

A Risk Intervention Model For Community Safety And Well-Being In The Niagara Region

In 2018, Port Cares and the Niagara Regional Police Service along with several community agencies launched the first Situation Table in the Niagara region. The region-wide expansion of the Situation Table model is a key priority of Niagara’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Acutely Elevated Risk

- There is an extremely high probability of imminent and significant harm to self or others
- The risk factors contributing to the elevated risk cannot be addressed by a single agency alone
- If left unattended, such situations will require targeted enforcement and/or other emergency responses

What Is It?

- A regular meeting involving a group of professionals that work together to mitigate risk before an incident of harm or victimization occurs
- Staff from a variety of disciplines and sectors collaborate on interventions in situations involving acutely elevated risk
- Acutely elevated risk refers to any situation negatively affecting the health or safety of an individual, family, group or place
- Participants of the Table work together to develop and implement a plan within 24-48 hours

How Does It Work?

- Typically, meetings take place once a week to address situations of acutely elevated risk
- Table members vote on whether the situation meets the threshold for acutely elevated risk. Only after meeting this threshold, can confidential information be shared to create a plan to prevent crisis.
- Following the intervention, ongoing support is provided by the agencies involved, but away from the Table

Why Is It Beneficial?

- Improves community safety and well-being
- Reduces barriers and connects individuals to the services they need
- Increases awareness and knowledge of risks, trends and systemic issues
- Risk-driven as opposed to incident-driven
- Improves collaboration and coordination among service providers

Which agencies are involved in a Situation Table?

- Addictions
- Community Based Organizations
- Community Health Centres
- Developmental Sector
- Education
- Family and Children Services
- Housing and Homelessness
- Income Assistance
- Indigenous and Culturally Specific Services
- Mental Health
- Police
- Schools

Additional Local Contributing Organizations

Some organizations will only be involved on an as needed basis, when the case presented is relevant to their services.