

PREPARING IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A QUICK GUIDE FOR FAMILIES & CARE PARTNERS



www.kcesar.org

Important Reminder:

In case of an emergency: Search for no more than 10 minutes before calling 911.

Time goes by fast in a crisis and delays can make the situation significantly more challenging.

PREPARE IN ADVANCE

Significant stress occurs in an emergency. Gather and organize the information in advance and share copies with multiple friends and family members.

- ▶ Review and update it every couple of months to ensure ongoing accuracy
- ▶ Focus on updated pictures that reflect appearance changes, new or changing interests/hobbies, and medications and medical conditions

When organized, more information is better than less information

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- ▶ Ask friends, family, and neighbors to call if they see the person wandering, lost, or dressed inappropriately.
 - Asking individually can help mitigate bystander effect
- ▶ Check with your local police department if they have a vulnerable person's registry
- ▶ Create an emergency contact list to get help quickly if they wander
 - Identify key contacts who can efficiently share information to important networks (e.g., neighborhood chat, place of worship, community network) while emergency response is organizing
 - Ask people to check security camera footage and report any sighting of the person to 911, law enforcement or the emergency response personnel

KNOW THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Identify important details in the person's neighborhood including potentially dangerous areas, nearby bus stops, open stairwells, areas of dense foliage, tunnels, bodies of water, roads with heavy traffic, and other hazards

SUGGESTED INFORMATION TO GATHER

BASIC INFORMATION

- ▶ Several recent photographs, including 1 close-up of their face
- ▶ Personal details:
 - Current height/weight
 - hair and eye color
 - DOB
 - glasses or hearing aids
 - notable features (tattoos, moles, etc.)
- ▶ Current dementia type and stage, communication status, and mobility status
- ▶ Current medications and medical history
- ▶ Length of time at their current residence
- ▶ Information about any location management system/ tracker technology

CURRENT IMPORTANT PLACES AND THINGS

- ▶ Favorite places or spots with a current routine including stores, restaurants, recreation, places of worship, hobbies, parks/trails
- ▶ Locations of family or friends' residences
- ▶ Information on the wider area, not just their current town
- ▶ Favorite clothing or items, (as this may assist caregivers to determine what is missing from their wardrobe if they were not seen exiting)
- ▶ Favorite activities and interests
- ▶ Any significant aversions or fears (including subjects/ topics to avoid)

PREVIOUS IMPORTANT PLACES OR ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Include important or notable places going back to childhood:
 - Previous residences
 - Old workplaces
 - Frequent bus or commute routes
- ▶ Information about previous careers, hobbies (e.g., fishing locations, trails, etc.), special areas or meaningful spots
- ▶ List past family/friends' residences even if they are no longer present

IF THEY HAVE WANDERED BEFORE

- ▶ Details about any past wandering incidents including:
 - Where they were found
 - Route taken
 - Possible motivations