

## Reverse 911 aids crews in finding woman, 87

Readington residents  
are quickly notified

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When an 87-year-old woman diagnosed with Alzheimer's went missing earlier this week, the Readington Police Department was able to quickly organize a search, thanks in part to the township's reverse 911 system that was activated and used to notify residents.

As has become commonplace, police department and other rescue agencies have been able to use technology to quickly and efficiently organize groups or send out mass alerts through the use of cellular phones, e-mail and the Internet.

More than a dozen agencies participated in the search on Monday and were quickly mobilized

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Civil Air Patrol

after the woman's family reported her missing just before 6 p.m.

Soon after, an emergency call went out to residents with a description of the woman and possible locations.

One person who received the call was Tracie Flyr-Casey, a senior member of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Within an hour members of the patrol were at the command center, with overnight gear and preparing to search a grid that had been established when the woman was found.

"Despite the limited use of CAP resources during the search, this event did open the lines of communication between the Readington Police Department, local OEM teams, and the civil air patrol for future cooperation," said Lt. Bill Pittenger, the ground team leader. "CAP was able to demonstrate their ability to provide immediate trained resources and the (incident command) was planning to employ that expertise."

Reverse 911 uses a database of residents' phone numbers and can be activated in the event of an emergency, severe weather or any other reason emergency officials deem necessary. Readington Police said earlier this week that the system performed as it should.

Aerial patrols, the department's K-9 Unit and off-duty officers were also used in the search.

"This was a lost grandmother and everyone wanted to help find her," said Flyr-Casey.

The woman, who lives in the White House section of town, was found in a rocky creek off Readington Road, wet and suffering from exposure after being missing for more than eight hours. She was taken to the Hunterdon Medical Center for Treatment.

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