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## **Why Your Community Needs Autism Safety Training**

### **Statistics**

1 in 68 children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder 25% of the ASD population is non-verbal 48% wander from a safe environment 91% of fatal wandering incidents involve drowning  
10 times more likely to become victim of crime

### **Facts**

Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are often affected by a number of characteristics that **DIRECTLY** impact their safety, as well as the safety of those attempting to assist them in an emergency or crisis situation, including the following:

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**Sensory issues-** can be highly sensitive to being touched, which can lead to a violent reaction. Other potential sensory issues include loud noises and flashing lights. Persons affected by ASD can also be “hypo-sensitive” to stimuli, and therefore can present with a very high threshold for pain, making patient assessment by EMS personnel very challenging.

**Processing issues-** can often take longer for them to respond to questions, commands or instructions  
**Meltdowns-** can go into a meltdown if triggered by some of the above issues, depending on the individual. These meltdowns can be physical and create a dangerous situation for all involved.

**Communication deficits-** can be very literal, and often have difficulty communicating effectively, particularly when under stress in an emergency or crisis situation.

The vast majority of first responder agencies have little or no training in this critical area, and as a result, persons affected by ASD have been injured and killed in incidents involving the police. Many children with ASD have wandered from the safety of their home or school, and drowned. Persons with

ASD are much more likely to become victims of crimes, particularly sexual assault. Responding to an emergency in either a law enforcement or emergency medical or fire situation can be challenging at best, and extremely dangerous at worst. These situations can be handled effectively and safely in most cases, however, when first responders are properly trained on specific strategies to prevent, recognize and respond to, emergency situations involving persons affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The training provided by Autism Safety Education & Training (ASET) is delivered by a 25-year veteran of law enforcement, who is also a former Emergency Medical Technician, and most importantly, is also the father of a son affected by ASD. He brings the invaluable dual perspective of a seasoned first responder and parent, who understands ASD and its challenges intimately.

First responders & community members who attend this training will learn:

- Facts about ASD- incidence, causes, common characteristics that impact safety
- In depth details on how many of those common characteristics directly impact upon the safety of persons with ASD, as well as those interacting with them in an emergency situation
- The basics of meltdown prevention, recognition and response
- Specific techniques to accomplish patient assessment and other typical emergency contacts safely
- How social and communication deficits create challenging scenarios, and how first responders can navigate those deficits to effectively assist a person with ASD who is experiencing a crisis
- The lethal danger of wandering, through a detailed discussion that includes statistics as well as tracking devices, and other specific techniques for wandering response in the home, at school, and in the community
- Proper techniques for interviewing crime victims with ASD, to ensure proper resolution to these cases

- Specific programs that can be put into place to ensure the safety of those with ASD within your community in an emergency situation, including: Registration programs, dispatcher protocols, proactive education programs, and “community days” in which first responders and persons affected by ASD interact in a relaxed environment.