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Local police officers attend crisis intervention training

Officers from the cities of Burleson, Mansfield, Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, Cleburne, Joshua and Keene along with officers from Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Tarrant County College attended a de-escalation/crisis intervention training on Thursday, August 3 at One Safe Place, 1100 Hemphill, Fort Worth.

"Officers are frequently called to the scene of aggressive and emotionally disturbed individuals, and their quick assessment of the call can help de-escalate the volatile situation," said Burleson Police Chief, Billy Cordell. "Which will lessen the risk of the officer using force and that is a win for everyone."

The training was facilitated by Ellis Amdur, M.A., author of *The Thin Blue Lifeline*. Amdur role played different aggressive and emotional episodes that officers and other support staff would see in the field so that the audience could learn hands-on how to recognize and respond to the different type of behaviors.

The Burleson Police Foundation, along with the Fort Worth Police Bike Support Group, sponsored the training for officers and representatives from a wide array of agencies that included not only police officers but jailers, communication specialists, Burleson ISD counselors, a psychologist, representatives from the Tarrant County MHMR Law Liaison and One Safe Place.

"The goal of this training is to assemble a very diverse audience aimed at creating a network of individuals that I hope will become the catalyst for future dialog and training," said Cordell.

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