




Field Safety

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October 31, 2023

TB Contact Investigation (Pilot)
October 31, 2023
San Antonio, Texas

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Chelsea Hargrave, BS, CHES has the following disclosures to make:

- No conflict of interests
- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this educational activity

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Objectives

- List the elements of worker safety
 - Environmental factors
 - Personal safety
 - Respiratory protection
 - Behavioral Health
 - Substance Abuse
 - Conflict Management



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First Things First

- Know the purpose of your visit and determine if it is safe to engage in a client visit alone.
- Plan your field work before leaving the office.
 - Familiarize your self with your client. Review charts, intake forms, other staff for possible safety concerns (violence, substance abuse etc.)
 - Map your route to and from (multiple visits)
 - Mentally rehearse the visit and what needs to be accomplished.



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Scheduling the Visit

- Try to schedule during normal hours.
 - Daylight hours in the morning if possible.
- Share your itinerary
 - Supervisor, Co-worker, etc.
 - Also, let them know when you completed the FV.



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What to Wear?

- Consider the following:
- WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES!
 - Heels vs. flats
 - Open toed vs. closed toed
- Jewelry – avoid flashy jewelry that could make you a target.
- Religious or political symbols – cautious wear.
- Long hair – wear it up to prevent it from being used against you.
- Ties & Scarves – use clip on ties that cannot present a choking danger.



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Your Journey

- Map your route.
- Assure your vehicle is in good running condition, has gas, spare tire.
- When arriving at your destination back your vehicle into parking spaces. Face your car in the direction you want to leave. Park in a well-lit area.
- Always observe the residence or building before you enter.
- Use your intuition when approaching clients neighborhoods and homes.
- Use common sense.



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Your Destination

- Lock your vehicle
- Observe your environment for any dangers
- When you knock, stand to one side
- Look and listen
- Confirm the patients ID
- Wait to be asked inside, go if comfortable
 - Let the patient lead the way



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The Field Visit

- When entering, be aware of the exits and try to keep yourself between the client and the door.
- Sit near an exit or facing the hallways so you can view halls and bedrooms.
- Look before you sit. Try to sit on hard chairs as opposed to cushioned chairs.
- Take in only what you need.



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The Field Visit

- Be respectful, try to avoid reacting to untidiness, surroundings and smells.
- Use non-threatening body language and remain calm and polite.
- Accepting food or drinks – be respectful to the clients home and feelings.



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Leaving the Field Visit

- Exit the area with the same vigilance as when you came in.
- Approach your car with keys in hand.
- Do not linger in the area or in your car.
- Do not sit in your car to make notes or plan additional visits.
- If there were any incidents or problems let your supervisor know.



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What in Our Environment Poses a Risk?

- Dogs
- Weather
- Infectious TB
- Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse



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Conflict Management

- What if a conflict happens?
 - Ideally, you want to help the angry person “come down” from his or her anger.
 - You must remain calm.
 - Don’t tell the person to “calm down.”
 - Instead, be empathetic. Talk about the frustration or problem that has come up.
 - Reflect feelings and behaviors such as “you seem angry.”
 - Defensiveness on your part validates the angry person, increasing the tension.
 - Reinforce your calm tone with non-threatening, non-confrontational body language.
 - Avoid extensive eye contact and physical closeness.
 - Be patient – even if it appears the patient is calming down, it takes a person 30 to 40 minutes to calm down from anger physiologically.

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Weapons

- Assume that every home has a weapon of some kind and that every client can access a weapon.
- Look for weapons as you enter.
- Guns are often in bedrooms, knives are in the kitchen.
- Be ready to leave or ask for help if you feel the situation is out of control.



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Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings. Landscape? Are you in a well traveled area? Are those around you walking with a purpose or “hanging around”, Trust your gut, if something does not feel right is probably isn't.
- Keep in well populated areas. No alleys.
- Walk with a purpose. Look confident.
- If you think you are being followed change your path, cross the street, walk in another direction. Go into a store or well populated area if possible.
- Know the neighborhood. ID safe places you can go if you feel threatened.
- Have your keys in your hand while approaching your car.
- Check the area around your car as you approach.



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Personal Safety

- If you are confronted, robbed or assaulted. Remember YOUR LIFE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!!
- Don't do anything to provoke a suspect, do everything you can to make them happy, so they leave the area and leaves you alone.
- If someone tries to harm you, sexually assault you, or take you make a scene. Make noise, kick, scream, fight back any way you can.
- If its property they want give it to them.
- Fight for your LIFE, not your property.
- Call 911 and follow your program procedures.



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Plan Your Visit

- View patients chart
- Itinerary
- Show me the way
- Inspect your vehicle
- Take a charged cell phone



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