**At the House**

***Deaf/Deafblind Awareness Training***

**At the door**

Deaf and Deafblind people generally will have technology or strategies that assist them to communicate with the wider community. To alert Deaf or Deafblind people that someone is at the door, technology such as a clip on vibrator or flashing lights will inform them that someone has pressed the doorbell.

Another strategy is to wave through a window to get the occupant’s attention, depending on how much sight they have they may be able to see you.

Another option is to switch off their power source’s main switch, to encourage the occupant to exit the premise, and investigate. This enables you to gain their attention.

If you know or discover that the occupant in the house is Deafblind, touch their hand when they reach out to show your presence. Since people who are Deafblind rely on touch, take off your gloves and gently move their hand to your uniform’s insignia. This will inform them you are from an organisation that is there to assist or provide information.

**Communication**

Communication with people who are Deaf or Deafblind require additional cues such as visual cues, or touch.

A person who is deafblind may have a personalized tag, stating they are deafblind, along with some additional information such as a quick communication method, and contact numbers.

One communication method for someone who is both deaf and blind is to write slowly on the palm of their hand in big block letters, using your finger. Try to keep the words simple and to the point.

When communicating with a deaf person, ensure that you are not backlit by a light source, and follow their preferred communication methods. You may not have a pen and paper handy, but you can use your phone to type information, in simple English.

To get the attention of person who is deaf, tap softly on an area on their arm. Visual cues like gestures and pointing are helpful too.

**Haptics**

***The ‘X’ Signal***

Haptics are a form of communication through touch, used often for people who are Deafblind. A universal signal is the ‘X’ signal. Marking ‘X’, running from their shoulders to their lower back, indicates to a person there is immediate danger.