

PREMISE ALERT, LIVING SAFELY, BUILDING NETWORKS

Created jointly by:

Susan F. Rzucidlo & Chief Kevin McCarthy, Sr.

© 2005-8 McCarthy&Rzucidlo

THE EXPERTS AGREE, IT CAN'T BE DONE!

- BUMBLEBEES

- "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is ...the only thing that ever has." Margaret Meade

Recent efforts to educate officers in Pennsylvania

- 2005 33,000 communication boards were distributed to every police officer in the state of PA in a joint effort between SPEAK Unlimited and MPOETC
- Autism 101 for Police Officers was distributed as well
- 2005 Philadelphia Police Department included autism training in their mandated training
- 2006 PSP included autism training in their intra-net system of mandated training.

Most recently in Pennsylvania

- Every Police Officer received Autism training in their mandatory continuing education program (Act 180)
- On August 6 Lancaster County Police Chiefs Association provided an extended autism training for their officers and invited York and Lebanon Counties to join them.

PREMISE ALERT

- April 7th 2008 Police Chief Kevin McCarthy and myself gifted the Premise Alert System to the Commonwealth.
- Rep. Chris Ross and Rep Barbara McIlvaine Smith
- Colonel Jeffrey Miller and Secretary Estelle Richman presented the program to the state with a joint endorsement from DPW and PSP.
- Endorsements from the Police Chiefs Association of Pennsylvania, the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, PA Dept of Education, Aging, all 4 legislative Caucuses and 30 other organizations.
- Our most recent endorser and partner in the Premise Alert is the Pennsylvania Grange.

PREMISE ALERT SYSTEM

Created jointly by:

Susan F. Rzucidlo & Chief Kevin McCarthy, Sr.

© 2005-8 McCarthy&Rzucidlo

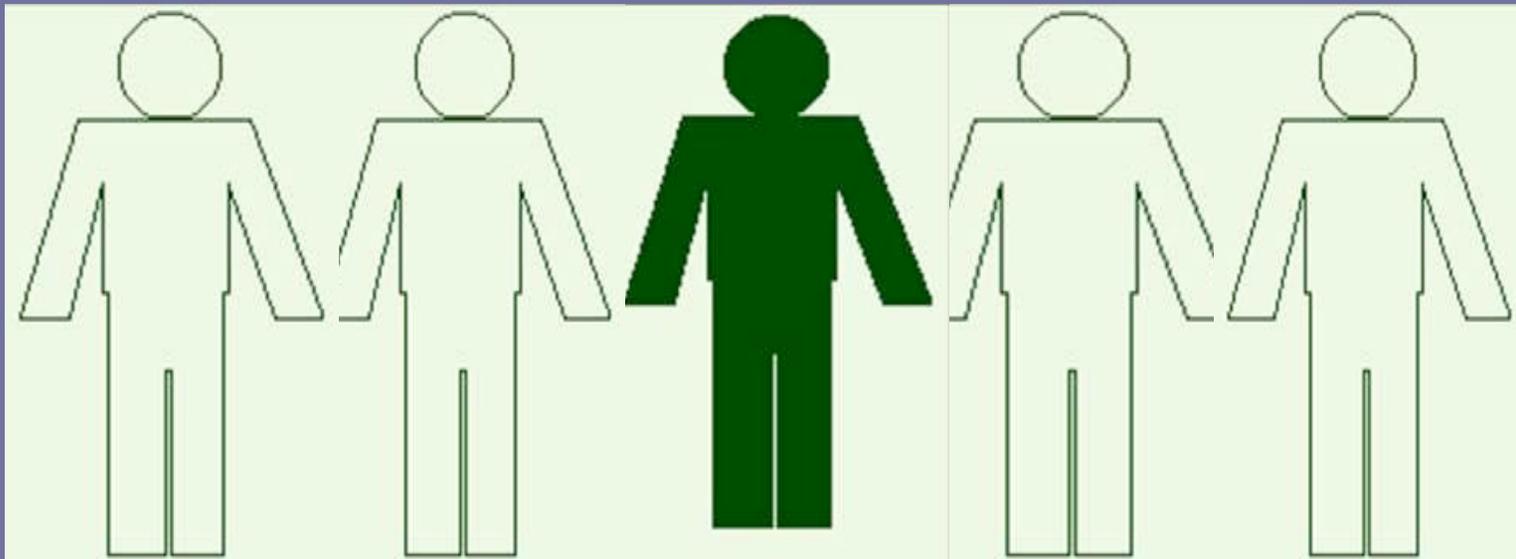
PREMISE ALERT

- **Not just for Autism**

There are individuals with rare medical needs, Alzheimer's patients, individuals with mental health challenges, those with mental retardation as well as individuals who may have oxygen tanks in their homes, or special life support systems that will require additional planning for evacuation and long term out of home placements.

