

Project Lifesaver

344.1 PURPOSE

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is committed to serving the families and the victims suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders such as Down Syndrome and Autism. Project Lifesaver will greatly increase the Sheriff's Office ability to locate victims of these debilitating diseases and return them safely to their families.

344.2 DEFINITIONS

Project Lifesaver Client - A person who is currently registered with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program.

Wristband - A personalized device that emits a radio tracking signal. The device is normally attached to the person's wrist but may be attached to their ankle.

Mobile Locator - A portable radio receiver that may be hand held or mounted in a vehicle and operated by specially trained personnel.

Mobile Locator Operator - All School Resource Officers (SROs) and Canine Handlers will be trained as Mobile Locator Operators.

344.3 PROCEDURES

Once it has been verified that a Project Lifesaver Client is missing the following procedures will be followed:

- (a) The Duty Officer will be notified and given all available information. The Duty Officer will make the decision as to personnel requirements for the search.
- (b) The Duty Officer will notify an on-duty unit trained in the use of the mobile locator. The supervisor in charge of the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program (K-9 Unit supervisor) will be notified once the mobile locator unit has been dispatched or if no mobile locator operator is available. The supervisor or his/her designee will then be responsible for mobilizing the program equipment operators.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of Project Lifesaver equipment operators to keep the personnel involved in the search informed of the progress and direct their movement as needed.
- (d) Once the Project Lifesaver client is located, the program supervisor or the incident supervisor will debrief the personnel involved in the search and complete a report on the incident which will be forwarded to the Sheriff via chain of command.

344.4 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Satisfactory completion of a two (2) day operator certification course.

Minimum of eight (8) hours of equipment operators training each six (6) month period after the completion of the original two (2) day operator certification course.

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344.5 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

It will be the responsibility of the supervisor in charge of the Project Lifesaver Program or his/her designee to maintain the calibration of the programs equipment.