



Auburn Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

May 22, 2014

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AUBURN POLICE PARTNER WITH PROJECT LIFESAVER TO PROTECT THOSE WITH COGNITIVE CONDITIONS WHO WANDER

The Auburn Police Department is pleased to announce its partnership with the Project Lifesaver Program. Designed to track and rescue those with cognitive conditions who tend to wander, this service answers a critical need for protecting the citizens of Auburn who are at risk of wandering, including those with Alzheimer's, Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Down Syndrome and Dementia.

Clients enrolled in the service will wear a wrist-watch sized radio transmitter on their wrist or ankle. The transmitter constantly emits a radio-frequency signal, which can be tracked, regardless of where the person has wandered, even into a densely wooded area, a marsh, a concrete structure such as a garage, or a building constructed with steel. When a loved one goes missing, caregivers notify 9-1-1 and officers are dispatched to the wanderer's last known area with the average rescue time of approximately 30 minutes.

Several Auburn officers have been certified as Electronic Search Specialists with the Project Lifesaver Program. These officers have been trained on how to initiate electronic searches as well as interacting with people with cognitive conditions once they have been located.

"This partnership with Project Lifesaver will enhance our response capabilities when searching for people who may have cognitive impairment and have wandered off" stated Police Chief Phillip L. Crowell Jr. "Time is a critical element in the success rate of these types of searches and Project Lifesaver will dramatically reduce search time and improve our chances of a successful search" said Crowell.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through Project Lifesaver. The department will have up to ten electronic transmitters available for the program. Should program participation exceed existing equipment availability, people will have the option of being placed on a waiting list or to purchase a Project Lifesaver transmitter on their own. Program participants will be asked to pay a \$50 annual maintenance fee to cover the cost of transmitter batteries.

The Auburn Police Department will be holding an informational meeting on the Project Lifesaver Program at the Auburn Public Library, Androscoggin Community Room on Monday, June 9th, 2014 from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

For more information on how to participate in the program, please contact Officer Michael Chaine at 207-333-6650 Ext 2058 mchaine@auburnmaine.gov or Project Lifesaver at 1-877-580-LIFE (5433) www.projectlifesaver.org

For media inquiries on the Project Lifesaver Program, please contact Deputy Chief Jason Moen 207-333-6650 Ext 2052 jmoen@auburnmaine.gov