

## **Abstract**

Paramedics and other first responders are believed to be a high-risk group for experiencing trauma and developing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Given the potentially compounding effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the interpersonal isolation experienced as the result of social distancing, and the front-line nature of their jobs, whether paramedics were at increased risk for developing PTSD after a traumatic event, both during and since the pandemic was explored. The current study was a qualitative investigation into the experiences of work-related traumatic events for BC paramedics. Participants were current BC paramedics with a minimum of four years experience, including two years during the COVID-19 pandemic [from March 2020 to December 2023]. Interviews were conducted to