

Time is Precious™



Wander vs. Elopement



Wandering – a behavior

- Seemingly aimless moving about without a fixed course or goal
- Behaviors like repetitive motions, nervous transit through rooms, rummaging through possessions



Elopement – an event

- A person leaves undetected from their caregiving environment
- Unaware of their surroundings in terms of time and/or place
- Exposure to potential dangers such as falling, traffic accidents, and adverse weather conditions



Critical Wandering – a situation

- A person living with Dementia cannot be located by their care partner
- Carers (caregivers/care partners) are typically the first to search for and report the missing person

What are the Risks?

Heat Stroke

Dehydration

Falls

Drowning

Abuse

Death

Collisions

Medical Emergencies

6

HIDDEN TRIGGERS

An estimated 198,000 critical wandering events result in up to 63,000 deaths each year*

- Fear
- Frustration
- Physical Needs
- Pain Seen/Unseen
- Purpose
- Promise



“Who are you?
Get away!!!”



“This is not my
home!” I have to
go home!”



“I need to pee,
now!”



“I’ve got to find
my mother!”
“Where is she?”



“I’m just going out to
pick up the milk jugs.”



“My boss is
expecting me ...
I need to go, now!”

Fight or Flight



Time/Space Confusion



6

RECOMMENDATIONS

One in three critical wanderers will not return after an elopement event*

- Review Home Safety
- Read & Respond
- Recruit Community
- Revisit Life History
- Get with the Doc
- Get Medical ID

*Dementia Society White Paper © 2021



Prevent & Prepare



Observe & learn your loved ones' non-verbal cues. Create a menu of appropriate responses.



Secure operation of doors/windows. Conceal exits & minimize clutter. Consider technology to monitor safety. Alarms, alerts & video can all play a role.



Build a profile to help others understand & respond to challenges. Valuable when search & rescue are required.



When appropriate, treat conditions like pain, anxiety, hallucinations, depression & more. Follow doctor's orders, but try to go "low & slow" with medications.



Explain the situation to neighbors, 911 call centers, likely first responders, and others with regular contact. Distribute your contact information widely.



Get ID jewelry, wristband, and/or wallet card, which may help get your loved one home more quickly and safely.

Key Info

NAME

TOP MEDICAL ISSUES

LIVED / WORKED

HOBBIES / INTERESTS

Missing?

Immediate Steps

1. Search EVERYWHERE in the home: closets, under beds, attic, basement, cubby holes.
2. Record time of missing.
3. Look up and down the street from entrances/exits.
4. Check pools and other obvious dangers.
5. Check neighboring homes, apartments, outbuildings, sheds, and garages.



Continued on next page.

Missing?

Not Found? Next Steps

1. Call 911 – give profile to first responders.
2. Leave the home exactly as is, don't move or touch anything – there maybe clues.
3. Enlist family, friends, and neighbors to patrol a ½-mile radius from last location.
4. Checks routes to frequently visited stores/places, former homes, and workplaces. Post flyers.

Still Not Found? Next Steps

1. Expand search to 1, and then 2-miles.
2. Ask police/sheriff about broadcasting an emergency notification.
3. Give permission to authorities to contact local TV/radio, and post on social media.
4. Check hospitals, and jails.
5. Ask law enforcement when they will request specialized search and rescue personnel.

Missing Person!

NAME

HELP
FIND!

Recent
Favorite
Photo

HELP
FIND!

LAST SEEN

AGE / DESCRIPTION

MEDICAL CONDITIONS


OTHER INFO

IF FOUND CALL #

Copy and post this flyer. Snap photo
of it and share to social media with
#KeepSafeAlert and #SilverAlert



Open smartphone camera and scan QR
code to the left to go right to Dementia
Society KeepSafe social media.



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