

Attack Risk

I. READS

A. Verbal

- Loud; high pitch & rapid rate of speech
- Speech is abrupt or clipped
- Challenging or insulting
- Demanding or threatening
- Ignoring or disputing directives or limits
- Statements or threats of revenge, violence or suicide
- Blaming others or statements of being persecuted
- Negative response to reasonable rules, requests or directives
- Demands for increased space
- Disoriented (uncertain of name; date; location)
- Disorganized, rambling or bizarre speech
- Delusional statements. Responding verbally to hallucinations. Bizarre opinions.
- Repeated interrupting
- Abrupt "yes" or "no" responses with little thought to the conversation
- Unusual silence; onset of emotional block
- Impaired or limited verbal skills or ability

B. Visual

- Appearance (sickly; impaired balance, gait, or body control; strange movements)
- Hygiene (incontinence; sores; unsanitary)
- Grooming (disheveled; bizarre; outlandish; inappropriate; torn; dirty; soiled; unkempt; recent severe or mutilated hair cut)

Head & Neck

- Eyebrows (furrowed, lowered, drawn together, vertical line between brow)
- Eyes (reptilian stare; target glance)
- Mouth (lips pressed together & straight or down; lips in square shout shape; facial grimace; grinding teeth; jaw muscles tense)
- Nostrils (dilated; flaring without exhaustion)
- Carotids (pulsing; distended)
- Chin thrust
- Neck muscles (tense or pulsing)
- Temple (tensing; pulsing)
- Skin (perspiring; red, blanched or pale)

Hands

- Clenched fists,
- Flexing; white knuckles
- Tremors; shaking
- Masking or hiding fists, shaking or tremors
- Pounding fists or slapping hand(s)

- Hand or palm thrust; finger jab; backhand brush or swipe
- Perspiring or moist hand(s)

General Body Movement or Stance

- Movements to an area that may contain or has weapons
- Combative posturing (bladed; braced; covering; shoulder set or drop)
- Illustrators of internal distraction
- Restless; pacing; aimless activity
- Kicking; heel, toe or full foot stomp(ing)
- Changing posture; crouching
- Shoulder rocking and rotation
- Backing away; distancing gestures
- Charging; claiming or taking ground
- Scanning; hyper-alertness

Group Behavior or Movements

- Subject displays aggressive "reads" in a group
 - Distancing, flight or escape behavior
 - Rapid perimeter disruption
 - Crowd gathering rapidly toward a focus
- ### C. Changing Behavior (progressions)
- Calm then restless
 - Shifting from relaxed to tight
 - Abdominal-thoracic expansion (puffing)
 - More rapid speech; higher pitch
 - Rapid or repeated mood change
 - Onset or increasing profanity, abusive or insulting language or behavior
 - Approach-avoidance behavior
 - Eye contact initially indirect then increasingly direct, onset of reptilian stare
 - Challenge position (eye to eye; toe to toe)
 - Increasing activity & tension discharging
 - Onset of fight or flight pause (looking down & placing hand on head)

II. TRIGGERS

A. Chemical Triggers (internal)

- Alcohol; sedatives; anti-anxiety medications
- Volatile inhalants (e.g., glues; paint; etc.)
- Stimulants (amphetamines; cocaine)
- Narcotics (morphine, heroin, codeine)
- Hallucinogens (LSD; PCP, etc.)
- Prescription drug abuse or side-effects
- High dosage of over-the-counter drugs

B. Situational Triggers (external)

- Weapon or potential weapon present
- Bystander behavior (mere bystander presence; disputants can observe and pick-up on bystander Attack Reads)
- Disputants behavior (presence of a disputant; disputants can observe and pick-up on each other's aggressive behavior)

- Uncomfortable environment (hot; humid; difficult to see or hear)
- Awareness of an injury inflicted by another
- Officer presence (mere presence & number)
- Officer behavior (moving; restraining, cuffing; arresting; display of weapons)

C. Medical/Mental Health Triggers

- Off medications which treat emotional or mental disorders
- Auditory hallucinations (commanding; derogatory; mocking; threatening)
- Visual hallucinations or illusions
- Hallucinations of sensation (infestations; electrification; insertions; sharp objects)
- Delusions (persistent & totally unrealistic)
- Recent pain or injury
- Diabetes (critically low blood sugar)
- Post seizure confusion, anger or fear
- Infection, toxic or metabolic disorder
- Head trauma or head injury

III. HISTORY

A. Recent History

- Recently assaulted; unresolved conflict
- Barricaded; evading contact or capture
- Recently aggressive or violent
- Rapid loss of competence or functioning
- Recent possession of a weapon

B. Past History

- Long history of violence and aggression
- Past aggression or violence when using alcohol or drugs (& currently using)
- Hospitalized in past year as a danger to self or others in relation to mental illness
- Frequently aggressive or violent
- Past use of lethal weapons
- Violence is rewarded or goes unpunished
- Childhood (age 6 to 12 yrs - fire setting; animal cruelty & violent to family or others)

C. Social History

- Violent peers, family, or friends
- Lost or threatened social status
- Lost or threatened love relationship
- Marital, domestic or custody dispute
- Trouble at work or loss of job
- Financial or legal problems
- Weak family or community support base

D. Mental Health History

- Chronic chemical addiction & abuse
- Paranoia; or paranoid schizophrenia
- Manic-depressive (bipolar disorder)
- Personality disorder (Anti-social; Explosive; Borderline; Psychopathic)
- Severe depression, suicidal statements

- Repeated self-mutilating with scarring

IV. MOTIVATIONS

- Defending or securing freedom
- Gaining or maintaining a sense of control
- Behavior carried over from recent violence
- Survival or protection against a perceived danger or threat
- Overpowering opposition or resistance
- Dispensing punishment, justice or revenge
- Maintaining, changing or improving one's image, status or reputation
- Blaming, acting out or releasing emotional pressure
- Inviting self-punishment (relief from guilt)
- Civil or rationalized disobedience
- Individual observation of violence with group diffusion of individual responsibility or consequences ("widing")

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL STATUS

- Consciousness (stuporous; clouded drowsy; changing level)
- Disorientated (re: name; date; location)
- Attitude (uncooperative; argumentative; guarded; distrusting; coercive; hostile)
- Speech (disorganized; rambling; bizarre; incoherent; tangential; pressured)
- Thought process (racing; wandering; confused; disorganized)
- Judgment & problem solving (poor, irrational; impulsive)
- Impaired recent or long term memory
- Emotional state (expansive; fearful, sad; inappropriate, angry; irritable; aggressive)
- Excessive energy, restless, agitated
- Mood or feelings out of proportion or do not fit the situation; feelings of unreality
- Rapid or unusual mood swings; rapid or very recent onset of an emotional block
- Delusions - unrealistic or unusual beliefs of (persecution; greatness; importance; a conspiracy; their identity; guilt; danger; the future; death; jealousy; being influenced; having special roles, powers, relationships or invulnerability)
- Hallucinations (hearing; seeing; smelling or feeling something that does not exist)
- Illusions (misinterpreting actual stimuli)
- Obsessive thoughts which are reoccurring; intrusive; or distracting
- An increase in compulsive behavior seen in repeated behaviors & mannerisms