

147. VITALS



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

Effective Date:	03/25/20
No. of Pages:	2
Serial Number:	10-047
Authority:	Chief Jay Henthorne

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

Vulnerable Individuals Technology Assisted Location Service - or "VITALS" is an Application-based personal information service ("App") that allows officers to access personal information provided by individual subscribers to help inform officer response during an incident involving the subscriber.

VITALS™ uses a transmitter and a mobile App to help individuals with an invisible disability voluntarily disclose their diagnosis to officers up to an 80-foot radius who have installed the App on a smart phone. Information from participating individuals is used to create a profile that features a photo of the individual and other details including name, diagnosis, anxiety triggers, preferred ways to be approached, and preferred de-escalation tactics. There is also an option for caregivers of the person to download a short video of them speaking to the individual, thereby creating a real time message to the vulnerable person. This information allows officers to be better informed about how to interact with the individual.

II. POLICY

App Check: An App and App profile will be provided to all officers with a department-issued personal communication device (PCD). Officers shall ensure their App is in the On-Duty mode for the duration of their work shift. Officers will also make sure that all locations services, Bluetooth and cellular are turned ON during their shift.

Officer safety should always remain paramount to officers when engaged in police action. Therefore, Vitals™ alerts are not intended to hamper safety and should be viewed only on calls or during situations which allow the officer time to read alerts without compromising safety. When it is safe, Officers shall open the alert and review the information and make the appropriate decision to respond or disengage.

The App and any of its affiliated data (including subscriber profile information) shall only be used for legitimate law enforcement purposes. Officers that misuse the App and/or its affiliated data shall be subject to discipline.

III. DEFINITIONS

"VITALS™ data" is information accessed through the App. Information accessed through the App that is relevant to an incident should be documented in the responding officer's incident report, including that the information was provided through the App. All information is personal information about an individual and should only be accessed and used for law enforcement purposes only. Officers shall not take a screen shot of the individuals' personal information to access at a later time. Once the officer is out of the 80 foot radius of the vulnerable person carrying a Vitals™ beacon the information will not be accessible on the app. Officers should instead, access this information through the "Historical" button found on the APP's main page. This history will be accessible for 12 hours if the officer opens the person's information only. All other beacon hits will not be saved.

IV. PROCEDURE

VITALS is an informational tool for officers to better inform encounters with vulnerable individuals. Officers will download the Vitals App and access the App and provided information according to Department training. Officers shall open up the app to view the alert whenever it is safe to do so. Officers are also encouraged to view the app when notifications are made, even when officers are not on a 911 call for situational awareness and to have positive engagement with vulnerable individuals.

By Order Of:


Chief of Police

