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## Program puts emergency information at rescuers' fingertips

By Leon Fooksman |South Florida

June 8, 2008

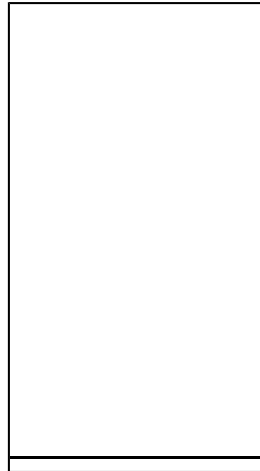
Senior citizens are responding in droves to a program that gives them local law enforcement and fire-rescue personnel access to their medical information cards and emergency contact numbers, emergency coordinators said.

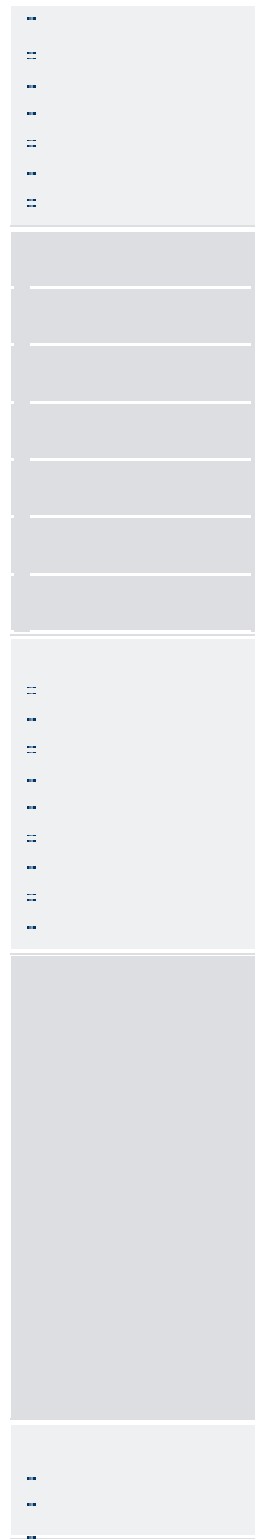
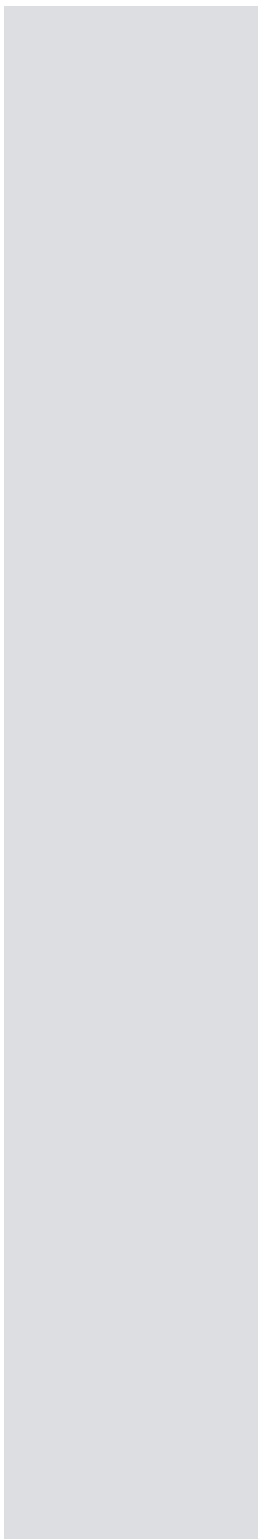
The intent of the program called "Info on Hand" is to help people to keep pertinent medical information on hand for their family members on them at all times. The program allows paramedics can be more effective in emergency situations, such as crashes and violent crimes.

Much of the joint [Palm Beach County](#) program is about getting out medical cards with information on their medical conditions.

More than 30,000 people have picked up the program in western communities, since the information is available in works in the Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory.

So many cards have been given out that the program is in high demand, Martin said.





Martin and other organizers also o

[Boynton Beach](#), [Wellington](#) and o

Retirees living in condos and gated communities distributed the most of the cards, prompting organizers to focus on areas including school-age children.