Rate of Disability

- Almost one in five people has a disability. ³



Alzheimer's Disease

- Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that is the most common form of dementia.¹
- It affects about 4.5 million men and women in the United States.¹
- The number of Americans with Alzheimer's Disease has more than doubled since 1980.¹

Autism

- The incidence of autism has skyrocketed since 1990. In 1989 the rate of incidence was 1:10,000. Today the National Institutes of Health reports a rate of diagnosis at 1:150 persons. ²
- The incidence of autism continues to rise. ²

Mental Health Challenges

- About 5 million adults in the United States experience a severe mental health challenge in a 1-year period. ³
- 3.5% of the adult United States civilian **non-institutionalized** population is estimated to have a mental health challenge. That translates into approximately 6.7 million people. ³
- About 2.8% of the United States adult population has a severe mental health challenge, most commonly schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder. ³
- More than one in four people has a mental health challenge in any year. ³

Mental Retardation

- 1% of the non-institutionalized population live with some form of mental retardation. ³
- This translates into approximately 2.5 million people living with some form of mental retardation. They reside in communities across the United States. ³

Physical Challenges & Disabilities

- About 18 percent of Americans have indicated that they have a disability. ⁴
- About 12 percent of those have indicated that they have a severe disability. ⁴
- Approximately 4 percent, require personal assistance with an everyday activity. ⁴
- Approximately 1.8 million Americans are unable to see. ⁴
- Approximately 30 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing ⁴

Challenges and Disabilities

- You, your family, or your friends may be included in any of the previous statistics.

Assistance in emergency situations is available
in Pennsylvania

THE PREMISE ALERT SYSTEM

PREMISE ALERT

Goals & Objectives

- Provides families a uniform method to alert first responders about special needs.
- Provides first responders with advance knowledge of low rate, high risk interactions.
- Allows for quick and educated responses during crisis situations, evacuations and disasters.
- The form is provided free of charge to families.

PREMISE ALERT

Benefits

The Premise Alert...

- Builds good community relationships.
- Promotes good customer service opportunities for Police Departments.
- Assists in building natural supports for special needs individuals.
- Benefits officers, fire fighters, EMS practitioners and civilians alike.

PREMISE ALERT

Target Populations

- Any person who has a special need or disability such as, but not limited to:
 - Alzheimer's Disease
 - Autism
 - Mental Health Challenges
 - Mental Retardation
 - Physical challenges or disabilities
 - Rare or complex medical conditions

PREMISE ALERT

How the Premise Alert operates...

- An individual or family receives the form and completes it.
- They take the form to their local Police Department, State or Municipal, with a recent photo.
- That information is copied. One copy is kept on file and another is transmitted to the county 911 center or State Police Central Dispatch Center.
- The information is then loaded into the county 911 data base or the State Police Central Dispatch Center.

PREMISE ALERT

How the Premise Alert operates, cont.

- When a 911 call is made from that address the information is available to first responders, EMS, firefighters, or police.
- By providing person specific information an individual can be assisted any where in the county.
- If an individual is found, identification and contact with a responsible person can be accomplished using the information from the form in the police department.

