





Dedicated to bringing
loved ones home!

Project Lifesaver Introduction

Questions that will be answered:

What is Project Lifesaver?

What is it's mission?

What does it do?

How does it work?

Project Lifesaver's Definition

- Project Lifesaver is a program of **proactive** involvement and specialized operations that respond to incidents of victims of Alzheimer's and other related disorders, that have wandered from home, become lost and cannot not find their way back home.

Project Lifesaver 's Standards and goals

- *The only reason an agency should join Project Lifesaver is to utilize this program to:*
 - *Help your community*
 - *Aid the people in that community, and others that have the tendency to wander.*
- *This program was created with two goals in mind :*
 - *streamline search and rescue procedures*
 - *help save lives*

Project Lifesaver Was Started As a Result of Failure!

- Chesapeake, Virginia statistics showed that most searches in that area were for:
- Hikers
- Hunters
- Kids that wandered off
- However.....

The Most Exhaustive Searches Were For.....

- Patients with Alzheimer's disease.
- Searches seemed to last for days.
- Searches were a lot more difficult.
- Worst of all.....
- Some of the lost subjects were not being found!

Search Cost Factor

- Enormous expenditures of:
 - *Manpower*
 - *Time*
 - *Money*
- Still with little or no results

Search Steps From the Past

- When someone with Alzheimer's wandered, general steps were taken such as a missing person report, miscellaneous report, or wait 24 hours before acting!
- The final results were mostly bad.
- This continued until some dissatisfied families said that this was not a good enough procedure and they sued to get it changed!

Law Suits Concerning Alzheimer's

- The courts said people with Alzheimer's have a *diminished capacity*. If they have a *diminished capacity*, how can we say that they are responsible in their thoughts, deeds and actions.
- If they wander due to this *diminished capacity*, how can they be treated as independent responsible adults?
- The court said that you will have to go search for make a reasonable effort in a timely manner to locate them.
- These suits caused procedural changes in Law Enforcement's action.

Chesapeake Search Examples

- **1979** a 70 year old Alzheimer's patient wandered from his home. Four days later the search ended.
- He was found dead!
- ¼ mile away from his home.
- **One July** an elderly male wandered from a nursing home. After two weeks, the search was called off.
- **November**, he was found by a jogger. 75 yards from the nursing home.
- Dead!
- **Danville** — patient walked out of a nursing home during a snow storm. 2 days later and after the snow melted, he was found 200 yards from his home.
- Frozen to death!

Resources and Search Types Utilized

- Agency resources
- Surrounding Jurisdictions
- Ham Radio
- Scouts
- Volunteers
- Aviation
- SAR Teams

Line Search
Grid Search
Random Search
360 degree Spiral Search

Still ending with tragic endings!

Search Results

- Were these search results embarrassing?
- Yes!
- Will you be sued?
- Maybe or maybe not!
- How will your Sheriff or Chief explain the search results?

Chesapeake Cost Breakdown for one of the 1979 Searches

- Basic cost of \$25.00 per hour per officer
- Adding in resources (internal and outside)
- Factoring in equipment utilized
- The final figure for an average search was \$342,000

A lot of money, right?

Remember, it's not very pleasant to have to go tell a family you cannot find the missing person and you are stopping the search!

Cost in 2015 Dollars

- \$1,186,199.00



Chain of Events

- Information was obtained from a National Sheriff's Conference in 1998 and referenced a possibility of utilizing equipment electronically track people.
- Captain Gene Saunders of the 43rd Virginia Search and Rescue researched the information.
- The idea was using a transmitter to track and locate people that wander.

Basic Theory

- Similar equipment was being utilized to track wildlife.
- If the equipment could track animals through thick brush and foliage, why not track humans?
- The basic concept was being tested in the mountains of North Carolina.
- Transmitters were placed on 12 people that had the tendency to wander. During a 1 year period, each one wandered and were located in approx 30 minutes by only 2 searchers using the equipment.

Formation

- Basic concept was good, but it needed accountability .
- Established form and guidelines.
- Started with \$88K grant from local medical center .

