Autism Awareness Training for First Responders

Call The Family Autism Center at The Arc of South Norfolk to schedule an ALEC training session.

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ALEC began in 2003 as a collaborative effort of the The Family Autism Center of The Arc of South Norfolk and former Norfolk County District Attorney William R. Keating. The ALEC Program currently receives funding through the Autism Spectrum Division of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services and other federal, local and private grants.

If you feel your organization would benefit from training regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders, we will do our best to adapt our curriculum to meet your professional needs. Please call 781-762-4001 x420 to schedule an ALEC training in your area.

ALEC Comments from ALEC Program Participants

“Instructor’s first-hand knowledge of autism combined with police work made for excellent instruction.”
Quincy, MA Police

“Your in-depth knowledge on the subject, both personally and professionally, provided real insight for our members about this little known subject.”
President, Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

“This program should be presented at all in-service trainings state-wide to educate all officers. Not enough officers know about this. Excellent training.”
Attleboro, MA Police

“The training gave a good understanding of Autism. I didn’t realize what I didn’t know – it was very enlightening and eye opening. Very focused to target audience.”
Springfield, MA Area EMS

“The firefighters and EMT’s of the FDNY were very pleased to partner with Capt. Bill Cannata and the Fire-Rescue Autism Program. Capt. Cannata combined both personal and professional experiences to teach first responders how to safely approach people with autism and compassionately care for their needs. The feedback was very positive and the program will become a permanent training tool at FDNY”.
Chief Edward Kilduff, FDNY

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A project of The Family Autism Center at The Arc of South Norfolk
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are estimated to occur in one out of every 68 births. People with ASD are more likely to have 911 encounters than people in the general population. Gain or refresh the knowledge that you need to protect and communicate with people in this fast growing segment of society.

ALEC training helps foster a deeper understanding of ASD among public safety and law enforcement personnel. Training is available for police officers, firefighters and emergency room and courtroom personnel, using curriculum and videos specific to each group. Basic EMTs, intermediate EMTs and paramedics earn 3 OEMS hours (continuing education hours) for ALEC training.

Presenters are First Responders with direct knowledge of ASD through a family member. The audience hears from a colleague with personal knowledge and an extraordinary investment in the program.

The goal of ALEC trainings is to complement but not replace your previous training and to provide additional tools to use in assessing the risk of a situation.

TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ALEC

**Autism 101**
- What is Autism (ASD)?
- Behaviors and characteristics
- Suggested responses
- Avoiding unfortunate situations
- Mandatory reporting

**Firefighter Training**
Entering a smoke-filled building, you are told there is a person with ASD still inside, possibly hiding. What is the best way to communicate with this individual? What kind of equipment may be needed to ensure a safe outcome?

**Fire and Life Safety Educator Training**
You are teaching a classroom of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. How do you adapt the general curriculum you have to meet the needs of these students? How do you prepare them to be ready for an emergency situation?

**Police Officer Training**
A local store manager reports a teenager acting erratically, rocking, flapping her hands, echoing the clerk’s words. Is she on drugs? Is she in trouble? How can you determine if ASD is a factor?

**ER Personnel/Nursing Training**
An adult is brought to the emergency room from an accident scene by ambulance. He flips light switches on and off repeatedly and shouts “NO” over and over. How might you calm the patient? How can you get needed information to best help the person?

**Court Room Personnel Training**
A young man is brought into court on charges and you are told he has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. How do you communicate with this person? What is the best way to word your questions? What if the person was the victim?

**Parent Training**
As a parent, what is your role in preparing your loved one for emergency situations? What is your role in informing your local First Responder agencies about your loved one diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder? How do you go about doing these things?