

SIGN of the TIMES

October– November 2011



Iowa Department of Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

INFORMATION

Tips for calling 9-1-1 for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Whenever possible, when you call 9-1-1, use a regular telephone with a regular phone line. The 9-1-1 centers should be able to find you with a landline phone.

Cellular, Wireless, Blackberry, do not always provide your location to the 9-1-1 center. Sometimes they give the caller's locations, but not always.

Voice Over Internet Protocol (Voip) is like Singular and Vonage look like cell phones but they operate over the internet do not ring in at the 9-1-1 center all of the time, either.

Many times, wireless phones ring in at the wrong 9-1-1 center, sometime they go to one that is not the closest to you. So make sure that you know where you are when you call.

If you call, and you do not know whether anyone is answering you, tap your spacebar to see if you get an answer.

If you still don't get an answer, bang on something as loud as you can. And if you can, YELL!

DO NOT HANG UP!

If it is dangerous to stay in the house or building, get out before you make the call. If the house is on fire, leave and call from somewhere else. Safety First!

INFORMATION

If you call 9-1-1, first tell them if "police", "fire" or "ambulance" – that is the best thing to do.

Find out your local police **non-emergency number** and have someone call there for you. Tell them you want to test 9-1-1. They can make arrangements for you to test 9-1-1 and your TTY when the 9-1-1 center is not busy.

Many 9-1-1 centers in Iowa only have one person working at a time.

Together, we can protect our citizens and educate our emergency services!

If you need more clarity regarding these issues, please feel free to contact Nancy directly as she would have more detailed information-



Nancy Brady

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

Box 130

Johnston, IA 50131

Nancy.brady@iowa.gov

515-242-5011

Good news from Hamilton Relay Service:

Hamilton Relay announces that CapTel customer service expanded in providing 24 hour customer services effective September 1, 2011 including weekends.

Visit DSCI website: www.deafservices.iowa.gov Questions or Comments? Email us: dhr.dsci@iowa.gov



Iowa Department of Human Rights



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Continued INFORMATION

Iowa Dept of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal, Submitted by Ray Reynolds

By now many of you are seeing articles regarding fire departments installing specialized smoke alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing. I am writing to clarify the smoke detector program and avoid confusion. I am not sure how our program took off among the community that services hard of hearing people but we have had a huge interest in these detectors. The smoke detector campaign was initially planned to cover the needs of every school age child based on US fire data showing children are the most vulnerable population to die in a fire. Our campaign was designed to have surveys completed by public school districts in order to determine how many children of the 270,000 kids need detectors. The surveys were collected by the school and forwarded to a point of contact that worked for us as an intern.

Around the same time, we had a request from Office of Deaf Services to try and address a need among deaf families. Over 60 families requested these detectors and were turned away because of the lack of funds. My priority has always been to provide detectors for children and more over children that have hearing difficulties. If we received a sponsor to fund detectors for hard of hearing- As you

can imagine, it takes a hardwired smoke alarm with visual strobe. That means increased cost and finding electricians. We did have a company that purchased units to equip 50 homes with these visual devices. Those 50 detectors went out the door in less than 2-3 weeks and are now in the process of being installed. I do not anticipate that we will be able to install these devices in any home that wants one because of the time and resource commitments of my staff. Once we get all of the children that are hard of hearing done, we will reassess and see what our next move will be. Because of the demand for these specialized detectors, we are completing a grant to purchase additional strobe detectors. We are hopeful we can move forward. Office of Deaf Services and State Fire Marshal strongly encourage you to continue completing the survey and send the survey to Office of Deaf Services, Once we get additional funding for purchasing these detectors, we can coordinate between Office of Deaf Services & State Fire Marshal and then we will start working to get them installed. We will keep you posted. See the application on the next page to fill out. If you need assistance, please call DSCI for clarification.



ANNOUNCEMENT

This information, **Visual Smoke Detectors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing** is posted and available on the Iowa State Fire Marshal's website: http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/main/smoke_detector_project/index.shtml

Conventional smoke alarms can't fully address the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing and who can't rely on the sound of a conventional alarm to alert them to smoke or fire. Today, safety device manufacturers and vendors offer visual smoke alarms that use sound and strobe lights to alert people to fires in the home. These specialized alarms are more expensive than regular smoke alarms.

The Office of Deaf Services within the Department of Human Rights has a long term goal to develop a visual smoke alarm distribution program for deaf and hard of hearing Iowans. In November 2001, 30 participants who were either deaf or hard of hearing or had a family member who couldn't hear volunteered and did a needs assessment survey. As a result, the outcome shows that 63% don't have visual smoke alarms and 17 families had at least two deaf members per household.

The Office of Deaf Services encourages families with deaf or hard of hearing children and hearing children of deaf parents to fill out the Smoke Detector Project Survey. According to the Department of Education's report, "Data on Iowa Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing," November, 2008, shows 3320 students in Iowa. It is recommended when filling out the survey to add how many people are deaf or hard of hearing in your home.

Status Form for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

The Office of Deaf Services and State Fire Marshal are working together on the needs of visual smoke alarms for the families with deaf or hard of hearing members. This voluntary status form will help get the funding for these specialized alarms.

This will also help local fire departments follow up with these families and help collect the optional surveys. This is a voluntary form which deaf and hard of hearing community members can send to the local fire department in their community. It is important to let the firefighters know if you move and/or this information changes.

