

## Your Body's Possible Reactions to Crisis and Stress

Your body releases 132 chemicals into your system when it is under stress. Your adrenal gland and thyroid regulate these chemicals.

| What can happen  | How to help   |
|--|---|
| Eating Patterns Change: Eating LESS or Eating MORE   | <ul> <li>Eat Healthy – Plenty of Protein, Vegetables &amp; Fruit</li> <li>Drink a lot of Water</li> </ul>   |
| Sleeping Patterns Change: Sleep is DISRUPTED Hard time falling asleep Nightmares   | <ul> <li>Avoid Naps</li> <li>Avoid Caffeine, Alcohol, and illicit drugs – these all interrupt sleep.</li> </ul>                                   |
| "Tapes" keeping playing themselves over and over in your head.  Your brain is trying to find a way to sort it out and fit it in in a way it can survive. | <ul> <li>Let the thoughts run.</li> <li>If you can't handle it, tell yourself you will think about it later on a certain day and time.</li> </ul> |
| Heart Racing / Feeling Scared  | <ul> <li>Slow / Deep Breathing</li> <li>2 breath counts in &amp; 3 breath counts out</li> </ul>   |

## Stages of Grief

Shock / Disbelief Sad / Depressed Angry Bargaining Acceptance

All of these stages and feelings are <u>normal</u>.

They don't necessarily go in order.

You may even feel all of them at the same time.

Everyone reaches "acceptance" at his/her own pace.