



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DART Responds to the Workplace Violence Crisis

Some 2 million American workers are victims of workplace violence each year. Workplace violence can occur anywhere; no workplace is immune. Some workers, however, are at increased risk (e.g., healthcare and schools).

Workplace violence continues to affect all industries, especially healthcare. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that injuries to healthcare workers by another person more than doubled from 4,010 in 2011 to 8,590 in 2020. Intentional injuries to all types of workers also increased over that period, but by a less extreme 29%.

“One of the best ways to prevent workplace violence is to be prepared as much as possible. DART’s verbal de-escalation program provides tools and techniques to help workforce staff learn to de-escalate situations before they evolve into physical violence”, said Debbie Morgan, Principal of DMINC Consulting.

DART, Inc., is a Colorado nonprofit corporation that provides professional instruction in the prevention and management of violence in the workplace, in relationships, and in any other setting where violence may occur.

Through its [WorkSmart](#) program, DART provides in-person and on-line violence prevention training to employers and organizations in the United States and Canada. *WorkSmart* addresses topics including verbal de-escalation and situational awareness as well as provides a Train-the-Trainer Program. Its training goals are to enhance employee confidence, ensure a safer workplace environment, and positively impact employee retention.

“Violence prevention training is essential to maintaining a safe work environment and increasing employee retention”, said Michele Dusenbery, Executive Director of DART.

“When all employees recognize the warning signs of an escalating situation and know how to properly respond, the response can be effective in bringing the situation back under control. Providing verbal de-escalation training to employees also demonstrates management support and can be an important component of a Workplace Safety System.” For more information about what a *Workplace Safety System* entails, click here ([link to Defense Awareness Response Training | Dedicated to Violence Prevention Training \(dartdefense.org\)](http://dartdefense.org)).

DART recently updated its [website](#) to be more responsive to client needs. Besides describing the programs above, the new website has developed an extensive [Resource Section](#) that has many valuable resources such as

- Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence
- Workplace Violence in Healthcare
- Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs
- Elements of an Effective Workplace Violence Policy

These resources will be expanded to provide corporations, retail businesses, and healthcare organizations with promising workplace safety practices. It also has added a growing [Blog Section](#) ([link to Defense Awareness Response Training | Dedicated to Violence Prevention Training \(dartdefense.org\)](http://dartdefense.org)) that has articles written by DART staff as well as from other organizations.

About DART

DART, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Colorado. With more than twenty years of experience, DART offers courses created by experts in violence prevention, law enforcement, and education. DART offers highly effective courses in violence prevention and violence management for dating, workplace, and stalking situations. DART’s goals in every workplace training session are to enhance employee confidence, ensure a safer workplace environment, and positively impact employee retention.

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“People have the right to live free of violence.”

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