

Partnering with Other Agencies

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA)

COVA can assist with a variety of responses depending on what the needs are of the community. **COVA has a 24 hour emergency number which is 303-475-2496.** Some of the responsibilities that COVA can assist with are listed below:

- COVA can contact victim advocates (both system based and non-system based depending on the need) to respond to a mass crisis incident. This would include verifying the identity of each advocate and the agency that the victim advocate is from as well as assisting the law enforcement agency with assigning tasks.

COVA would need specific information as to:

- What exactly is needed – what tasks need to be accomplished?
 - Does the requesting agency need COVA to do an assessment?
 - Does COVA need to have a point person on-site and if the answer is yes, who does this point person report to at your agency?
 - Where are victim advocates needed?
 - What is the time frame victim advocates will be needed?
- Transportation for families of the victim including arranging for airfare, shuttles, rental cars.
 - Obtaining motel rooms for those people that may have to be evacuated from their homes or have to leave their home for a variety of other reason.
 - Arranging for food and water for victims, advocates, and other first responders. COVA will work with other agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army who can provide these services.
 - Providing standardized identification tags for victim advocates who are on-scene, at the Reunification Center, or other designated locations.

COVA can also distribute donations for immediate victim needs and provide case management for the distribution of long-term donations.

COVA can provide debriefing for groups of people.

COVA has available one page trauma tips and phone numbers for available resources.

Contact Nancy Lewis to discuss what the needs are for your community and how COVA can assist.