Program Expansion

- Pilot Program focused on Alzheimer's clients that had wandered
- With the continued success of these searches, requests started to come in from caregivers with children that had:
- Autism
- Down syndrome
- Other related disorders

***All of the above involved wandering,
running or eloping

bolting and

Project Lifesaver Today

- Over 1300 member agencies throughout 48 States in the United States.
- In Canada, and Australia.
- Since it's beginning in April, 1999, Project Lifesaver has had over:
 - Over 3200 searches nationwide... all successful
 - Average search time is less than 30 minutes
- Requests for the program have come in from Spain, India, Japan, Italy, Greece, and Guam!

Law Enforcement & The Public

- Project Lifesaver is a form of Community Policing!
 - Promotes a positive image for Law Enforcement
 - Causes personal contact with citizens – foot beat
 - Educates families about a positive program
 - Saves time, manpower, and money
 - Month to month comfort – peace of mind

Most importantly – ***saves lives***

Program Focus

We are focusing on wanderers!

Remember a search is a critical emergency.

- Half of the victims that are not found within the first 24 hours die. The rest are very sick or badly injured!

Therefore, you need to:

- learn all you can about the program
- operation of this equipment
- Understand the cost savings
- Let the community know that it is available

Cost Analysis



- The national average of an Alzheimer's search is:
 - *9 hours x \$1,500 per hour = \$13,500.00*
- The basic cost to start Project Lifesaver:

Less than \$5,000.00

How It Works

- Radio Telemetry Tracking
- Unique radio frequency for each client
- Yagi and Omni directional antennas



Transmitters



PLI 60 Transmitter



Oval & Round
Transmitter

Can be programmed to a desired frequency and time period at agency request at Project Lifesaver International

Transmitter Information

- Waterproof
- 30 or 60 day battery life
- Emit a signal once a second
- Operate on 216 megahertz frequency
- Round and oval transmitters have approximately 1 mile range.
- PLI 60 has up to 3 mile range.

Receiving Units

- PLI 5000
- PLI 3000
- LS-2
- Osprey
- Hand held , light weight.
- All are Yagi antennas
- All can be use with Omni antenna

Omni Type Antenna

- Omni Antenna- $\frac{1}{4}$ mile range around vehicle
- Attaches to any receiver
- Useful in finding initial signal after call

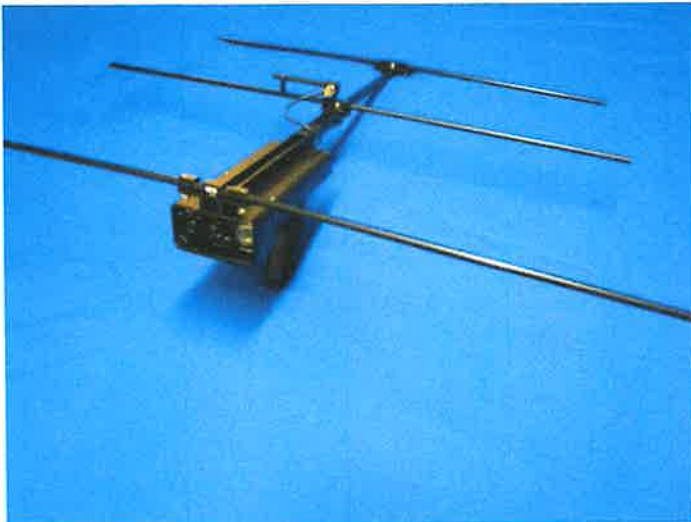


Yagi Type Antenna

- Directional Antenna
- Used to lock in and track signal
- Find the strongest signal
- Changeable range



PLI – 5000 Receiver



- Designed for Project Lifesaver
- 5 band receiver
- Spring loaded attached yagi
- 6 “AAA” power supply
- The receiver has a conditional five year warranty.

PLI 3000 Receiver



Receiver is
made
specifically
for Project
Lifesaver

Warranty
for the
receiver is 6
years

Receiver Information

- PLI 3000 and PLI 5000 can operate in multiple ranges.
- Are dialed into client specific frequency to search
- Signal search distance can be changed

Questions or Comments ?

- Hands on Demonstration

