preparedness of its personnel, and assist them to resume daily activities with minimum disruption following any traumatic or stressful incidents.

**Why do we need Critical Incidents Guidelines?**

OCHA’s Critical Incidents Guidelines lay out how OCHA will (1) ensure a culture of preparedness, (2) effectively manage any critical incidents, and (3) aim to avoid accumulated stress and trauma that can occur from working in difficult duty stations.

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