

Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter

alzheimer's  association®



**Vision: A world without
Alzheimer's disease
and all other dementia[®].**

Mission:

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to **end Alzheimer's and all other dementia** — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

OBJECTIVES:

Demonstrate an awareness of the risks associated with wandering behavior.

Describe common signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Identify benefits of the Alzheimer's Association.

List techniques for effectively interacting with a person who has Alzheimer's disease.

Describe ways to recognize a person who may be affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Demonstrate knowledge of situations you may frequently encounter involving a person with Alzheimer's disease.

The Problem....

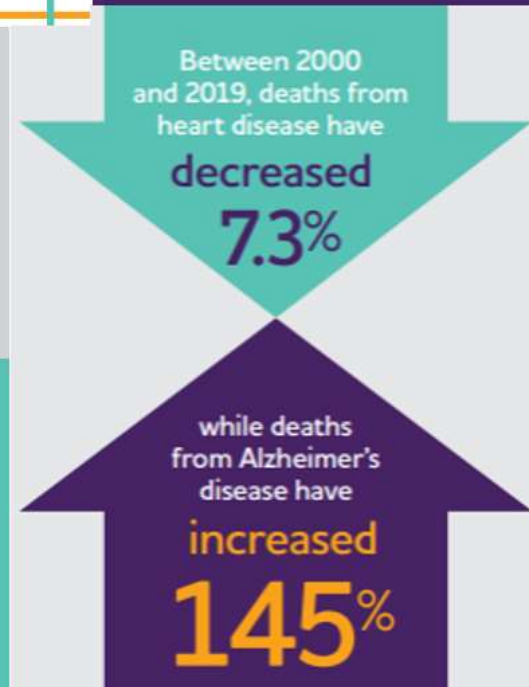
Man w/ dementia left his home by car at 9:00am to go to the store in his local neighborhood...7 hours later he ran over a curb in a Good Samaritan's yard 4 counties away.

Elderly woman w/ Alzheimer's wandered out of her home while husband was in the other room in April 2004...her remains were found on Christmas Eve 2004 only 500 yards from her house.



2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

More than **80%** of Americans know little or are not familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), which can be an early stage of Alzheimer's.



More than **6 million**
Americans are
living with **Alzheimer's**.



By 2050, this number is
expected to rise to
nearly **13 million**.

The Problem....

Alzheimer's is a community problem, especially when the person goes missing.

Searches can be exhaustive, expensive, and the result is not always a positive one.

There is oftentimes a need for Law Enforcement intervention in these situations, so proper knowledge and resources are key for successful interventions.

We are your partner when it comes to keeping this vulnerable population safe within our communities.

Wandering Statistics

If not located within 24 hours, 46% chance that wandering individuals will be found seriously injured or even dead.

Most common behavior.

Average distance is .5 mile.

Majority are repeat wanderers.

6 IN 10 
PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA
WILL **WANDER**

Why People Wander

Restlessness.

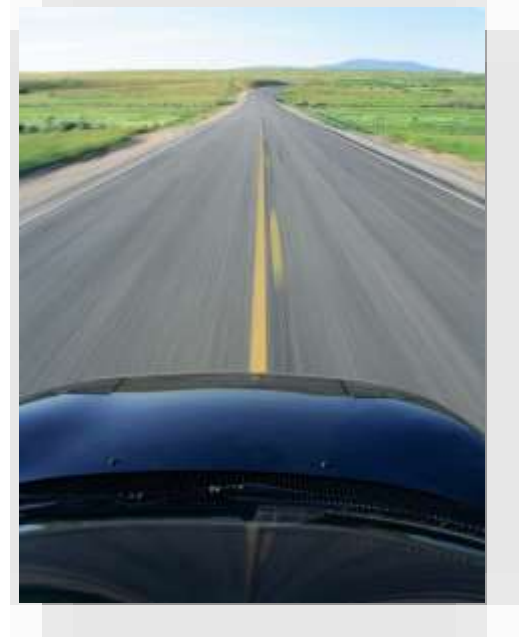
Confusion about time.

Change in physical environment (i.e. trying to find “home”).

Over-stimulation from crowds, noise.

Argument with a caregiver.

Fear caused by a delusion or hallucination



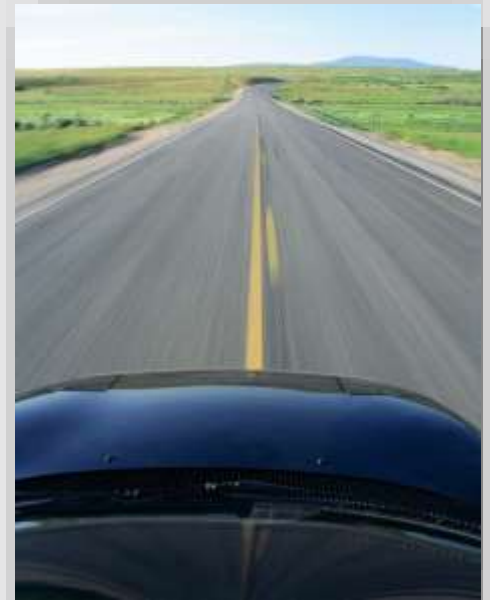
Why People Wander

An inability to communicate basic needs.

Went to the mailbox and could not find way home.

Looking for a spouse or child because they no longer look familiar.

A desire to meet former obligations that no longer exist.



Information from families:

Where did he/she live in the past?

What was their job?

What was her maiden name?

Do you have a recent photo?

