

"Golden hour" after car accidents inspires Yellow Dot program

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- May 29, 2011

Several months ago, an 83-year-old Alabama man got into a [car accident](#) when he swerved to avoid hitting a car in front of him. This is a scary scenario no matter what the circumstance, but this particular crash victim had something going for him that provided him further safety than some others.

The Alabama victim had a yellow sticker on his back window. What does that mean? The yellow sticker represents that the man was enrolled in Alabama's Yellow Dot program. It's meant to provide emergency responders with victim information that can help them in their medical response.

According to USA Today, the program started in Connecticut back in 2002. And as of 2009, certain Alabama counties began utilizing the safety program.

Many drivers are on prescribed medications these days, especially with the amount of aging baby boomers amid the driving population. When they get into car accidents and are unable to respond to emergency responders' medical questions, a yellow dot on their cars can help. The sticker tells responders that there is a folder in the victim's glove compartment, outlining his or her medical conditions and medication list.

Rescuers call the first 60 minutes after a car crash the "golden hour." With a victim's medical information readily available at the scene of an accident, responders can make the most out of the critical timeframe with the simple folder that thoroughly informs them about how to best treat a victim.

The Yellow Dot system has found great success and excitement throughout Alabama. At least 30,000 Alabama drivers have enrolled in the program, and by next month, 27 counties will be using the safety program.

Source

USA Today: "[Yellow Dot car program speeds help to crash victims](#)," Larry Copeland, 24 May 2011