Tanya's Tips for Safety Success

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Do You Know About 9-1-1?

The idea of a three-digit emergency number in the United States was the result of the urging of concerned citizens and the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement in 1967. The concept was introduced to Congress and committees were formed to decide how to make the idea a reality.

Government data shows that the first 9-1-1 call was placed on February 16, 1968 in Haleyville, Ala.

WHAT IS 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SERVICE?

* Dialing 9-1-1 is an IMMEDIATE way to call and communicate with your local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, or paramedics) during an emergency.

* 9-1-1 is intended to be a nationwide emergency telephone number as a public service with the primary objective of preserving life and property. Ideally, every citizen and visitor in this country with access to a telephone may summon aid by dialing this simple three-digit number, regardless of location, familiarity with an area, time of day, or type of emergency.

* Nationwide statistics show it can take up to 2.5 minutes to find a telephone directory and another 30 seconds to locate the correct number. In an emergency, three minutes is a long time – time that can be saved by calling 9-1-1.

* 9-1-1 is a "team" of professional men and women who are on call 24 hours a day. They are trained to assist in getting emergency help to callers as quickly as possible.



HOW IT WORKS

* The 9-1-1 number can be dialed from any telephone and will go directly to the primary emergency response agency designated to answer 9-1-1 calls.

* Special computers and monitors display the location and phone number where the 9-1-1 call originated. A typical 9-1-1 display will give the phone number of the caller, the address of the caller, an apartment or lot number if necessary, and the name of the telephone service subscriber.

* The 9-1-1 professional will ask questions about your emergency and determine what emergency response agency best meets your needs. You may be asked to "stay on the line" while you are transferred to the appropriate response agency.

* You may call 9-1-1 from any coin operated telephone without depositing money.

* Cellular telephones have toll-free access to 9-1-1. Remember that cellular phones do not have the ability to inform 9-1-1 of your identity or location.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

* 9-1-1 is only a telephone number. Quick response depends on the vital information that you provide.

* When an individual is NOT properly prepared to report an emergency, fear, panic, doubt, and confusion can take hold. Fortunately, if an individual is prepared and applies some basic principles and procedures, he or she can properly report an emergency.

* When you are faced with an emergency situation – REMAIN CALM. Calm yourself by immediately taking a deep breath and a split second to gain your composure.

* Assess the situation, collect your thoughts, and understand what is happening. Ask yourself: What must I do?

*** THEN TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.**

* By concentrating on what you must do, you will avoid panic. Calm yourself and respond intelligently to the situation at hand.

TIME IS CRITICAL DURING AN EMERGENCY

* During an emergency, time is extremely important. You can make the difference between life and death, perhaps prevent a fire from spreading through an entire neighborhood, prevent a crime, or apprehend a criminal.

* For example: When someone is not breathing, it takes only four minutes to die, or for permanent brain damage to occur. Therefore, you must respond IMMEDIATELY to an emergency situation. NEVER WASTE A SECOND, as one second could mean the difference between life and death. ■