"As a parent, you'd want to know about it sooner rather than later, opposed to hearing about it on the news."

Coordinators want to visit schools and homes to get family contacts into cell phones, since cell phone numbers are tight, and getting coordinators to visit homes.

"The curriculum doesn't leave much room for error."

Still, fire-rescue educators get the message at health fairs.

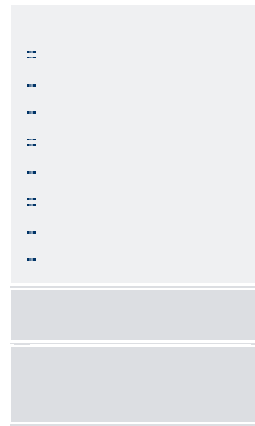
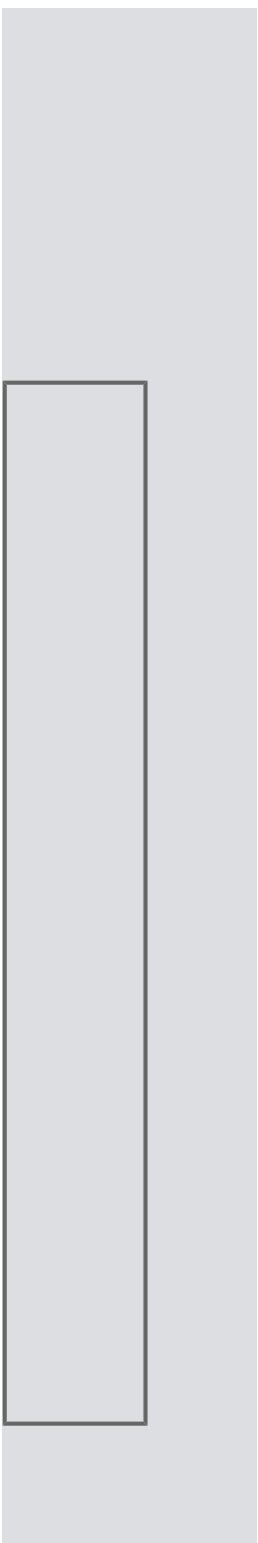
"Everywhere we go, we give them information about fire-rescue.

The cards also come with ICE stickers that provide in emergency contacts under the name of the person with an emergency contact on her phone.

That way, if the wife gets into an accident, it's easier to reach her husband much faster. And if there's a fire, rescuers know immediately that there's a problem.

Martin said about 5,000 cards and stickers have been distributed. He suspects more cards will be needed in the coming communities this fall.

Leon Fooksman can be reached at



### What is ICE?

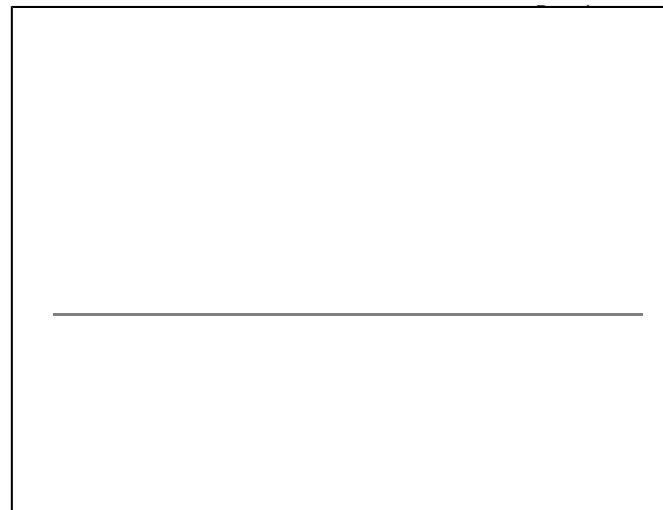
The program is designed to get p  
numbers on them at all times so p  
the ill and victims of car crashes a

