

# Smartphone App Alerts Trained Bystanders to Cardiac Emergencies

Reading: Take note of the key words.

Earlier this month, the *New England Journal of Medicine* **published** the results of a randomized, controlled trial in Stockholm involving volunteers trained in CPR and a mobile phone technology similar to PulsePoint.

That study determined the targeted mobile phone alerts significantly increased the likelihood that **cardiac** arrest patients received CPR from a bystander.

Schaeffer says that since his department introduced PulsePoint early last year, the app has triggered an alert to citizen responders within 400 meters of an incident about 150 times. A percentage of those made a life-saving difference, although the chief can't say exactly how many.

Good Samaritans emerge in varying ways, he notes, and then often disappear before they can be **debriefed** and thanked.

"Anybody can be a rescuer. It is that simple. In fact traditionally, we used to teach CPR in fire stations," Schaeffer said. "We don't do that anymore. It's all on the Internet."

In the case of baby Nolan, the nearest fire engine was on another call. So it took more than five minutes for medics to arrive. Citizen responder Jeff Olson and the PulsePoint app got credit for saving the infant's life.

And Schaeffer stressed, "There is no risk to a Good Samaritan that renders aid," so there is no **liability** for life-saving actions that are ultimately not successful.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the importance of phone technology in our society?
2. How was the infant saved?
3. Do you know a lot of phone applications? What are they?

True or False:

1. Pulse point is the most useful phone app these days.
2. Good Samaritans are everywhere.
3. Mr. Schaeffer lost count of those people who have helped save someone's life.

Search for the similar word in the text:

spectator

possibility

provoked

appear

humanitarian

Do you agree or disagree?

1. Cell phones should be allowed in school.
2. Mobile phones are better learning tools than computers.

Evaluation:

State a personal situation where a phone app provides a helping hand.