



ADA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedures

CHAPTER: 30	SUBJECT: SAFER PROGRAM/CITIZEN RECOGNITION PROGRAM
ISSUE DATE: November 1, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 15, 2010
AMENDS/RESCINDS:	
CALEA CROSS REFERENCE:	
REFERENCES:	

Setting the Standard for Ohio Law Enforcement

1.0 Purpose

The SAFER Program (Seeking Aid From Every Resident) has been established as the Ada Police Department's community outreach program with several program elements as follows:

- 1.1 Citizen Recognition: To reward our citizens for assistance to our police department and village in making Ada a safer community. Such assistance may come in a variety of ways, including crime tips, apprehensions, assistance to an officer, life-saving and lending unusual assistance to neighbors and/or our community as a whole.
- 1.2 Public Education: To educate citizens and especially our youth on the importance of safe habits and activities; alcohol and drug prevention; crime prevention; and community and police participation.
- 1.3 Public Alerts: To alert Ada citizen's on matters of importance as it relates to keeping our village a safer community.

2.0 Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all employees of the Ada Police Department and those citizens who participate in our SAFER Committee.

3.0 Policy

It is the policy of the Ada Police Department to maintain a community outreach program and the SAFER (Seeking Aid From Every Resident) Program shall constitute such program as outlined in this policy and procedure. It is further the policy of the Ada Police Department to establish a SAFER Committee made up of members representing the following entities:

- 3.1 The Ada Police Department
- 3.2 Ohio Northern University Administration
- 3.3 Ohio Northern University Security
- 3.4 Ada School District

- 3.5 Ada Business
- 3.6 Ada Government Official
- 3.7 Ada Community

It shall be the policy of the SAFER Committee to meet from time to time as determined by the Ada Chief of Police. Such SAFER Committee members shall be nominated by the Chief of Police and approved by members of the SAFER Committee.

4.0 Procedures

The following points are established to set forth procedures for the various SAFER Program elements.

4.1 Citizen Recognition

- 4.1.1 Award Eligibility: The SAFER Award shall be presented to any individual or entity whose action(s) result in:
 - 4.1.1.1 The prevention or solution of a serious crime, or
 - 4.1.1.2 The apprehension of a dangerous criminal, or
 - 4.1.1.3 The saving of a life or assistance in such pursuit, or
 - 4.1.1.4 Other action or assistance to the police department or the village which lends significantly to the safety and security of our community.
 - 4.1.2 Award Nomination: Any person or entity may be nominated for a SAFER Award by presenting the person or entity name to the office of the Chief of Police and shall note the circumstances surrounding such nomination. Such nomination shall fit the criteria as listed in 4.1.1 of this section.
 - 4.1.3 Award Consideration and Selection: From time to time the Chief of Police shall call a meeting of the SAFER Committee to review SAFER Award nominations. The committee shall review and with simple majority vote, determine to award or not award a SAFER Award to the nominee.
 - 4.1.4 SAFER Award: The SAFER Award shall consist of a SAFER Certificate and SAFER Football as manufactured by Wilson’s Sporting Goods. The SAFER Football is an NFL style football with the SAFER Logo placed on one of the panels of the football.
 - 4.1.5 Presentation of Award: The Chief of Police shall present the SAFER Award to awardees:
 - 4.1.5.1 Privately: Due to the desire of the awardees or as determined by the SAFER Committee, or
 - 4.1.5.2 Publicly: During a regularly scheduled Ada Council Meeting.
- 4.2 Public Education: From time to time the Ada Police Department presents educational opportunities to the community with the intent of making our community a SAFER community through such education. Therefore, all educational presentations offered to the community shall be through the SAFER Program and shall consist of at least the following annual presentations.

- 4.2.1 SAFER Kids: This program is designed for 5th grade students in the Ada Elementary Schools during the spring of each year, for ½ hour per week, for 4 weeks. Topics shall include:
 - 4.2.1.1 Drug and Alcohol Awareness
 - 4.2.1.2 Safety in the Home and Neighborhoods
 - 4.2.1.3 Internet Safety Issues
 - 4.2.1.4 Bullying
 - 4.2.1.5 Fire Safety (Taught by Fire Department Members)
- 4.2.2 Third Grade Safety Belt Program: This program is designed for 3rd grade elementary students and is in concert with the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
- 4.2.3 Bicycle Rodeo: This program is designed for children from tri-cycle age to 16-years-old to educate them on proper safety habits for bike riders and shall include:
 - 4.2.3.1 Participation in a bike rodeo/obstacle course,
 - 4.2.3.2 Providing free bike helmets to participants, and
 - 4.2.3.3 Door prizes to encourage attendance.

The Ada Police Department, through the SAFER Program, shall offer community education and training as the need arises.

- 4.3 Public Alerts: There is hereby established a SAFER Alert System designed to alert our residents as needed. It should be noted that SAFER Alerts shall only be deemed necessary when conditions exist which leads to prudent and necessary community notification. Caution shall be exercised to alleviate the potential for SAFER Alerts which call to question the validity of such alert.

- 4.3.1 Criteria for a SAFER Alert:

- 4.3.1.1 Lost or Missing Persons (Alerts of this type shall not supplant an Amber Alert and should an Amber Alert be issued, a SAFER Alert shall not be issued); or
- 4.3.1.2 Alert to increase awareness to potential criminal activity;
- 4.3.1.3 Requests for information related to unsolved crimes; or
- 4.3.1.4 Alert to possible scams; or
- 4.3.1.5 Incidents or events of significant community importance.

- 4.3.2 Types of SAFER Alerts: The following media types shall serve to notify residents of a SAFER Alert as deemed necessary:

- 4.3.2.1 Local and regional newspapers; and/or
- 4.3.2.2 Local and regional radio stations; and/or
- 4.3.2.3 Local and regional billboards; and/or
- 4.3.2.4 Local and regional television; and/or
- 4.3.2.5 Police posters placed locally and regionally.

- 4.3.3 Authority to Issue/Recall a SAFER Alert: The Chief of Police or his or her designee has the authority to issue and/or recall a SAFER Alert.