Has the missing pwd been talking about anything that may lead us to where they were going?



Driving and Dementia: 10 Warning Signs a Driver may have Alzheimer's Disease

- Erratic driving with slow/poor traffic decisions.
- Intoxicated-like behavior.
- Inability to pull over safely.
- Lost or disoriented behavior.
- Defensive or agitated behavior.
- Vague answers/don't match questions.
- Destination location or route doesn't make sense.
- Unsteady gait.
- No valid license, registration or insurance.
- Difficulty determining date, time, or year.



Steps to Take:

Ask additional questions to make assessment of driver's condition (see pocket card).

Submit a Driver Re-Examination Form.

Ensure a safe transit home.

Interventions with caregiver, recommend:

- Person with Alzheimer's disease to "retire" from driving.
- Controlling access to car keys.
- Disabling or selling vehicle.



How to Recognize Someone with Alzheimer's

Physical clues

- Blank facial expressions,
- Inappropriate Clothing,
- Age,
- Unsteady Gait.



How to Recognize Someone with Alzheimer's

Psychological clues

- Short-term memory loss,
- Confusion,
- Communication problems,
- Delusions & hallucinations,
- Agitation,
- Catastrophic reaction.



What to Do: Found Incident

What do you do if you find a person and you are unable to locate family or identify the person?

- Emergency Room for evaluation.
- Adult Protective Services 1-888-774-0152, emergency money available for temporary placement.
- Emergency contact for temporary placement in GANE app.

GA NE APP

Code:

Your resource to protect vulnerable adults.

Adult Protective Services on call number 24/7.

Many other resources to help Law Enforcement.



Technology...



...tracking devices for those who wander.

Frequently Encountered Situations

Wandering

Driving

False Reports

Victimization

Shoplifting

Indecent Exposure

Homicide and Suicide

- Weapons/ guns

Abuse and Neglect

- Intentional/ unintentional

How to Interact with a Person with Alzheimer's Disease

Approach from the front, introduce yourself and explain why you're there.

Keep the individual away from crowds & noise.

Establish one-on-one conversation and maintain eye contact. If approaching from behind, announce yourself.

Speak slowly and calmly.

Always tell the person what you will be doing and explain it again while you are doing it.

Evaluation Questions

Determining if a person is lost or confused:

Tell the person your name and that you want the person to remember your name because you will be asking again.

Ask the person to tell you what time of day it is.

Ask them where he/she is.

After a few minutes ask them to tell you what your name is again.

If person cannot successfully answer:

Try to obtain family information.

Ask to search the wallet, vehicle, cell phone for contact information.

Look for ICE lists in the cell phone.

Look for person's name on clothing tags.

Responding to Incidents involving Missing Persons

Take Action immediately.

- Person is considered “Endangered Missing”.
- Emergency Situation (may have other health issues in addition to memory impairment).

Initiate Search.

- Search and Rescue dogs.

Enter a report to NCIC.

- Classify as having a disability.

Be On the Look Out (BOLO) Bulletin.

Issue a Mattie’s Call.

Mattie's Call

A formal protocol notifying Law Enforcement Agencies, Emergency Management and the Media to issue an urgent bulletin regarding a Missing Person with Alzheimer's, Dementia or any other cognitively disabling conditions.

Similar to Levi's Call & Amber Alert.

- Not through the Emergency Alert System
- Urgent Bulletin

How Mattie's call was developed.



Mattie's Call

What Mattie's call will do

- Urgent Bulletin through GBI to GAB (approximately 400 broadcasters).
- ACIM: A Child Is Missing telephone response system (1000 calls, 60 seconds).
- Georgia lottery system.



Search & Rescue

Search Dogs (scent tracking, not “bite”).

Persons with dementia are found in unusual places! Do not ignore:

- Ditches, Tight spots.
- Dense Bushes, Piles of leaves, woods.
- Landscape trouble spots, like ponds, tree lines, fence lines.
- Behind or inside of sheds.
- Attics, basements.
- Barricaded places, locked doors.
- If missing from a facility, check the facility thoroughly.
- Driving person with dementia will go until they stop (obstacle, ran out of gas).



Urgency Factors

Hazardous weather.

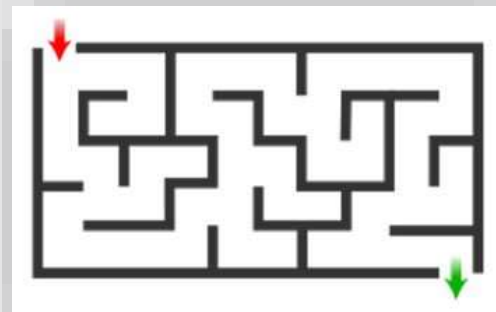
Urban areas (downtown) may blend in.

Precipitating event- car keys taken, lost job.

Insufficient clothing or food- losing calories, losing energy.

Disrupt medication schedule (dehydration).

Approaching darkness.



Alpha Team K9 Search & Rescue, Inc.

All-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization.

Provides resources & personnel to the search & rescue & emergency response community.

Air scent, trailing, cadaver dogs available.

Urban, building and water searches and man tracking.

Available 24/7 at no cost.

Call (404) 981-4911.





The **Alzheimer's Association** is the largest
Alzheimer's advocacy organization in the world.

Questions

Please feel free to contact:

1-800-272-3900

The Alzheimer's Association logo is displayed within a purple rectangular box. The logo consists of the text "alzheimer's" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized icon of two interlocking loops, and then the word "association" in a lowercase, sans-serif font below it.

alzheimer's 
association