



Lifesaving “fridge magnet”

A private communications firm is working with the public sector to provide a free service aimed at saving lives in Northern Ontario.

Northern Communications - True Steel Security is the parent company that is sponsoring the Link to Life Medical Information File that has been endorsed by every major health care agency and hospital in Timmins and across Northeastern Ontario.

The Link to Life program, which is free to local residents, is a compact vinyl packet that contains essential medical information about the homeowner or a person with a medical condition. The packet has magnet so that it can be attached to a refrigerator door.

The system works by giving paramedics, doctors and nurses instant information on the medical history of their patient as well as information on such things as their medication and allergies.

The packets are free from the Timmins and District Hospital, the Porcupine Health Unit and the local Cochrane District EMS ambulance service.

True Steel Security provides medical alarm servic-

es to individuals who may need urgent medical assistance at home, through a program called Care Link. Clients wear bracelets or neck pendants that contain a push-button alarm.

Care Link program manager Kevin Buckland said the idea for the Link to Life began when it became apparent that some Care Link clients who had fallen ill, and summoned help, were not able to communicate once the paramedics arrived.

“We thought well what can we do for our clients to allow them to clearly communicate that information,” said Buckland. He said that’s when the simple idea of a fridge-magnet pouch with the medical file came to be.

“We realized, gee this is a product we think that is valuable not only to our clients, but to the public as a whole,” said Buckland.

“This outlines medical information in a package available to doctors, nurses and paramedics in the event that people cannot speak for themselves in the event of a medical emergency,” said Timmins and District Hospital representative Marty Pilkington.