

# SAFETY CORNER

## Public Safety Newsletter

TOPIC: Project Lifesaver  
Written By: Andy Mentele-  
Traffic Assistant/Search & Rescue  
Date: October 17, 2008



Hello! I am Andy Mentele, a Traffic Assistant with the Mitchell Department of Public Safety.

In addition to working in the traffic department, I am also a member of the Davison County Volunteer Search & Rescue team, which brings me to my topic of "Project Lifesaver".

Project Lifesaver is a program that uses radio frequencies to help locate victims with Alzheimer's or other related disorders, who have wandered from home or have become lost. The program uses bracelets that transmit a specific frequency for each person. When a victim wanders away, we can program our receiver with their specific frequency and begin looking for that person. Project Lifesaver was implemented into the City of Mitchell through a grant.

An individual interested in Project Lifesaver must have a medical reason to wander such as autism, Alzheimer's, or Down syndrome, to receive a transmitter.

Once a person is found to qualify for the Project Lifesaver program, caregivers must sign an agreement to test the battery each day and to log the date and time it was tested. The battery is replaced and tested by the Mitchell Department of Public Safety's RSVPatrol each month. A working battery is essential for Search & Rescue members. Without a working battery, the system is useless. Search and Rescue also trains several times a year with a live "victim" search to keep our skills fresh.

In addition to the testing of the battery, family members or caregivers must agree to pay a yearly fee of \$300 or set-up monthly payments for the program. The fee is used to replenish the batteries, bracelets, and transmitters.

If you would like more information on whether your loved one qualifies for a "Project Lifesaver" bracelet, please feel free to contact Chief Lyndon Overweg or Cindy Titze of the Mitchell Police Department at 605-995-8400.

Sincerely,

Andy Mentele  
Traffic Assistant/Search & Rescue

If you would like to learn about certain topics please email [cindy@mitchelldps.com](mailto:cindy@mitchelldps.com) and reference Safety Corner.

