Berger and Calabrese (1975) determined that in order to reduce uncertainty, people would use one of three strategies: interactive, active, and passive.

The purpose of this study is to determine how significant the impact of occupational training and experience received by first responders and healthcare professionals is, when compared to the general population in reducing uncertainty and eliminating the Bystander effect in Emergency situations.

Bystander Effect: Phenomenon in which individuals are less likely to offer help when others are present

Uncertainty Reduction Theory: “Uncertainty creates cognitive discomfort; which people will try to reduce” (Berger & Calabrese, 1975).

Interactive Approach: Interact directly with the emergent situation

Active Approach: Calling professionals to interact with the emergent situation

Passive: Do not interact with emergent situation

In Emergent Situations...

Healthcare professionals were found to take a 66% interactive approach when alone and 79% when experienced in a group.

General public were found to take an active approach 61% when alone. However, 66% were found to take an interactive approach when in a group.

In a group setting, both groups were found to take an interactive approach: The Bystander effect was found to be disproven for this study.