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For Immediate Release

Kirkwood Fire Department Joins STARS Program

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Kirkwood, Missouri: The Kirkwood Fire Department will join the Special Needs Tracking and Awareness Response System (STARS) to help identify and better treat pediatric patients with special needs in the Kirkwood/Oakland areas.

STARS was developed in conjunction with Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital to give emergency responders a management plan for children with a significant developmental delay, seizure disorders, cardiac history, cerebral shunts, tracheostomies, or any other atypical diseases or syndromes. These children are at higher risk for emergency care, and having vital information before the need arises gives responders a head start with patient care.

Patients and responders have opportunities to meet and become familiar with each other before an emergency. This helps the patient feel more secure when he or she personally knows the paramedics who respond when needed. The parents and the paramedics will develop a plan for each specific child in the program based on the child's history and needs. That information will be a valuable resource when Kirkwood paramedics are dispatched to that STARS' patient's home.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to contact the Kirkwood Fire Department to enroll their child in the STARS program if their child lives in the Kirkwood/Oakland area.

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