

Questionnaire From the Quantitative, Nationwide Survey on Violence Against Rescue and Emergency Personnel

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Overview

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Subjective Classification of Violence.....	3
3. Description of an Incident of Violence.....	6
4. Individual Coping and Impact of Violence	9
5. Organisational Management of Violence	10
6. Sociodemographic Data	12
7. Closing Remarks	13

1. Introduction

Dear colleagues and comrades in the fire and rescue services,

Thank you for your willingness to take part in this survey. It is part of the SAGRE project (Protection Against Aggression and Violence for Emergency and Rescue Personnel in Non-Police Emergency Response Services), jointly conducted by the Berlin Fire Brigade, the Bavarian Red Cross, and the Berlin School of Economics and Law.

By completing this survey, you will help us gain a better understanding of the causes and dynamics of aggression and violence directed towards emergency and rescue personnel. We are interested not only in your personal experiences of violence and aggression, but also in your views on how your organization deals with such incidents and your assessment of potential protective measures and areas for improvement.

Important: You are welcome to participate even if you have never personally experienced violence or aggression. Every perspective matters. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes.

Data Protection

Data Subject Rights: You have the right to obtain information, free of charge and at any time, from the controller regarding any personal data stored about you. If you wish to exercise this right of access, you may contact the responsible department at any time.

If your personal data is processed and you are a data subject within the meaning of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation/ DSGVO), you have the following rights against the controller:

Right of access

Right to rectification

- Right to restriction of processing

- Right to erasure
- Right to be informed
- Right to notification regarding the disclosure of personal data to third parties
- Right to data portability
- Right to object
- Right to withdraw consent to data processing at any time
- Right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority

This translation uses standard British English and GDPR terminology commonly found in privacy notices and research surveys.

Furthermore, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent data protection supervisory authority. (Berliner Beauftragte für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit, Alt-Moabit, 10555 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 13889-0, Fax: (030) 2155050, E-Mail: mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de)

By giving your consent, you confirm the following:

- I have been informed about the purpose for which my data will be used and that I have the right to withhold my consent.
- My consent is given voluntarily and can be revoked at any time. The withdrawal of consent shall not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal
- The notice of withdrawal must be sent to the department responsible for the project.
- I have taken note of the mandatory information regarding the GDPR. I have also been informed about my rights as a data subject.
- I am aware that if I refuse or withdraw my consent, I will not or no longer be able to participate in the survey.
- I am aware that any personal data I enter into free-text fields will be visible to the project staff but will not be published. Furthermore, potentially identifiable data will be analyzed anonymously or in an aggregated form, and IP addresses will not be stored.

Mandatory Information under the GDPR and Information on Data Subject Rights

Name and Contact Details of the Controller

Berliner Feuerwehr

Voltairestr. 2, 10179 Berlin, Deutschland

Tel.: +49 30 387 111

E-Mail: information@berliner-feuerwehr.de

Website: www.berliner-feuerwehr.de

Categories of Personal Data Being Processed

Personenbezogene Daten (Art. 4 Nr. 1 DSGVO)

Purposes for which the personal data is intended to be processed

The overall objective of the Berlin Fire Department's sub-project is to investigate violence against emergency and rescue personnel in non-police emergency services, thereby creating actionable options for the effective prevention of and response to aggression and violence against these forces.

Legal basis for the processing

Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. a DSGVO

Recipients of the personal data

Berlin Fire Brigade, staff of the SAGRE project within the Research Projects Staff

Transfers of personal data to a third country

Your personal data will not be transferred to a third country.

Data Erasure and Storage Period

The data will be stored for one year in accordance with the following legal provisions: Art. 5 Abs. 1 lit. e DSGVO i. V. m. § 27 Abs. 3 BDSG

If the purpose of storage ceases to apply, or if a storage period prescribed by the legislator expires, the personal data will be routinely blocked or erased in accordance with statutory regulations.

- I hereby consent, pursuant to Art. 6 (1) (a) DSGVO, to the processing of my data for the aforementioned research purposes and confirm that I am at least 18 and under 70 years of age
- I do not consent. (Participation in the survey is not possible in this case.)

2. Subjective Classification of Violence

As an introduction, we would like to understand your personal concept of violence. Please bear in mind: There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your personal evaluation — we aim to raise visibility for the perspectives of those (potentially) affected.

Which of the following acts would you categorize as violence?

