

From the Desk of Detective Dave

*Seconds Count: FEMA's
"Until Help Arrives" Program
May 2017*



Most of us are familiar with the saying, "Seconds count" and from my experiences, I can affirm that statement. Taking immediate action from the time a tragedy occurs until emergency responders arrive, can have a positive impact and potentially save a life. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in collaboration with other federal partners announced the "Until Help Arrives" program, developed to educate and empower the public to take action and provide lifesaving care before professional help arrives.

FEMA reports a recent National Academies of Science study indicates trauma as a leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 46.

On April 17th, our community was rocked by a tragedy that took the lives of well-known and established community members, Mark Martinez and Joey Irwin. Both were only 42 years old. Erin Martinez (Mark's wife) was also affected and severely injured when the Martinez home exploded trapping her in the debris. If it were not for the immediate and selfless actions of nearby construction workers who freed Erin from the collapsed home, she would have likely perished.

Now put yourself in their position and ask yourself, if I were faced with the same situation would I have acted the same way or been hesitant? There is no right or wrong answer and feeling hesitant is a normal reaction when presented with a traumatic situation. Much of that hesitation is caused by the stress of not knowing what to do or having a fear of making things worse. Truth is, doing nothing is the worst thing you can do and it's nearly impossible that you'll make a life threatening situation worse than it already is.

If you're interested in learning more about what you can do when faced with a traumatic, life threatening situation then go to the FEMA website <https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives> and participate in the web-based training they provide. Some of the topics are basic but overall it's good information to store away.

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