Name _____

Phone: (check all that apply)

Voice ___ TTY ___ CapTel ___ VP (video phone) ___ Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Number deaf in household: _____

Number hearing in household: _____

Please check if appropriate:

_____ Knows sign language

_____ Doesn't know sign language



I give permission for firefighters to provide this information to help with installing the visual smoke alarms in our house.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail form to your local fire department.

Notify fire department in the event of moving from this residence.



Iowa Department of
Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

INFORMATION

Interested in signing up for E-mail Alerts?

Would you like to know when a public health emergency threatens you and others in our area?

Polk County Health Department allows you to sign up for email alerts to find out when there's a public health emergency, such as disease outbreaks, emergency healthcare facilities, or disasters with health consequences. In August, we kept subscribers in the loop about emergency cooling locations during the warmest July since 1955.

Would you like to receive these alerts? Do you have friends, colleagues or family members who also should be getting these alerts? **Please forward this email to them so they can sign up.**

We also have email alerts for general public health news. These emails let you know about events, community health priorities (Healthy Polk 2020), health outcomes and other public health-related news.

HERE'S HOW TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS:

Go to our website <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health/> and see the gray box that says "Receive email updates about public health emergencies.*NEW!* Receive updates about general public health news" Enter your email address and hit "submit." This will take you to a page where you can select which news alerts you would like to receive.

INFORMATION

Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, CICIL

Central Iowa Center for Independent Living now has public access video telephone available to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and the public— this telephone is a closed circuit television system which enables sign language users to converse with other sign language users in a private and confidential manner. The telephone system is called a Project Empower Public Access Videophone and is available during regular business hours from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm most business days at the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living. No appointment is needed for use of this equipment. They are located at 655 Walnut Street in downtown Des Moines. Our office is adjacent to the DART Transit area and their Center is accessible to people who have mobility impairments as well. In addition to the public access videophone service their Center also has a computer lab available for individuals with disabilities to use free of charge during regular business hours. If you have any questions or need information, please contact Frank Strong, at 515-243-1742

John Gannon selected for Hamilton Relay 2011 Deaf community Leader Award for the State of Iowa -

John Gannon has been a strong advocate for the Deaf community in Iowa for many years. His enthusiasm is evident through his involvement and interest in a variety of organizations geared towards individuals who are Deaf. He supported the implementation of relay services in Iowa and is active in supporting the Office of Deaf Services in their activities and advocacy efforts. While John has resided in different areas across the State of Iowa he has remained

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

active in the local Deaf clubs and has generously given his time to assume many office and leadership roles within a variety of associations, organizations and clubs. Being selected for the 2011 Hamilton Relay Deaf Community Leader Award reflects on John's accomplishments and highlights the impact he has made in Iowa. John has received a myriad of honors and held several positions throughout the years. Listed below are just examples:

- Long-time active member of the Iowa Association of the Deaf (IAD)
- Recently selected as "Mr. IAD King" in 2011
- Telecommunications Relay Services board member and advocate
- President of the Davenport National fraternity Society of the Deaf club, Clinton Hearing and Deaf Awareness club, and the Iowa Senior Citizens of the Deaf Citizen
- Supporter and advocate of the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
- Held office in the Clinton Association of the Deaf, Dubuque Association of the Deaf, and the Iowa Association of the Deaf.

John has maintained the trust and respect of individuals inside and outside of the Deaf community in Iowa and continues to be a leader and advocate. It is an honor to recognize John Gannon for his accomplishments— Congratulations, John!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/27: 7:00 pm: The Hammer Theater (new Open-Captioned film), located Rave Motion Pictures Davenport 53 + IMAX, 3601 East 53rd Street, Davenport IA

10/27: 7:00 PM: The Hammer Theater (New Open-Captioned film), located Cedar Rapids Galaxy 16 Cinema

10/29: 10 am– 5 pm: Iowa Association of the Deaf Board Meeting, West Des Moines Community Center, 217-5th St, West Des Moines, IA (Valley Junction

11/2: 7 PM: The Hammer Theater (New Open-Captioned film), Located Rave Motion Pictures Davenport 53 + IMAX, 3601 East 53rd Street, Davenport, IA

11/2: 7PM: The Hammer Theater (New Open-Captioned Film) Located Village Pointe Cinema-Omaha, 304 North 174th Street, Omaha, NE 68118

11/2: 7 PM: The Hammer Theater (New Open-Captioned Film), Located Lincoln Grand Cinema-Lincoln, 1101 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

11/4: 4:30pm-6:30 pm: Deaf Coffee Chat, Old Chicago Restaurant (inside College Square mall) 6301 University, Cedar Falls, IA

11/15: 2 pm-4 pm: Deaf Coffee Chat Highway 63 Diner, 3030 Marine Ave, Waterloo, IA (Intersection W. Ridgeway & HWY 63)

11/16: 5 pm– 8 pm: Bang Bang Mongolian Grill, 6240 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines IA

11/19: 10 am– 1pm: DSCI Commission Meeting located Altoona Public Library, 700 8th Street SW, Altoona, IA

12/1: 9:30 am–11:30 am: Deaf Coffee Chat Gravy's Diner, 4129 University, Cedar Falls, IA

For more details on these events, see our events webpage:

<http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov/events/index.html>

Posting to our Calendar

If you would like to post your events onto our calendar, please send an email to dhr.dsci@iowa.gov.

The deadline for submission for the December issue is November 30, 2011. Send e-mail submissions to dhr.dsci@iowa.gov



Happy Fall