	Violence	No violence	Not specified
Disruption of work	☐	☐	☐
Disrespect/ lack of appreciation	☐	☐	☐
Insult by words or gestures	☐	☐	☐
Intimidation by words and gestures	☐	☐	☐
Threat with a dangerous object/ weapon/ vehicle	☐	☐	☐
Throwing of objects (bottles, stones, pyrotechnics)	☐	☐	☐
Physical assault involving a dangerous object, weapon, or motor vehicle	☐	☐	☐
Other physical assault (e.g., hair pulling, cornering/ harassment, spitting, or biting)	☐	☐	☐
Discrimination	☐	☐	☐
Physical sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐
Verbal sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐
Sexual assault	☐	☐	☐
Dangerous driving	☐	☐	☐
Damage to government property	☐	☐	☐

For each of the actions mentioned, please state how burdensome you find them.

	1 Not burden- some at all	2	3	4	5 Very burdensome	6 Not specified
Disruption of work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disrespect/ lack of appreciation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Insult by words or gestures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intimidation by words and gestures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Threat with a dangerous object/ weapon / vehicle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Throwing of objects (bottles, stones, pyrotechnics)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical assault involving a dangerous object, weapon, or motor vehicle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other physical assault (e.g., hair pulling, cornering/ harassment, spitting, or biting)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
discrimination	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Verbal sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sexual assault	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dangerous driving	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Damage to government property	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How often have you experienced the following actions during your operational duties recently?

	Every Day	Every Week	Every 1-2 months	Every 3-6 months	Once a year	Less often	Never	Not specified
Disruption of work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disrespect / lack of appreciation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Insult by words or gestures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intimidation by words and gestures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Threat with a dangerous object / weapon / vehicle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Throwing of objects (bottles, stones, pyrotechnics)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical assault involving a dangerous object, weapon, or motor vehicle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other physical assault (e.g., hair pulling, cornering/ harassment, spitting, or biting)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
discrimination	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Verbal sexual harassment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sexual assault	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dangerous driving	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Damage to government property	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Description of an Incident of Violence

In this section, we would like to ask you to think of a specific incident of violence that you have personally experienced or witnessed, and which you feel is particularly characteristic of violence in your profession.

What type of violence were you or your colleagues exposed to in that situation?

Only one answer possible

- ☐ Disruption of work
- ☐ Disrespect/ lack of appreciation
- ☐ Insult by words or gestures
- ☐ Intimidation by words and gestures
- ☐ Threat with a dangerous object/ weapon/ vehicle
- ☐ Throwing of objects (bottles, stones, pyrotechnics)
- ☐ Physical assault involving a dangerous object, weapon, or motor vehicle
- ☐ Other physical assault (e.g., hair pulling, cornering/ harassment, spitting, or biting)
- ☐ discrimination
- ☐ Physical sexual harassment
- ☐ Verbal sexual harassment
- ☐ Sexual assault
- ☐ Dangerous driving
- ☐ Damage to government property
- ☐ Other (*please specify*)
- ☐ Not specified

Who was the perpetrator of the violence?

Multiple answers possible

- ☐ Patient / Person involved in the operation
- ☐ Relatives or friends of the subject
- ☐ Uninvolved third parties (passers-by, neighbors, etc.)
- ☐ Other (*free text input*)
- ☐ Not specified

Approximately how many people became violent?

Select one option only

- ☐ 1 person
- ☐ 2 people
- ☐ 3 people
- ☐ 4 people
- ☐ 5 people
- ☐ Different number of people (*free text input*)
- ☐ Not specified

On which day of the week did the situation occur?

Select one option only

- ☐ During the week (Monday to Friday afternoon)
- ☐ Weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday)
- ☐ Not specified

Approximately what time did the situation occur?

Please enter the time using the 24-hour format (e.g., 13:00 or 01:00).

- ☐ The situation occurred at approximately (*free text input*)
- ☐ Not specified

In which area did the situation occur?

Select one option only

- ☐ Nightlife district
- ☐ Station area
- ☐ Shopping street / Commercial area
- ☐ Industrial estate
- ☐ Park / Green space
- ☐ transport routes
- ☐ Residential area (single-family house)
- ☐ Residential area (apartment buildings)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not specified

What was the reason for the operation?

Multiple answers possible

- ☐ Routine operation
- ☐ Demonstration
- ☐ Large-scale events (5,000+ people)
- ☐ Nightlife
- ☐ New Year's Eve
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not specified

At what point during the operation did the situation occur?

Multiple answers possible

- ☐ During the call to the control room/ dispatch center
- ☐ During the journey to the scene
- ☐ Upon arrival at the scene
- ☐ During the patient assessment/ diagnosis
- ☐ During treatment
- ☐ During patient transport
- ☐ Death of a patient
- ☐ During exploration
- ☐ During firefighting
- ☐ During technical rescue operations
- ☐ During securing the scene
- ☐ During the winding down of the operation
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not specified

4. Individual Coping and Impact of Violence

This section focuses on how you personally cope with incidents of violence and the impact they have on you.

