

Project Life Saver
(to locate nearest law enforcement special needs registries)
www.projectlifesaver.org
877-580-LIFE (877-580-5433)

NCMEC
24-hour: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
Phone: 703-224-2150
www.missingkids.org/theissues/autism

CA Dept of Developmental Services
916-654-1690 www.dds.ca.gov
(Regional Centers www.dds.ca.gov/rc/)

First Responders Guide for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Created by Special Agent In Charge Guillermo Auyon
(Retired CA DOJ)

**Autism Speaks: 888-AUTISM2 (888-288-4762)
888-772-9050 (Spanish)
www.autismspeaks.org**

**Autism Society: 800-3-AUTISM (800-328-8476)
www.autismsociety.org**



Keep in Mind:

- If an individual is placed face down, be aware of underdeveloped muscles that may restrict their breathing ability – sit them up or place them on their side as soon as possible
- Use a blanket to prevent them from injuring themselves
- Nearly one-half of those with Autism wander or bolt from safety
- Consider that they may:
 - be at risk of having a seizure
 - be surprisingly strong while agitated or scared
 - be hyposensitive to pain (high tolerance) and hyper-sensitive to their senses
 - be attracted to bodies of water (pools, lakes, rivers or ocean)
 - avoid eye contact and be unresponsive to name, questions or instructions
 - exhibit repetitive behaviors (verbal or physical IE: hand flapping, rocking motion, humming).

Best Practices:

- Assess the individual - every person with Autism is different
- Ask before proceeding to avoid a trigger
 - Actions that can lead to triggers: over stimulation (touching, sirens, bull horn, screaming, TV, radio, bright lights), too many people at the scene, unwarranted searches, crying, if they are soiled/wet
- Low Key / Soft Approach / Non-Intimidating
- Two Person Teams (male/female)
- Keep It Simple (literal actions & language)
- Monitor the individual often
- If available and safe, ask a family member or caretaker to assist or mediate
- Take advantage of TIME - BUILD RAPPORT and BE PATIENT!!!