

WANDERING

A Quick Guide for Families
& Care Partners



WANDERING

6 in 10 people living with dementia will wander at least once. This can happen at any stage of the disease. It can occur on foot, by public transportation, by bicycle, or while driving. Even the first event can be dangerous and potentially life threatening.

PLEASE KNOW

**Don't wait – call 911 as early as possible.
The 24 hour waiting period is a myth.**

Even with preparation, things can still go wrong. Sometimes, despite your best efforts, a loved one may still go missing – and that is what emergency response is here for.

Don't assume they are nearby. People can travel farther and faster than expected, especially when motivated, confused, or disoriented.

REDUCE THE RISK

Know common signs & behaviors of increased risk for wandering

Follow & incorporate daily routines, implement prevention strategies



PREPARE FOR THE POTENTIAL

Equip the person with an ID and/ or medical identification jewelry that includes their name, address, and your emergency contact information >> **clothes can also be labeled with information**

Consider location management devices and educate yourself about the options available

Gather important information preemptively, including a recent photo

Inform neighbors about wandering potential and who to contact

Check if your local police department has a vulnerable persons registry

Make home and environment changes to enhance safety

TAKE ACTION AND RESPOND

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

Give 911 important information including:

- › Dementia or Alzheimer's diagnosis
- › Time and place last seen
- › Urgent Medical Conditions

Have at least 1 person stay at the place last seen at all times in case the missing person returns

Call and notify close friends, family members, and other people in your community

- › Check home cameras
- › Call 911 with information

Provide detailed information to first responders to help the search