

Lincolnshire Riverwoods Fire Protection Districts Launches the: Return Home Safe Program

The Lincolnshire Riverwoods Fire Protection District is excited to announce the **Return Home Safe program**. The program allows for residents or their family members to identify persons in need of additional first responder considerations. Considerations may be due to limited communications, cognitive impairments, disabilities (Examples: Autism, Cerebral Palsy), or those at risk for walking away. The **Return Home Safe Program** is a mechanism for responders to enhance access supplemental information which may including a photograph, diagnosis particulars and other pertinent data which can assist in locating and communicating with a person reported missing, hurt, potentially endangered or in need of care.

The shared details can improve the District's ability to facilitating a person's safe return and any needed care. The shared details will also support the fire district's goals of understanding the needs of its residents and community and provide opportunities for additional training. As part of the recently conducted Strategic Plan assessment, the District highlighted seeking additional opportunities to improve community outreach and care. The **Return Home Safe Program** helps us achieve those important goals of being connected to our residents.

The Return Home Safe Program was initially created by Wheeling Police Sergeant Richard Giltner, whose non-verbal son Liam provided inspiration. Sergeant Giltner states "First responders responding to a call involving my son, while having knowledge of his challenges ahead of time would be extremely helpful". (Removed second quote due to assurances) Upon learning about the Wheeling Police Department program, the Lincolnshire Riverwoods Fire Protection District (LRFD) created a goal to adopt similar measure for our own residents.

Questions and forms for enrollment are available by contacting LT. Pluda at 847-634-2512 Ext. 155 or on the Lincolnshire Riverwoods Fire Protection Website <https://www.lrfpd.org/returnhomesafe>