



RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Presents PROJECT LIFESAVER



“Protecting Those Who Wander”

- **Alzheimer's Disease**
- **Dementia**
- **Autism**
- **Down Syndrome**

Project Lifesaver is the world's most reliable program for locating missing persons and providing safety through a proven, rapid response system. Project Lifesaver is the most practical, affordable and successful solution for bringing loved ones home and giving peace of mind to the caregivers.

What is Project Lifesaver? It is a system to rapidly locate vulnerable people that have a tendency to wander off and get lost. In the event a vulnerable person gets separated from caregivers - it is a tracking tool to quickly bring him/her to safety.

The system is administered by a law enforcement agency (police or sheriff's departments), and includes: equipment; training; procedures and forms.

Who is a typical “client” of Project Lifesaver? People with Alzheimer's Disease, autism, Down Syndrome, stroke, traumatic brain injury, or other short-term memory ailment.

How does it work? When a candidate is accepted into the program, a personal locating unit device, about the size of a wristwatch, is attached to his/her wrist or ankle using a hospital ID type of band. It is worn 24/7 (waterproof) and transmits a radio pulse or “chirp” every second. In the event he/she can't be located, the authorities are contacted by the caregivers, informed that the missing person is a Project Lifesaver client and told of his/her last known location. With this information, the participating agency can respond and find him/her more quickly using tracking radio receivers. The range on the transmitters is about one mile on the ground and up to seven miles from the air.

Why is Project Lifesaver important? As people with Alzheimer's lose their short-term memory, they can develop “Mission Impossible” type of reasoning to return to a former place of employment, former residence, school, or other places that they were “supposed to be.” Research shows that if they are missing for 24 hours there is only a 50% survival rate.

10% of the population at age 65 have some degree of Alzheimer's. By age 85 that number jumps to 50%!! Because people are living longer, the 5 million people with Alzheimer's are projected to increase in numbers to 15 million by the year 2030.

One child in 150 births has some degree of autism. People with autism typically have a lessened sense of fear and may be calmed by water. They may be anti-social, not responding to their name and hiding from searchers. Unfortunately, several people with autism have drowned in our area.

Searches without Project Lifesaver often involve many volunteers supervised by public safety personnel. Transportation for volunteers must be provided to the search location and searchers must look anywhere and everywhere.

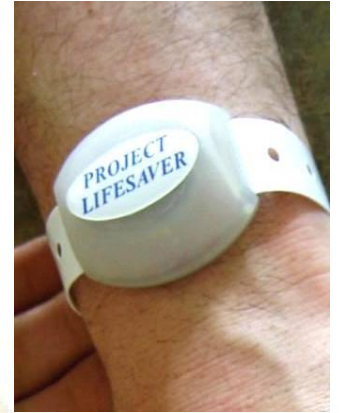
Prolonged searches require food and water for the volunteers. Search costs are very high despite the use of volunteers.

Searches with Project Lifesaver involve only a few trained people with the tracking equipment and average less than 30 minutes. There have been over 1,900 searches using Project Lifesaver in North America in the past 10 years. **All missing persons have been found alive.**

Where is it available?

At least 46 states have Project Lifesaver in one or more agencies. A few states have implemented Project Lifesaver state-wide. In Minnesota almost 20 law enforcement agencies are certified to offer Project Lifesaver. The number is growing rapidly.

How does a candidate get started with Project Lifesaver? If you are a resident of Ramsey County you may request an application from the Project Lifesaver coordinator at 651-266-7332 or e-mail ProjectLifesaver@co.ramsey.mn.us or for an on-line enrollment form go to www.LoJackSafetyNet.com. (Candidates are screened for appropriateness for the program.)



If your local public safety agency has not implemented Project Lifesaver, ASK them to start. Additional information can be found by contacting Project Lifesaver International, a non-profit organization in Chesapeake, VA. www.ProjectLifesaver.org, 1-877-580-5433.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Department will provide local answers and information. Please contact the **Project Lifesaver coordinator** at **651-266-7332**

What does it cost a client to enroll in Project Lifesaver?

The personal locator units are leased from LoJack Corporation. The startup fee is \$99 and the monthly fee is \$30 per client. Stipend money may be available for those who cannot afford the fees. Monthly battery changes require cutting off the band and replacing it. This is performed by Sheriff's Department personnel.

Project Lifesaver is a program that helps find our loved ones if they become lost. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Department has the technology that can help keep your vulnerable loved ones out of harm's way.

Do you know of community members who have loved ones with autism, Alzheimer's Disease, Down Syndrome, stroke, traumatic brain injury or other short-term memory issues? If people with these conditions wander off, they may not be able to find their way back.

Please consider contacting:

Ramsey County Sheriff's Department 651-266-7332

ProjectLifesaver@co.ramsey.mn.us