

## **NEWS RELEASE**



**Russel E. Burger, Sheriff**  
**Lane County Sheriff's Office**  
**125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Eugene, OR 97401**  
**(541) 682-4150 / FAX (541) 682-4522**  
**Email: sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us**

**CASE NUMBER:** N/A

**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:** N/A

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** November 5, 2007

**NATURE OF STORY:** New Lifesaving Program for Lane County

**INVOLVED:** Lane County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Program in partnership with SELCO Credit Union brings *Project Lifesaver International* to Lane County.

**LOCATION:** Media inquiries are welcome Saturday, November 10, 2007 while we conduct our initial training between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Training will be held at both the Lane County Courthouse, Room 175 and later at Skinner's Butte Park.

**DETAILS:** Project Lifesaver, a new program to Lane County, relies on proven radio technology and specially trained search and rescue volunteers. Clients enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Lane County Sheriff's Office that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. "Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1500 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes." according to representatives from Project Lifesaver International.

**This technology supports a reliable rapid response from both volunteers and deputies to aid victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders such as Down syndrome and Autism. Lane County, including persons residing within the Eugene/Springfield Metro area, generates 6-8 calls for service annually. Often, an individual with one of these disorders may generate repeated searches. These searches are both labor intensive and life-threatening for the wanderer.**

**The initial start-up cost for this program was privately funded from a generous donation by SELCO Credit Union. Initial costs covered 2 tracking units, 4 bracelet transmitters and training. These transmitters require monthly battery changes which generate our visits to our clients and care givers.**

**We are currently looking for additional individuals, families, or businesses willing to sponsor additional bracelets and associated one-year maintenance.**

**For additional information contact: John Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator at (541) 682-8544**

**Prepared by: John Miller**