



Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

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Upcoming Events

Self-Directed Violence Risk Triage Workshop

15th AETAP Conference

Assessing and Managing Risk for Sexual Violence: Using the RSVP-V2

Foundational Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

APATAP 2024 Conference

Case Formulation in Violence Risk Assessment

Scenario Planning in Violence Risk Assessment
Learn more...

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Editor's Note



the culture, promote systems change, support paramedics, and prevent violence.

We also have several special announcements! The IAFMHS conference will be held in San Francisco, California, US between 18-20 June 2024 with a special emphasis on Prevention in Forensic Mental Health. Dr Stephen Hart also has the honour of presenting a workshop on the newly released Aid for Violence Risk Triage (AVRT) at the upcoming AETAP conference in Paris, France between 22-25 April 2024, as part of Protect International's sponsorship.

We hope Intelligence will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Watt, PhD

Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International

As always, *Intelligence* will keep you up to date with recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe through knowledge and experiences shared by world-leading experts.

Our team hopes that you are able to take some time to enjoy the new season with your family, friends, and colleagues.

In this issue, Ms. Yan Lim provides a book review of *Risk Assessment and Management* and Ms. Nicole Russell provides a book review of *The Law of Regulatory Investigations*.

Ms. Mandy Johnston provides a practice update about the nature and prevalence of violence towards paramedics and presents promising advances in research, practice, and the law that may help to change

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Review us 

Violent Extremism:

A Handbook of Risk Assessment and Management

Edited by Caroline Logan, Randy Borum, & Paul Gill

Born out of the editors' own international collaborative efforts, this handbook was written as a guide to synergize research and practice for understanding, assessing, managing, communicating about, and intervening in the risk for violent extremism (VE). Comprising 10 chapters by notable experts in the field, the handbook offers foundational insights into the theories about causes and development of VE and the current state of VE risk assessment, management, and communication practices,

including an evaluation of some of the better-known tools. Beyond that, the handbook also offered pragmatic recommendations for implementing these tools in the evaluation of VE risk and emphasized the importance of formulation to understand the mechanisms of risk for individual persons. Moving to management, the latter half of the handbook reviewed policies and procedures for managing risks in multiagency, multidisciplinary contexts as well as promising prevention programs that target

known VE risk and protective factors. The handbook concludes with a thoughtful discussion on the ethical and legal challenges inherent in this relatively nascent field and our obligations for practice. This handbook is an essential resource for threat assessment professionals who assess and manage VE risk and provides crucial insights into the supported research underpinning the tools they employ.

Ms. Yan Lim
Threat Assessment Specialist,
Protect International

The Law of Regulatory Investigations by James T. Casey, K.C., Jason Kully and Michelle Casey

This book is an excellent resource for administrative law lawyers, regulatory agencies, and those who conduct regulatory investigations in diverse contexts, including workplace and post-secondary institutions. These investigations are conducted by regulatory bodies and agencies who scrutinise alleged misconduct, irregularities, or breaches of legal requirements.

Both threat assessments and conduct investigations may be the subject of regulatory investigations if concerns are raised about how they were conducted. While most books about regulatory investigations focus on investigations within a specific regulatory context, this book takes a multidisciplinary approach to allow for a more comprehensive analysis and synthesis of the legal issues across various statutory frameworks and regulatory regimes. Organized by legal issues, the book covers a wide range of topics including jurisdictions, confidentiality, procedural fairness, human rights, and parallel investigations. An entire chapter was devoted to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and provides an excellent overview of how the Charter impacts

regulatory investigations and how it must be considered when undertaking a regulatory investigation. Regardless of the regulatory context you work in, be it professional discipline, occupational health and safety, privacy, or human rights, this book is a must-read for professionals who are conducting regulatory investigations. This is also a great reference text for threat assessors and conduct investigators to ensure your practice meets these various regulatory requirements and to deal with the various legal issues that may arise during the investigations.

