

Civilian Vignette 15 – Happy Hour

Topic: Prevention, Bystander Intervention

Situation: Happy Hour

It is happy hour at a local bar. You are part of a group from the office that decides to go to the bar. You notice one of the group members, Kit, is chatting up a stranger and slamming drinks quickly. You are a little concerned, but you know Kit was hoping to “hook up” tonight. A bit later, you notice Kit and the stranger heading toward the exit of the club. Kit has had so many drinks that walking without help is impossible.

You think to yourself, “That’s not good, but Kit did plan to ‘hook up’, so...”

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there something wrong here?
2. Do you feel like you should do something?
3. What would you do?
4. Are there other ways to handle this situation?

Solution:

Leaving with a stranger puts Kit at risk. Kit has obviously had too many drinks to make a rational decision. Even though the plan was to hook up, you should intervene before allowing them to leave. Every situation is different and how you could handle this particular situation could vary greatly. Using the 3 D’s approach could be an effective intervention strategy. Options could include getting the bartender/bouncers involved, distracting the stranger, or simply being direct and telling the stranger to back off.

What would you do if Kit was going to drive? You’d do whatever it took to get their keys. The same applies here. You could prevent potential catastrophic harm to someone. Whatever you can do to protect Kit, you need to do it.