



Operation Blue Angel FAQs

What is Operation Blue Angel?

It is a program that gives first responders quick access to your home in the event of a medical or life-threatening emergency. A secured lock box with a copy of your house key inside is placed on your home or on your property. *This lock box can only be opened by first responders.*

Who is eligible for the program?

Ridgewood residents who live alone (or are alone for extended periods of time on a regular basis) and have a medical condition or special need that may prevent them from getting to the door in the event of an emergency. Examples include:

- Someone who is bed-bound and has an aide for only part of the day
- Someone who lives alone and has mobility issues (uses a cane, walker, etc.)

What is the cost?

Operation Blue Angel is fully funded by the Village of Ridgewood and is free of cost to eligible Ridgewood residents.

How does the program work?

If a first responder is called to your house for a medical emergency or a request for a welfare check, they will be notified that your residence is part of Operation Blue Angel. The responder will obtain the code and, upon arrival, access the lock box and the key inside. Once the key is used to gain entry into your home, it will be placed back in the lock box and re-secured.

Will having a lock box on my house advertise that a potentially vulnerable person is inside?

The lock box will not be placed on your front door. It will be placed somewhere on your property, in a location determined during a conversation between you, the Police Department and the Fire Department.

Who has access to the code?

The code will be on file with the Fire Department and 9-1-1 Center. It can be provided to the first responder via phone or computer. If the code is transmitted over the radio, then the first responder will change the code before leaving the scene. *The resident will not have access to the code.*

How do I apply to the program?

You will need to fill out an application and a liability waiver, both of which can be found on the Fire Department website (rfd.ridgewoodnj.net).

Where can I find more information?

Visit the Fire Department website (rfd.ridgewoodnj.net), or call the Ridgewood Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 201-444-7898, ext. 5480.