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

Last Name, First Name of Individual

Date Form was Submitted

PREMISE ALERT REQUEST FORM PERSON SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Individual's Name and Date of Birth:

Address _____

County: _____ **Township/Borough/Municipality:** _____

Individual's Current Physical Description:

Male Female

Height:

Weight:

*Attach recent
photo here*

Eye color: **Hair color:**

Scars or other identifying marks:

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

■ ****Last Name, First Name of Individual**

■ **Date Form was submitted**

■ **PREMISE ALERT REQUEST FORM**
■ **PERSON SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

■ **Individual's Name**** _____

■ **Date of Birth** _____

■ **Address:** _____

■ _____

■ **County:** _____ **Township/Borough/Municipality:** _____

■ **Individual's Current Physical Description:**

■

■ **Male** **Female**

■ *Attach recent*

■ **Height:** _____ **Weight:** _____

■ _____

■ **Eye color:** _____ **Hair color:** _____

■ _____

photo here

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

- Scars or other identifying marks: _____
- _____

Relevant Medical Conditions:

- ___ Blind ___ Deaf ___ Non-Verbal ___ Physical Disability ___ Developmental Disability
- ___ Mental Retardation ___ Autism ___ Mental Health Challenges ___ Diabetes
- ___ Prone to Seizures ___ Alzheimer's Disease ___ Dementia ___ Acquired Brain Injury
- ___ Other Relevant Medical Conditions, area for further explanation:

HIV/AIDS IS NOT CONSIDERED A RELEVANT MEDICAL CONDITION FOR PURPOSES OF THIS FORM. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD INFORMATION RELATED TO AN INDIVIDUALS HIV/AIDS STATUS BE DISCLOSED ON THIS FORM BY ANYONE.

* *The name of the individual described on this form may be left off for reasons of privacy or confidentiality, such as in situations involving group homes, foster-care homes, or supportive living arrangements, one may simply enter the first name of the Individual to protect confidentiality. (That will not affect the acceptance or further processing of the information on this form.)

Sensory or dietary issues, if any:

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information First Responders may need:

Does the Individual live alone? _____

Is he/she likely to wander off? _____

Location of bedroom or likely place to find them in the household/residence at night:

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

Name of Emergency Contact (Parents/Guardians, Head of Household/Residence, or Care Providers):

Emergency Contact's Address:

County: _____

Township/Borough/Municipality: _____

Emergency Contact's Phone Numbers:

Home: _____ **Work:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Pager:** _____

TTD/TTY: _____

Name of Alternative Emergency Contact: _____

Home: _____ **Work:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Pager:** _____

TTD/TTY: _____

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE INDIVIDUAL

Favorite attractions or locations where the individual may be found:

Atypical behaviors or characteristics of the Individual that may attract attention of Responders:

Individual's favorite toys, objects, discussion topics, likes, or dislikes:

Method of Preferred Communication. (If nonverbal: Sign language, picture boards, written words, etc.):

Identification Information. (i.e. Does the individual carry or wear jewelry, tags, ID card, medical alert bracelets, etc.):

■

—

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

- **IMPORTANT:** Please review the following before completing, signing, and/or submitting this Premise Alert Form
 - If you choose to respond, the information may be submitted and added to the local, city, county, or state police dispatch systems for Emergency Operations.
 - **Responding to this form is voluntary.** This form may be filled out by the individual living with the specified health challenge or disability, their parent/guardian (in the case of a minor), assigned caregiver, or recognized representative. If an individual or their representative chooses to use this form, they must provide their signature on the last page. (The signature of the person completing this form is required to process the information contained on the form.) In addition, this information may be removed from files periodically. Therefore, it is recommended that individuals or their representatives update and submit this form every year to ensure that files are kept updated and accurate.

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

- **Required Acknowledgment and Signature/s of Individual/s Completing and Submitting this Premise Alert Form:**
- By completing the Premise Alert Form, I acknowledge that the information provided herein is accurate and was submitted voluntarily for the sole purpose of assisting Police, Fire, and Emergency Response Departments in more effectively responding to a potential emergency in or near my household. I, therefore, authorize the use of this information for those purposes and to the maximum extent that I am empowered to do so, waive any claim in law and/or equity against any of the above mentioned responder(s) which I, or _____ (the individual's name), or any of our representatives, descendents, or successors, might otherwise have arising from or related to the use or existence of the information provided herein. I understand that providing this information on the Premise Alert Form does not entitle me or anyone in my household, including _____ (the individual's name), to preferential treatment, including a more timely response by emergency response personnel. I also understand and agree that this information may be considered, only if the circumstances and exigencies confronting the police or other emergency responders permit. I also understand that if the information provided on the Premise Alert Form is considered, it may be considered along with all other relevant sources of information, and subject to proper police and emergency response procedures, when police, fire department or other emergency response personnel are responding to the residence of the individual for whom this form is being completed. Completion and submission of this form is simply an attempt to provide emergency response personnel with information that may be helpful when providing services to residents or occupants of my home, in or near my household.

