

STARS™

Special needs Tracking & Awareness Response System



Dear resident/
Parents or guardians of a special needs child,

We want to inform you of a new program we have implemented at the Shrewsbury Fire Department that will enable us to be better prepared to take care of special needs children through 21 years of age should an emergency arise. The program is titled STARS (Special needs Tracking and Awareness Response System).

Each child that is entered into STARS has a form detailing his or her medical history, medications, allergies, baseline vital signs, baseline neurological status and common medical emergencies that is kept in each ambulance. A number is assigned to each child that matches the form. Should you need to call 911, the caller gives the dispatcher the number which is then relayed to the responding ambulance. Having this information at hand can prove vital, especially when a regular caretaker is not present. Please contact us if you feel your child would be a candidate. Children who especially benefit are those with significant developmental delay, seizure disorders, cardiac history, cerebral shunts, tracheostomies and any atypical diseases or syndromes.

To enroll your child, a paramedic from the Shrewsbury Fire Department will make an appointment to come to your home or you may come to the firehouse to discuss your child's needs, fill out the STARS form and answer any questions you may have about our services. At this time, if your child has any anxiety about the ambulance and would like to tour it or see any equipment, he or she is encouraged to do so.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Steven C. Gray

Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Gray

Shrewsbury Fire Department

STARS Coordinator

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