

# OPERATIONAL READINESS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Equipping Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics,  
& Associated Teams with Practical Skills to  
Respond to OUD & Co-occurring Conditions

Big ideas. Real-world thinking. **Inspired action.**



## Acquire the Skills and Resources for Confident Crisis Intervention

As a first responder, you're a critical part of the front line in addressing crises involving Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring conditions. This course empowers Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Paramedics, Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT), and other front-line professionals, with the skills and knowledge to de-escalate situations, connect individuals to appropriate resources, and work collaboratively to improve outcomes for those in crisis.

During this **four-hour, online, self-paced course**, you'll learn strategies and gain insights into how multidisciplinary collaboration enhances safety, reduces risks, and fosters better outcomes for individuals, responders, and communities. Prepare your team to act confidently, compassionately, and collaboratively in high-pressure situations, to ensure effective response to challenges posed.

### Course highlights include:

- **Foster Multidisciplinary Collaboration:** Discover how first responders can work together effectively to respond to OUD crises.
- **Enhance Safety & Trust:** Use proven de-escalation techniques that prioritize safety for responders and individuals in crisis.
- **Gain Real-World Crisis Skills:** Apply strategies to confidently handle complex situations involving OUD and co-occurring conditions.
- **Strengthen Referral Networks:** Establish connections with treatment providers, community organizations, and other first responders to improve care pathways.
- **Reduce Liability & Risk:** Gain an understanding of legal considerations and best practices for managing crises safely and ethically.
- **Access Valuable Resources:** Use assessments, workbooks, eBooks, posters, and reference materials to support your response efforts.

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## 1 Understanding OUD & Co-occurring Conditions

Learn the fundamentals of OUD and its connection to mental health disorders. Explore your role in addressing crises and understanding legal rights of individuals.

## 2 Recognizing & Responding to OUD

Master verbal and nonverbal de-escalation for multidisciplinary teams. Assess individuals and apply strategies that prioritize safety and trust.

## 3 Best Practices for Field Collaboration

Explore harm reduction strategies and collaborate with local resources, providers, and community organizations. Build referral networks to improve outcomes.

## 4 Application & Resource Utilization

Practice skills through scenario-based exercises in public and residential settings. Use CARE to de-escalate and make effective referrals within a multidisciplinary team.

### Key takeaways: Essential skills and knowledge you'll take into the field

- **Multidisciplinary Crisis Response:** Learn to work seamlessly with Fire, EMT, Paramedics, CIT team members, and other professionals to de-escalate crises and improve outcomes. Leverage each discipline's unique strengths and perspectives. Gain insights into how unified collaboration can reduce risks and foster better outcomes for individuals and communities.
- **The CARE + Collaboration Approach:** Apply the CARE framework (Calm, Assess, Respond, Engage) in real-world scenarios, enhanced by multidisciplinary collaboration. Ensure interventions are safe, compassionate, and effective by using shared strategies and communication techniques.
- **Leverage Referral Networks:** Build and strengthen partnerships with treatment providers, mental health, and community resources. Understand how to identify and mobilize the appropriate resources at the right time to support individuals in crisis and improve access to treatment and recovery options.
- **Maximize Resources:** Gain practical tools and strategies to effectively utilize local and national networks. Learn to map out resources, establish partnerships, and create pathways for long-term care and recovery for individuals with OUD and co-occurring conditions.
- **Legal Awareness & Risk Management:** Develop an understanding of the legal framework that governs crisis response. Learn best practices for minimizing liability, ensuring compliance with protocols, and maintaining the ethical standards essential to effective crisis intervention.

### Enroll Today!

Prepare your team to respond confidently and collaboratively to OUD and mental health crises. This course will enhance safety, improve outcomes, and strengthen your community relationships.

**\$450 each** – Participants receive a **Minnesota State University, Mankato certificate** on completion.