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

- *I hereby verify that the representations made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I acknowledge that written false statements made herein are punishable pursuant to Title 18 Pa.C.S. §4904(b) as a misdemeanor of the third degree.*

- _____

- **Name/ Relationship**

Date

- _____

- **Name/ Relationship**

Date

- This form is compatible with all Pennsylvania Emergency Dispatch Systems.
(11/07)

- .

PREMISE ALERT

The Form

This form is compatible with:

The Pennsylvania 911 Emergency Number Program

The Pennsylvania State Police Central Dispatch System

The Philadelphia Central Dispatch System

This form is a collaboration between Chief Kevin McCarthy, Susan F. Rzucidlo, Law Enforcement Entities, disability advocates, parent volunteers, educators, State & County Officials and other interested parties. It is owned by SPEAK Unlimited Inc. and is protected by copyright laws. PERMISSION: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in hardcopy or electronic form provided that you do NOT alter the wording in any way, you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, you give credit to the original authors, and receive written permission and approval from Chief Kevin McCarthy or Susan F. Rzucidlo if alterations or changes are being recommended for incorporation. More information on this program and additional resources can be found at www.papremisealert.com contact srz@dol.net © 2004-8.

PREMISE ALERT

Accessing the Form

- This form can be downloaded free of charge by anyone, families, First Responders, County Departments, Service Providers, Social and Community Support Organizations, or from SPEAK Unlimited Inc.
www.papremisealert.com
- First responders can provide them to individuals or families with a need.
- Schools, support groups, and community organizations can also provide forms to individual.
- PA ODP and MH sent letters to every MH/MR Administrator asking that the form be provided to individuals and families annually through appropriate Human Service entities.

PREMISE ALERT

Will I get preferential treatment?

NO

- Providing this information does not entitle anyone in a household to preferential treatment. It is simply an attempt to provide emergency response personnel with information that may be helpful when providing service to residents or occupants if utilized by responders.
- Providing information in advance can allow first responders to react and treat in a way that can reduce the possibility of poor outcomes.

PREMISE ALERT

Why would I want to provide this information?

- This form will assist first responders to identify and locate a special needs person in times of crisis.
- Only the information you want shared will be provided to emergency personnel during a crisis.
- This form provides critical medical information if you are unable or unavailable to help.
- The information will assist first responders to provide better treatment to individuals with special needs.

PREMISE ALERT

Who can fill out this form?

- Individuals with special needs
- Parents of minor children
- Guardians of minor children
- Current Foster Care Parents (child's name isn't required)
- Those with LEGAL guardianship for another
- Those with the Power of Attorney for another

If you do not have a legal right to provide this information you should NOT fill out this form or provide this information

PREMISE ALERT

What to do I do with a completed form?

- Attach a photo.
- Take a copy to their local police department. You may want to call ahead for an appointment.
- Review it with an officer.
- Ask the department to send a copy to your 911 center.
- If you are served by the State Police, take the form to the local State Police Barracks.
- If you are served by both state and local police, fill out two forms and provide a copy to both the State Police and Municipal department with a photo.

PREMISE ALERT

Who can assist in filling out the form?

- Advocates/Stakeholders
- Guidance Counselors
- Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Case Managers
- Social Workers
- Law Enforcement
- Local Aging Organizations

PREMISE ALERT

What else do I need to know about the form?

- The form needs to be updated once a year.
- If you move the form should be updated.
- If your needs change the form should be updated.
- Information can be updated or copied but must be resubmitted each year.
- Form is available in other languages as requested.
- Information should be provided in English. If you need assistance a Case Manager can find a translator to help you.

PREMISE ALERT

What is the best kind of picture to include?

- A passport photo or a picture that is set up like a passport picture is the best format for the purposes of this form.
- The picture from the “Safe Smiles” program that all Pennsylvania Public Schools provide is another excellent option.
- A digital picture of the individuals face with a plain background is most helpful to First Responders.
- Your local police department can take a digital picture if you need them to. Please call to make an appointment in order to make those arrangements.

