

# AUTISM AWARENESS FOR PFD FIRST RESPONDERS



## IDENTIFY AUTISM

1. TANTRUMS
2. EXTREME DISTRESS WITHOUT PROVOCATION
3. UNCONTROLLED LAUGHTER OR GIGGLING
4. IGNORING YOUR PRESENCE
5. SENSITIVITY TO SOUNDS
5. SENSITIVITY TO TOUCH
6. SENSITIVITY TO LIGHTS
7. INABILITY TO MAKE EYE CONTACT
8. INSENSITIVITY TO PAIN OR INAPPROPRIATE REACTION TO PAIN STIMULI SUCH AS LAUGHTER
9. NO FEAR OF REAL DANGER
10. EXHIBITING SELF-STIMULATING BEHAVIORS SUCH AS BODY ROCKING / FLAPPING OR ATTACHMENT TO SPECIFIC OBJECTS
11. BABBLING INCOHERENTLY
12. EMITTING A TONE OR TONES REPEATEDLY



## COMMUNICATING

### *A PERSON WITH AUTISM MAY...*

1. BE NON-VERBAL OR LIMITED IN THEIR VERBAL SKILLS
2. REPEAT YOUR WORDS AND PHRASES
3. MIMIC YOUR BODY LANGUAGE
4. MIRROR YOUR EMOTIONAL REACTIONS
5. HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPRESSING NEEDS

### *THE FIRST RESPONDER SHOULD...*

1. TRY TO SPEAK SLOWLY
2. USE SIMPLE STRAIGHTFOWARD LANGUAGE
3. GIVE ONLY ONE REQUEST OR COMMAND AT A TIME
4. CONSIDER USING ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS PICTURES, SIGN LANGUAGE, WRITING, OFFER PEN / PAPER / COMPUTER AND DEMONSTRATE EACH
5. TRY WHISPERING OR EVEN SING THE INFORMATION