



What is the SAFE Program?

The SAFE Program serves as a crucial bridge fostering enhanced communication and understanding between DeSoto County's first responders and individuals possessing special needs or intellectual disabilities. This initiative aims to establish proactive channels of engagement, ensuring that before any emergency arises, responders are well-informed and equipped to cater to the unique requirements and circumstances of these residents.



How does it work?

When residents participate in the program, our dispatchers diligently enter crucial information into our emergency system database. Simultaneously, families are encouraged to affix SAFE decals prominently on their residences and vehicles.

In an emergency, these decals serve as a visual cue for first responders, alerting them to exercise heightened caution upon arrival. This initiative involves collaboration with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, Arcadia Police Department, and DeSoto County Emergency Management Fire/EMS, granting them access to the comprehensive information provided by participating families. This access empowers responders to approach situations with the necessary knowledge, ensuring a smoother and safer interaction for everyone involved.



Information Needed

When contacting the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office to provide this information, do not call 9-1-1. You can register at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office located at 208 E. Cypress St., Arcadia, FL 34266, or at DeSotoSheriff.com under the Community tab. The information provided to the Sheriff's Office remains confidential and is used only with those involved in responding to a 9-1-1 call involving your home or apartment.



DeSoto County's SAFE Program

Providing Information to 911 Dispatchers

Providing updated information about a person with special needs or intellectual disabilities to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 dispatch center will enable a dispatcher to alert first responders to be more prepared when responding to an emergency.



Who Should Provide Information?

The information submitted to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office should be given only by the individual, spouse or caretaker. Submitting this information is entirely voluntary, however, it will help first responders to identify, interact with and/or rescue the person in an emergency. You may be asked for identification and/or proof of residence when submitting this information. Additionally, you may be asked to sign a form acknowledging that the information is accurate and not meant to purposefully mislead emergency agencies.



DeSoto County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff James F. Potter

208 East Cypress Street

Arcadia, Florida 34266

Phone: (863) 993-4700

Fax: (863) 993-4712

*Sheriff Potter reminds the community, in
an emergency, to call 9 1 1.*



SW Florida

Crime Stoppers

1-800-780-TIPS (8477)

Local Tips: (863) 491-6767

southwestfloridacrimestoppers.com



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