



PS-6

Finding missing people with dementia

The Modesto, California (188,900), police department has teamed up with the Stanislaus County (447,000) sheriff's department and area agencies that work with the elderly to make finding missing elderly people and dependent adults easier. The agencies identify adults with a mental or physical disability who might become confused and lost. Volunteers from the police department meet with these individuals, their families, and agency staff members to take a digital photo and collect detailed information including the individual's name, address, physical appearance, distinguishing marks, and contact information for relatives. This information is entered into a database at the sheriff's department that is accessible to the Modesto police. Now, when the police pick up a lost and confused elderly or disabled person, they can check the database to identify the person and return them to their home.

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PS-7

Emergency preparedness event

The city of Mesa, Arizona (396,375), in conjunction with the state and Maricopa County (3,072,100), practiced its bioterrorism response activities at an event in November 2002. In the morning, 3,000 students in six high schools received tetanus shots (to simulate smallpox vaccines) in a two-hour period. In the afternoon, 200 volunteers were given fake antibiotic pills, along with instructions. Each volunteer played a different role, such as an individual with special needs or someone with limited English proficiency. They provided their medical history and were evaluated by a pharmacist before receiving the pills. This took approximately two hours. The event provided much useful information, such as how many skilled personnel and volunteers are needed. In a real bioterrorism event, these activities would be scaled up significantly, but the city and its partners now have the information and plans needed to work toward accomplishing this.

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