PENNSYLVANIA YELLOW DOT AND EMERGENCY CONTACT PROGRAM

In 2012, in cooperative efforts between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the state departments of Health and Aging, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, first responders, and local law enforcement, the Yellow Dot and Emergency Contact Information Programs were created to assist drivers and passengers in the “golden hour” of emergency care following a vehicle accident. The Yellow Dot program allows Commonwealth residents to complete a personal information form, which includes the participant’s name, photo, emergency contact information, medical history, medications, allergies, and doctors. This form is placed in the glove compartment of the vehicle and a yellow dot placed in the lower left corner of the rear window. This is intended to alert first responders to the presence of emergency information in the event the occupants of the vehicle are unable to respond. Additionally, the Emergency Contact Information Program allows residents with a valid Pennsylvania driver’s license or identification card to have two emergency contacts listed in a secure database, which is available to law enforcement officers.

How Can Citizens Participate?

Citizens complete a participation form online to have PennDOT mail them a Yellow Dot kit. Upon receipt, participants should complete the information section, which includes emergency contact information, medical history, medications, allergies, and doctors. A photo (showing only the head and shoulders) is then taped to the appropriate location inside the booklet. The completed kit should be placed in the vehicle’s glove compartment. The Yellow Dot decal is placed in the lower left corner of the vehicle’s rear windshield, no higher than 3 inches from the bottom.

Additional information on the two programs are available on the PennDOT website at www.dmv.pa.gov, or www.yellowdot.pa.gov.