How helpful do you consider the following aspects when dealing with violence during an operation?

	1 Not helpful at all	2	3 Neither helpful nor unhelpful	4	5 Very helpful	6 Not specified
Requesting additional backup	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Request police support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ignoring it	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Withdraw from the situation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Defending oneself verbally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Defending oneself physically	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How helpful do you consider the following aspects to be after you or your colleagues have experienced violence while on duty?

	1 Not helpful at all	2	3 Neither helpful nor unhelpful	4	5 Very helpful	6 Not specified
Attending an operational debrief	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Documenting or reporting the incident internally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Keeping it to oneself / remaining silent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Talking about it with family or friends	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Talking about it with colleagues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Seeking psychosocial or psychological support (z. B. ENT or PSNV-E)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Seeking medical support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Taking a break from duty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Filing a criminal complaint or informing the police	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Receiving support during legal proceedings (including compensation for attendance)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What long-term changes can be seen in you or your colleagues as a result of violence during operational duties?

Multiple answers possible

- ☐ No long-term changes can be seen.
- ☐ It leads to demotivation or frustration.
- ☐ There is a concern about being attacked while on duty.
- ☐ Consideration is given to changing stations/departments
- ☐ A career change is being considered.
- ☐ The experiences spill over into personal/leisure time.
- ☐ Other (*free text input*)
- ☐ Not Specified

5. Organizational Management of Violence

This section focuses on how your public employer handles incidents of violence. We want to know what should be improved for your protection.

How accurate are the following statements after you have experienced violence while on duty? My supervisor...

	1 Not accurate at all	2	3 Moderately accurate	4	5 Completely accurate	6 Not specified
... supports me when dealing with third parties.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
... trusts my account of events.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
... praises me after I have managed difficult tasks.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
... helps me to find solutions to problems.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How useful do you consider the following measures in your agency for protection against violence?

	1 Not effective at all	2	3 Neither effective nor ineffective	4	5 Very effective	Not offered	Not specified
De-escalation training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal safety training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intercultural competence training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Training on dealing with mentally ill patients	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protective equipment (e.g. safety glass in operational vehicles)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exercises for handling violent incidents	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contact person for incidents of violence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use of bodycams	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How often do you report incidents of violence within your organization?

1 Always	2	3 Sometimes	4	5 Never	Prefer not to say
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What reasons do you have against reporting incidents?

Multiple answers possible

- ☐ I do not know who to turn to.
- ☐ I feel that it will not achieve anything anyway.
- ☐ The perpetrators are usually not legally responsible due to mental incapacity.
- ☐ I am afraid of negative consequences for my career.
- ☐ The incidents did not seem serious enough to me.
- ☐ I do not have the time for it.
- ☐ My colleagues advised me against it.
- ☐ There is no clear reporting process, or I am not familiar with it.
- ☐ I worry that I will not be taken seriously.
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No response

6. Sociodemographic Data

Finally, we would like to ask you for some general information.

In which federal state do you work?

Only one answer possible

- ☐ Baden-Württemberg
- ☐ Bayern
- ☐ Berlin
- ☐ Brandenburg
- ☐ Bremen
- ☐ Hamburg
- ☐ Hessen
- ☐ Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- ☐ Niedersachsen
- ☐ Nordrhein-Westfalen
- ☐ Rheinland-Pfalz
- ☐ Saarland
- ☐ Sachsen
- ☐ Sachsen-Anhalt
- ☐ Schleswig-Holstein
- ☐ Thüringen
- ☐ Not specified

In which position do you work?

Only one answer possible

- ☐ Mittlerer Dienst (z. B. Brandmeister)
- ☐ Gehobener Dienst (z. B. Brandinspektor)
- ☐ Höherer Dienst (z. B. Brandrat)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please state your gender.

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How old are you?

- ☐ I am years old.
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How many years of service do you have?

- ☐ For years.
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you hold a leadership role?

- ☐ Yes, I have leadership responsibility, but the personnel reporting to me do not lead any other individuals.
- ☐ Yes, I have leadership responsibility, and I lead individuals who also hold leadership responsibilities.
- ☐ No, I do not have leadership responsibilities.
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If there is anything else you would like to share with us, please feel free to do so here.

(Free text input)

7. Closing Remarks

Thank you very much for your participation in this survey! The results of the survey will be published in the fall of 2025 on projekt-sagre.de. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like to be informed about the results, please feel free to contact us at:

sagre@berliner-feuerwehr.de

Your responses have been saved. You may now close this browser window.