Ms. Nicole Russel
Conduct Investigation Specialist,
Protect International

Upcoming Events

**Considering Culture
and Violence Risk**

**Mental Health and
Violence Risk**

[Learn more...](#)

Addressing Underreporting and Preventing Violence Against Paramedics: A Call to Action

Violence against paramedics is a prevalent and serious issue, yet it remains significantly underreported in the field. Many paramedics have been conditioned to expect and tolerate violence as part of their job, have been told that nothing can be done to change the situation or to prevent violence, and have been discouraged from reporting incidents of violence (Mausz et al., 2021). However, this culture is slowly changing with the introduction and adoption of standardized reporting systems like the Peel Regional Paramedic Services (PRPS) External Violence Incident Reports (EVIR). The EVIR was designed to gather specific information about violence incidents that occurred during 9-1-1 calls, including information about the nature and impact of violence and the associated risk factors. Having a complete accounting of violent incidents on the job is critical to understanding the prevalence and nature of the violence experienced by paramedics and contributes to development of effective risk assessment and mitigation strategies.

To better understand this problem, my colleagues and I conducted research using EVIR data, and the information we learned about the prevalence, nature, and impact of violence was alarming (Mausz et al., 2023). Between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2023, 48% of our 784 active-duty paramedics experienced violence, with 40% of these incidents involving physical or sexual assault. Further patients were responsible for perpetrating

violence in 78% of the cases, with alcohol intoxication, mental health issues, and substance abuse identified as contributing factors in 83% of reports.



To help address this problem, PRPS developed an External Violence Against Paramedics (EVAP) program. This program has a multiprong approach and incorporates public education, zero-tolerance policies, alert systems, specialized equipment, violence prevention training, and collaboration with local and federal law enforcement. Since its launch in 2019, the EVAP has been continually refined and updated to incorporate the data collected through EVIR as well as updates in research and practice. The EVAP is now adopted by multiple health

authorities in Ontario and has garnered interest from emergency medical services across Canada and the United States.

Additionally, recent legislative efforts, such as Bill C-321 proposed in Canada, demonstrate a growing recognition of violence against paramedics as a serious societal issue. If passed, this bill would amend the Canadian Criminal Code to consider assaults on healthcare providers and first responders as aggravating factors during sentencing. This legislative action would signal to the broader society that a patient's care, well-being, and safety cannot come at the expense of those of a paramedic or other healthcare providers.

As the culture of tacit acceptance of violence within the profession continues to shift, employers must prioritize the safety and well-being of their staff by implementing evidence-based strategies to mitigate risk of violence. This will include the need for behavioural risk assessment and the adoption of violence prevention programs like EVAP. Furthermore, ongoing research and collaboration between paramedic organizations, policymakers, and researchers are essential to developing comprehensive solutions that address the complexities of violence in paramedicine while upholding standards of patient care and provider safety.

Mandy Johnston, AEMCA
District Superintendent, PRPS
Program Lead, EVAP



The European Launch of the Aid for Violence Risk Triage (AVRT) at the AETAP Conference

The European Launch of the newly released Aid for Violence Risk Triage (AVRT) is taking place at the upcoming 15th annual Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals Conference and Workshop in Paris, France between 22-25 April 2024. The Conference includes an exciting lineup of presentations on important topics such as imminent threats, artificial intelligence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Dr. Stephen Hart, one of the co-authors of the AVRT, has the honour of presenting the AVRT workshop on 25 April 2024. This workshop will be presented in English with simultaneous translation into French. AVRT manuals and worksheets will be provided to participants who attend this workshop.



Upcoming IAFMHS Conference

The International Association of Forensic Mental Health (IAFMHS) is hosting its 2024 Annual Conference on 18-20 June 2024 at Hyatt Regency Downtown Soma Hotel in San Francisco, California, US. This international conference provides an avenue for information sharing on the latest research, program development, as well as legal, administrative, and ethical matters on all areas of forensic mental health, including violence and family violence. This year's theme is "Prevention in Forensic Mental Health," and features noted keynote speakers like Dr. Sarah Desmarais, Prof. Dale McNeil, and Prof. Seena Fazel. Our very own Drs. Stephen Hart, Kelly Watt, and Brianne Layden will also be presenting at the conference and delivering pre-conference workshops on "The Aid for Violence Risk Triage" and "Culturally Responsive Risk Assessment: Improving Case Formulation with Indigenous Persons." Refer to the IAFMHS website (link: <https://iafmhs.wildapricot.org/2024-registration>) for more information and to register.