



# ALLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ALLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES

### Yellow Dot Program

The Yellow Dot program enables people to place a Yellow Dot decal on the driver's side rear window of a vehicle to alert First Responders that there is medical or other information which is available to help the driver or make notification to family or caregivers. Having this information following a crash helps First Responders positively identify the person, get in touch with family or emergency contacts and insures that the person's current medications and pre-existing medical conditions are considered when treatment is administered for injuries.

A Yellow Dot decal may also be placed on the front door of the participant's residence. This placement functions the same as the Vial of Life decal which alerts First Responders to the presence of a packet of information in the home.

The Yellow Dot program can help save lives during the critical "Golden Hour" and the even more important "Platinum 10 Minutes" by improving communication at a time when accident victims may be unable to communicate for themselves by providing summarized medical information that can be crucial following a crash.

The Allendale Yellow Dot stickers are a bit different from the ones seen on the Yellow Dot web site. They were designed this way to allow for quickly finding the participant's information and to help preserve their privacy. By using a numerically indexed sticker, the medical and other information need not be held in the vehicle, where it may be accessible by people other than First Responders. Anyone coming in contact with the participant is advised to contact Allendale Police for the information. Using the unique flag number on the sticker our communications personnel can locate the proper information and give it to the first responder requesting it.

For additional information see the following article from *Emergency Management* magazine:  
<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/New-Jersey-Program-Cars-Emergency-Responders.html>

For more on the Yellow Dot program: [http://www.myyellowdots.com/home\\_page.html](http://www.myyellowdots.com/home_page.html)



## **Vial of Life**

The Vial of Life program is closely related to the Yellow Dot program in that it is used to communicate that a packet with medical and other information is contained somewhere in the home. Usually, the Vial of Life packet is on the refrigerator, but it can be located anywhere. Participants in Vial of Life will be given a set of uniquely numbered stickers (the same ones as for the Yellow Dot program, above) to place on the outside of their information packet. We would also keep a copy of the information at Police Headquarters, in case the packet gets misplaced or is inaccessible when needed.

For more information see the Vial of Life web site: <http://www.vialoflife.com>

## **Project Lifesaver**

Project Lifesaver is a Bergen County Sheriff's Office program wherein a person with Alzheimer's, Autism, Downs Syndrome, dementia or a related condition is fitted with a one-ounce, battery-operated radio wrist transmitter that emits a silent tracking signal every second, 24-hours-a-day. The signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air from several miles.

Each wristband has a unique frequency, so the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver team can positively locate and identify a person who has wandered away from home using a specially designed radio receiver.

If a participant becomes missing, the caregiver would first contact his or her local police, who would then initiate a search while contacting the Sheriff's Office. A team of specially trained officers from the Sheriff's Office would respond and search, utilizing the electronic tracking equipment.

The team is trained in methods necessary to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome or a related condition. The team knows how to approach a disoriented person, gain their trust, and put them at ease for the trip home.

Project Lifesaver was established in 1999 by the Chesapeake, Virginia, Sheriff's Office. The program has rescued more than 2,143 people in the last 10 years with a 100 percent success rate. In areas where the system has been used, search times have been greatly reduced, which can mean the difference between life and death. The average rescue is less than 20 minutes and the program has saved many hundreds of hours of search time and public resources.

If you are a caregiver of an individual with Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome or a related condition, and are interested in applying for Project Lifesaver Please call the Bergen County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Unit at 201-336-3540 to request an application. If desired, we can help with the application process.

### **Participation Criteria**

- ❖ Participants must be diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome, dementia or a related condition.
- ❖ Participants must live in Bergen County in a private residence with a 24-hour, live-in caregiver.
- ❖ There is a one-time equipment fee of \$300 for the wrist transmitter, band, battery, clips and battery tester. Income-eligible participants may qualify for a waiver of the initial equipment fee.
- ❖ A monthly maintenance fee of \$13 covers the cost of the bracelet and battery.

- ❖ The wrist transmitter remains the property of the Bergen County Sheriff's Office. Once the individual is no longer utilizing the unit, it is returned and reassigned to another participant in the program.
- ❖ An officer from the Sheriff's Office will schedule an appointment to attach the wristband unit and train a caregiver in how the equipment works.

For more information, please look at the brochure provided by the Sheriff's Office:

[http://www.bcsd.us/PDFs/Project\\_Lifesaver\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.bcsd.us/PDFs/Project_Lifesaver_Brochure.pdf)

### **Medical Alert Systems**

A medical alert device is generally a small fob with a button activated switch worn around a person's neck which is linked to a desktop transmitter. When the button on the fob is pressed the transmitter calls an operator who can gather pertinent information and contact emergency services personnel. Medical alerting devices are managed by private companies which provide the notification services to first responders. While we cannot recommend one service over another, we can provide the names of services we are aware of, and maintain medical information in our Special Needs Registry. For more information:

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2014/06/what-to-look-for-in-a-medical-alert-system/index.htm>

### **Operation Reassurance**

Operation Reassurance is a program administered by the Allendale Police Department, where a participant living alone calls our communications center each day, usually before 10:00 AM. If we do not receive a call, an officer is sent to the person's home to check on them and assure they are alright. The intention of Operation Reassurance is to make sure that people living alone will have personal contact each day with someone to make sure all is well.

### **Gold Star ID Program**

The Gold Star Identification Program provides first responders with vital medical information in the event of an emergency. Participants are issued a photo identification card, which corresponds to a file maintained by the Bergen County Sheriff's Office's 24-Hour Operations Unit. The program is available for county residents over the age of 65 and residents with autism. If a Gold Star cardholder ever becomes incapacitated during an emergency, BCSO's Operations Unit can provide the emergency contact information to first responders.

We are currently exploring the possibility of offering an ID card to any participant in our Special Needs Registry who desires one. This Allendale Police ID card would contain the participant's name, photo, and flag number, which allows us to retrieve pertinent medical or contact information should the person not be able to communicate on their own.

For additional information: <http://www.bcsd.us/SitePages/adultprograms.aspx>

There are a variety of resources we can offer for people with special needs. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for one or more of them please contact either Officer Kevin Azevedo, our Special Needs Liaison Officer or myself. Our email is [specialneeds@allendalepd.org](mailto:specialneeds@allendalepd.org), or you may call or stop in also.