PREMISE ALERT

As a Chief or Commander, what am I expected to do?

- Educate all Officers about the program.
- Educate receptionists, secretaries, and all administrative staff about the program.
- Implement a procedure for accepting, maintaining, using and forwarding the information.
- Identify an Officer to manage the information.
- Let Officers know families may need a picture taken for the form. Authorize them to do that.

PREMISE ALERT

Continued...

- An Officer should review the information with the individual or family.
- A copy of the form needs to be made for department use.
- Place one copy in a binder for easy access.
- If you do have a computer data base have the information recorded in a timely fashion.
- Fax a copy to the 911 Center or Central Dispatch marked for inclusion into their data base.

PREMISE ALERT

Continued

- Provide short list of Premise Alerts to each officer (Including: address, and reason for the alert)
- Review new forms during shift briefing.
- Provide updated lists as families bring them in.
- Provide forms to individuals who may need them.
- Assign a person within your department to maintain the file.
- Review and update forms annually.

PREMISE ALERT

For more information...

- Review printed materials.
- Chief McCarthy and Susan Rzucidlo can be contacted for additional assistance through SPEAK Unlimited Inc. srz@dol.net
- The website is www.papremisealert.com
- P.O. Box 98, Landenberg, Pennsylvania 19350
Phone (610) 274-2364 *children may answer phone
FAX (610) 274-2205

PREMISE ALERT

REFERENCES

1. Alzheimer's Association. Retrieved September 22, 2006, from <http://www.alz.org>
2. Autism Society of America. Retrieved August 30, 2006 from <http://www.autism-society.org>
3. Disability in the United States. Retrieved July 1, 2006 from <http://www.infouse.com>
4. Disability levels in the US. Retrieved September 22, 2006 <http://www.census.gov/>

What the Premise Alert can't do

- It can't identify an individual if the person is out of the house.

The Premise Alert System is meant to assist at the address of the person. We were asked at one point in the effort to go statewide if we would allow these forms to be included in the JNET system. JNET is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Justice Network, a secure Internet-based system that puts an individual's criminal background, driver's license photos and protection-from-abuse orders into one system so an officer can quickly get specific information about an individual.

- The Chief and I were both uncomfortable going through that system for several reasons

OTHER SAFETY TOOLS

- ❖ Critical Medical Information Form
- ❖ Business cards
 - Who makes them
 - What they need to say
 - How to teach using them safely
- ❖ ID bracelets pros and cons
- ❖ Non drivers license

OTHER TOOLS CONTINUED

- School trips, outings, work opportunities
- Reverse First Responders education
- Teaching the skills in the community
- Autism 101 for Police Officers
- Autism 101 for EMS
- Autism 101 for Fire fighters

Law Enforcement 101 for Families

When you call the cops

COPS come.

Not psychologists, not BSC's, Not teachers but
COPS. Know what it is they are going to do.

When NOT TO CALL THE POLICE

Cops are the good guys

- Teach your children respect for people in uniform. They are who you are going to want your child to go to for help.
- Teach your child or students how to respond safely to officers.
- Call for an appointment and take your child to visit the police station, fire station and Hospital.

Autism for Mandated Reporters

- How our houses appear to outsiders
- Not immune to abuse
- Neither Saints or Sinners
- Best Defense is a good offense

Utilizing Police in the Schools

- Most Effective Least Expensive training program I've ever seen.
- Ties into community policing
- Gets officers to know the children in their community and build a relationship which can reduce the chances of bad outcomes in the event of an outburst, meltdown...
- Allows the students to get to know police officers personally (cops are people too)

Personal de-escalation plan in the IEP

- That gives exact steps that the school needs to follow assuming that weapons are not involved.
- Call Parents
- Call BSC
- Call Crisis Intervention

Senate Bill 112

- Safe Schools Act
- Needs language changed to include special education students
- Will have the effect of reducing the number of schools that will call police officers to remove students simply due to disability.

Susan F. Rzucidlo
SPEAK Unlimited Inc.
P.O. Box 98
Landenberg PA 19350

(610) 659-3145
FAX (610) 274-2205
www.papremisealert.com

presentations, trainings, train the trainer, consulting, advocacy