

Personal Medical Alarm a "Lifesaver"

Family and friends of Masterton woman Mary Everett – who survived a frenzied wasp attack after suffering a stroke near a nest in her garden in January – are hailing her Guardian Healthcare personal medical alarm a lifesaver.

Mrs Everett's children believe she would perhaps have died without the "quickened response" and rescue prompted by the Guardian Healthcare personal medical alarm.

"If it wasn't for the alarm and neighbours nearby, things would have been very different. I'm absolutely sure of that," her daughter Trish Cameron told the Wairarapa Times Age.

Mrs Everett, 85, fell while gardening and was attacked by thousands of wasps. She activated her Guardian Healthcare personal medical alarm and within minutes help arrived.

She has had her Guardian Healthcare personal medical alarm since 2002 and this was the first emergency situation for which she has used it.

Our Healthcare Field Officer for the Wellington and Wairarapa regions, Sue Wood, has taken Mrs Everett flowers and passed on Guardian Healthcare's absolute heartfelt best wishes to the family.

"Mrs Everett is still in Wairarapa Hospital and by all accounts is improving day by day and is responding well, which is great news," Ms Wood said.

She hopes to visit Mrs Everett again soon.

Call it coincidence or good practice but Guardian Healthcare telephoned Mrs Everett to test her pendant on January 22, 2007 – just two days before she made the life-saving activation of her personal medical alarm.

Guardian Healthcare's more than 12,500 personal medical alarm customers are encouraged to test their alarms each month; however if they don't Guardian Healthcare, as part of our superior customer care, follows up with them.

"We are relieved that Mrs Everett is a Guardian Healthcare personal medical alarm customer; that she knew her

pendant was working after having just tested it and that she was confident to use it in a life threatening situation," General Manager Home Based Services Stephen Murray said.

Medical alarm a 'lifesaver'

Waiting game for family as Mary battles on

By Nana Crane

FAMILY and friends of Masterton woman Mary Everett – who on Wednesday survived a frenzied half hour wasp attack after suffering a stroke near a nest in her garden – are hailing her medical alarm as a lifesaver.

Two of her children, Trevor (left) and Trish Cameron, said they drove through the night from Auckland to be with their mother, ordering 80-year-old former Masterton politician Joe Sheehan from his two-day trip at the bedside of his dear friend.

All credit for the medical alarm Mrs Everett was wearing went to her 110, even though she is now lying flat on her back from the crushing stroke after surviving the wasp attack.

Doctors will today determine her chances of recovery, Mrs Cameron said.

"It is mean for the alarm, and neighbours nearby. Things would have been very different. I'm absolutely sure about that."

Mrs Everett, 85, revealed her stroke at the moment of the attack on the ground but barely about lunchtime on Wednesday, sending power lines neighbours Joyce Sims and Michael Hillier and paramedics who arrived to help.

Firefighters to protective clothing swapped high-pressure hoses to keep the wasps at bay long enough to drag her to safety 20 minutes after Mrs Everett first triggered her medical alarm. Wasps were still swarming from her light summer clothing in the ambulance and emergency teams at Wairarapa Hospital, where she is now in a critical but stable condition in the high dependency unit.

Mrs Sims and Mr Hillier, who drove her to hospital the day after the attack, were the first called by the alarm monitoring company. The couple also pressed the alarm and earlier said they had helped Mrs Everett before another alarm.

Paramedics and firefighters were contacted seconds later by the company when there was no immediate telephone response from Mrs Everett herself.

Mr Sheehan said he would have been called next if there had otherwise been no response from the Halley Street neighbours of his home.

"We are very good friends and it's been the doctor for the past 20 years."

"I called her on Wednesday – just like I do every day – to make sure dinner plans I'd made had given me a reply, which we were going to share."

Mrs Everett is a family independent woman, Mr Sheehan said, who is still a volunteer for the Child Cancer Society and a Wairarapa and Services Association women's club member.

"She had complained about being tired in the days before this happened, so there were some indications things weren't right and it was very fortunate she was able to activate her alarm and that her neighbours were home."

The second on the list to call and I saw an alarm myself but if she didn't have one she would have been there all day until I arrived with them. It would have been bloody disastrous – I'm probably."

Mr Sims and Mrs Cameron agreed that their mother would have perhaps died without the "quickened response" and rescue prompted by the medical alarm.

Mrs Cameron said they arrived in Masterton desperate and anxious at dawn on Friday and both were shocked when they entered the hospital room, Mrs Cameron said.

"He didn't see one another, we saw someone else. It didn't look like our man," said Mr Sims.

"We've still shattered totally. Doctors said they weren't aware anything like this had happened, but she was more alert on Saturday. She seemed to be responding better."

Mrs Cameron said hundreds of people with wells near the site on their mother where each being tended, and the stroke had allowed



GUARDIAN HEALTHCARE

Why choose Guardian Healthcare?

We provide a two-way voice communication personal alarm system that's monitored 24 hours, seven days, by a team of dedicated healthcare professionals. We stay on the line until help is at your side. Any time of the day or night you need us, we'll be there. So have fun. Enjoy life. Get on with doing the things you enjoy. And we'll do what we're good at – we'll be there when you need us.