# Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

# Helping others Calm an Acute Stress Response (Horror, Fear, Agitation)

#### NEAR

Stand or sit near them and say: "Look at me. Can you hear me?"

# CONNECT

- "I'm going to squeeze your arm, you squeeze me back."
- "Look in my eyes. See me here."
- "I'm right here with you, I'm not going anywhere. You are not alone."
- "Talk with me what are you thinking? I am here with you."

## CALM

"Take deep breaths. Keep your eyes open." "Tap your finger slowly on your leg or arm —

feel the tapping? Tap slowly, count with me."

## PRESENT

"Hold my hand. We are ok. We will work to stay ok."



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