

Date: 25/09/2021**Interview with a police psychologist**

Police were called to a middle-aged man standing on the roof of a four-story block of flats. He stood on the windowsill, leaning dangerously over the edge. His neighbours, who also lived in the house, called for help. When law enforcement arrived, officers tried to establish communication with the man. According to his reaction, the man was clearly drunk. Even during the communication, he drank from a glass bottle of hard alcohol. He repeatedly rejected suggestions from police officers if they could meet him on the roof. He threatened to jump off the roof and kill himself. Drunk, he broke the glass bottle, and since he was probably afraid of jumping off the roof, he decided to stab a shard of a broken bottle down his throat. In great pain and further negotiations, he had already agreed to have the police send a doctor to see his injuries. The officers changed into the clothes of the integrated emergency services and, on first contact with the man, secured him from the roof and strapped him to a ready-made bed, which the rescuers had prepared behind the door to the roof. The patient was treated immediately so that he would not bleed to death and was subsequently taken to hospital. Another outcome of the situation was the discovery that the man was HIV positive. Due to contact with the patient's blood, the responding officer had to take a check-up. While waiting for the results of the health tests the officer was offered psychological support.

What was different about this intervention than the others?

Well, that's not that easy to answer, because every hit is specific to something. I can't say that I have any repeat of the same situations and each one is a little different and always requires a different level of involvement. In this case, I would say that there was a great determination to complete the suicide act and the whole situation was complicated by the high alcohol content, which significantly impairs the view of the situation and, overall, the whole communication is very inefficient.

What procedure did you use during the raid?

Well, when you're in a drunk state, I have this experience that you react a lot better to people that we know and have a good relationship with. In this case, we contacted the family and asked who the person considered an authority that he would be more likely to obey. In this case, it was an older brother with whom the man compared and took him as his role model. Thanks to the fact that we managed to get his brother to the place soon, we managed to contact the person concerned about waiting for him and not jumping until then. I'm sure you can't count on it, but in this case, I think it's important that we've been playing for time.



Project Number: 2020-1-PL-KA202-082075- Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

Source: Police Psychology Department Czech Republic



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.