



STRANGULATION INVESTIGATIONS

Part 1: The Biggest Red Flag

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing Part 1, officers will be able to:

- Articulate the seriousness and lethality risk for victims of strangulation;
- Describe what makes perpetrators so dangerous; and
- Explain the necessity for thorough investigation of strangulation crimes upon first response.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

If you would like RESPOND Against Violence to facilitate an extended version of this discussion, email info@respondagainstviolence.org to set up a virtual meeting.

1. What does an act of strangulation tell you about the type of perpetrator you're dealing with? What makes them different from other domestic violence abusers?
2. What message is an abuser sending to his victim when strangling her?
3. Why is strangulation so commonly minimized? Where might you encounter this minimization, and how can you help people understand the seriousness of this crime?
4. Domestic violence victims, and strangulation victims in particular, are often unable to participate in the investigation and prosecution of this crime. Why is this? How can we, as stakeholders in the criminal justice system, ensure we are still able to hold strangulation perpetrators accountable?
5. Strangulation perpetrators are master manipulators. What are some manipulation tactics you've seen abusers use?
6. Why is it important to NOT rely on visible injury when responding to strangulation crimes?
7. When you respond to a call and determine strangulation has occurred, what should your first steps be?
8. Review Texas' asphyxiation statute. How frequently have you utilized this statute in the past? What barriers have you come across? How do you hope the rest of this training will help you better investigate strangulation crimes?