

I have been doing this for 19 years and some change. I am the first link in the chain of survival, the actual first responder. I am the voice of calm in the storm. I hear peoples worst days on a daily basis. I have listened to people die on the phone with me. I have talked people down from killing themselves. I have helped callers perform CPR and save their loved ones. I sometimes cry all the way home, and then go in and hug my loved ones. As a result I operate at a higher level of stress every day in my job and outside of it. I work with amazing people who do the same every day. We show up whether its icy or snowy, to do the job many can't or won't. Also we never have a normal shift. Just like our first responder brothers and sisters we are mandatoried into very long shifts. We also give up our holidays and our kids birthdays to serve our communities. These are just some of the main reasons we should be considered first responders.