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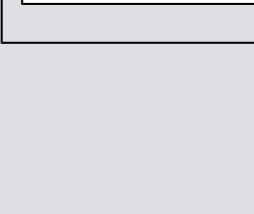
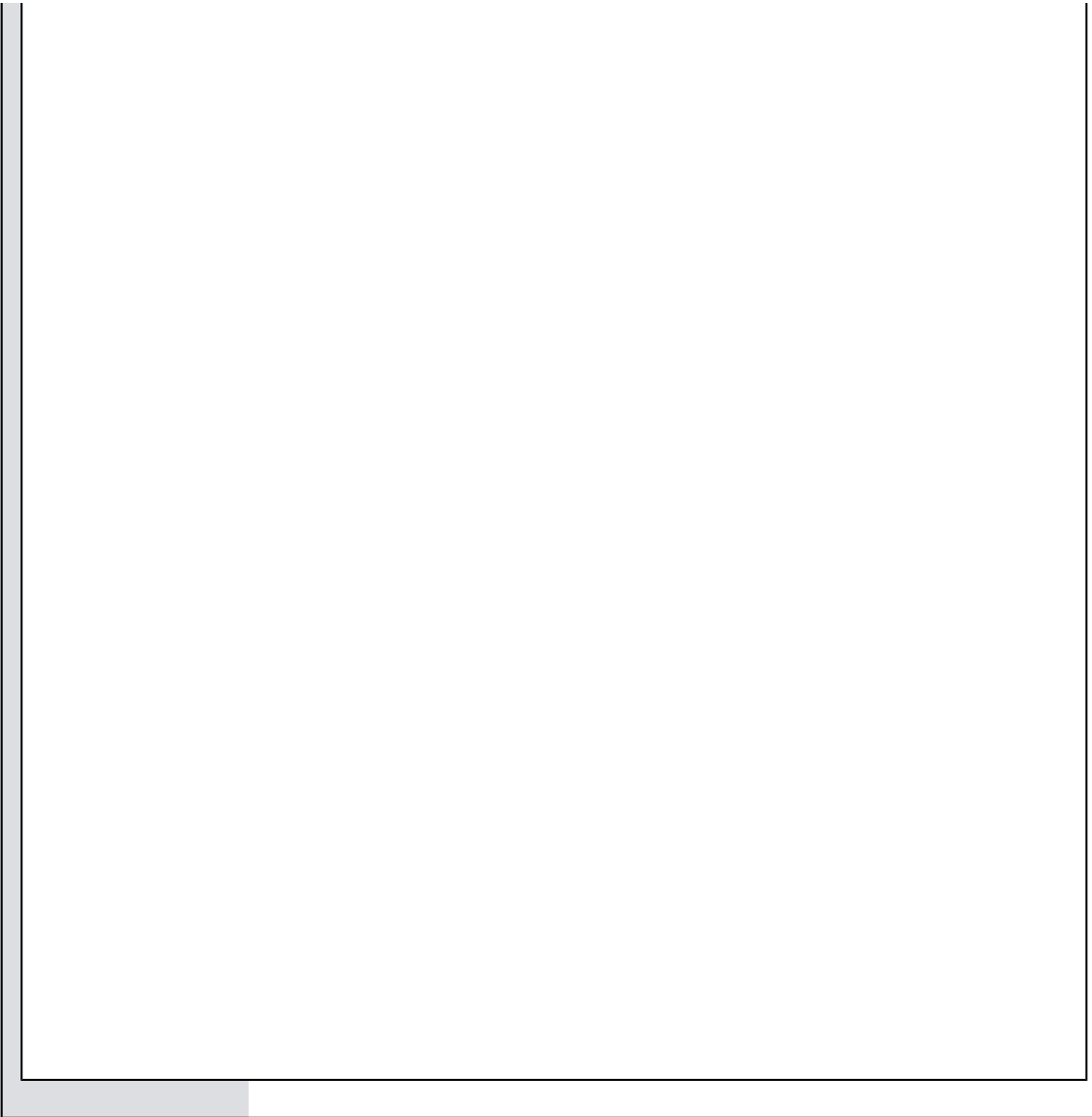
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