

LOCK BOX PROGRAM

This is a program in which seniors have a small secure lock box installed that holds their house key. The location and combination will be on file with the local Dispatch Center. When an emergency call comes to the Dispatch Center the dispatcher will inform the responding officer or paramedic (via a secure format) of the lock box location and combination which will allow the first responders quicker entry to offer assistance. The program saves valuable minutes when responding to calls and eliminates the scenario of having to break into a seniors home in order to provide assistance. This program is a proven winner and is being utilized by the public safety community to ensure the well-being of some of our most vulnerable community members.

To Date, approximately 142 lock boxes have been installed in Amherst and approximately 150 have been installed in South Hadley. Other participating communities include Greenfield, Granby, Hadley, and Belchertown.

SAND FOR SENIORS PROGRAM

Hampshire County Triad announced the rollout of its Sand for Seniors program in the Fall of 2017. Triad groups delivered a bucket of sand directly to the homes of seniors who may have trouble getting a bucket on their own. The sand was then spread over slick ice to help prevent life-threatening falls. The project goal is to increase winter safety for homebound seniors or seniors who have mobility issues. Southampton, Belchertown and South County Triad groups participated in sand distribution in 2017. Buckets have been donated to the program, and sand is acquired at no cost from local DPW's. The program will be expanded in 2018 to other communities.



Sand for Seniors bucket filling, Belchertown