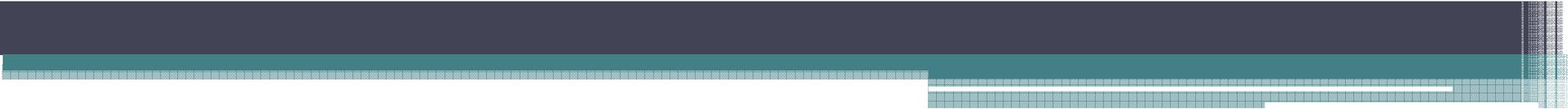


IACP Alzheimer's Information and Materials

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Introduction

- RI has proportionately high rate of elderly over the age of 65: 151, 881 (15% of the population)
- In RI, 24,000 are suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (AD/D)
- Numbers expected to increase – and additional resources will be need to meet demand
- 7 out of 10 persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias will wander away from their caregiver or care setting during their illness

Challenges to Law Enforcement

- Alzheimer's Disease is progressive disease of brain that disables person's ability to:
 - Think clearly
 - Recognize persons or other familiar objects
 - Remember names
 - To safely operate a motor vehicle
 - To react rationally under normal circumstance
- **A calm reassuring approach is needed when dealing with people with this disease**

Three Categories of Missing Persons with Ad/D

- 1. Individuals who seem normal and oriented during encounters with law enforcement and other persons and may not be classified as missing but show behaviors suggest that they are lost or at risk of becoming lost
 - May be en route to regular outing (grocery shopping, bank, doctor's office) but become disoriented – sometimes requesting assistance from law enforcement
 - Responding to reports of persons unknowingly shoplifting – may have put item in pocket or purse and forgot that it's there
 - Traffic stops related to person's poor memory or loss of knowledge of "Rules of the Road"

When you encounter someone you suspect having AD/D, contact their family or caregiver and document the incident.

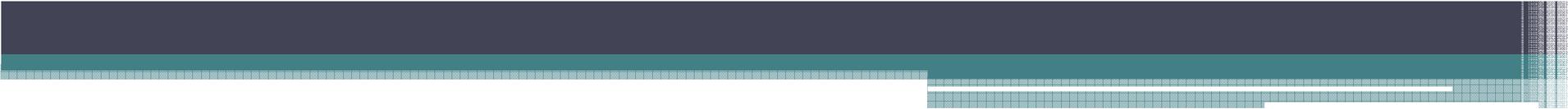
Three Categories of Missing Persons with Ad/D (continued)

- 2. Those who are missing but have not yet been reported missing by caregivers
 - When encountered by citizens or police, appear to be lost
 - **Should secure person until family or law enforcement contacted**
 - **These situations should be documented**

Three Categories of Missing Persons with Ad/D (continued)

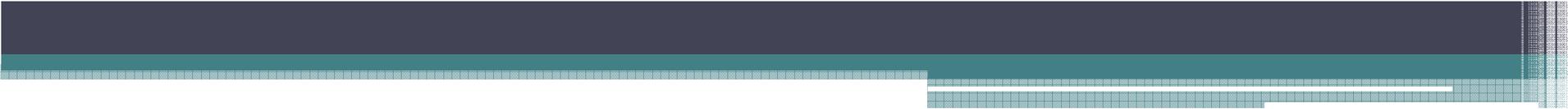
- Those who are reported missing by caretakers or the care facility
 - Often by time report, person has been missing for some length of time (possibly because caregivers searched in vain on own, person went missing while caregiver was sleeping, caregiver is hoping that the person will return, or caregiver is embarrassed)
 - Law Enforcement and Rescue Personnel should assume they may be working “behind the clock”

When you encounter someone you suspect having AD/D, contact their family or caregiver and document the incident.



Indicators of person with Ad/D

- Inappropriate clothing for weather
- Inappropriate social behavior for setting
- Inability to navigate crosswalks or sidewalks
- Aimlessness
- Walking in street or on side of road
- Difficulty interacting with others in proximity
- They give you vague answers to your questions
- They forget what they just told you

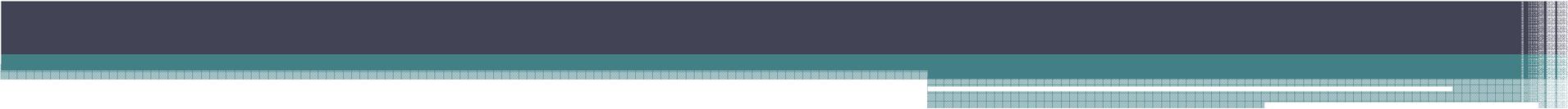


Suggestions

- Investigate further by asking evaluative questions – but if you find them getting agitated or anxious, you may want to back off
- Reach out to a family member whenever possible and always try to follow up with a family member or caregiver
- Document ALL cases dealing with AD/D

Report of Missing Person with AD/D

- Treat as an emergency requiring **immediate** response from law enforcement
- Person may have been missing for some time
 - Caregiver may not want to admit how long person has been missing
- Majority leave during day but 30 – 35% will leave at night when caregiver is sleeping
- Caregivers, guardians, and close friends should be able report the known behavior patterns and character of individual missing

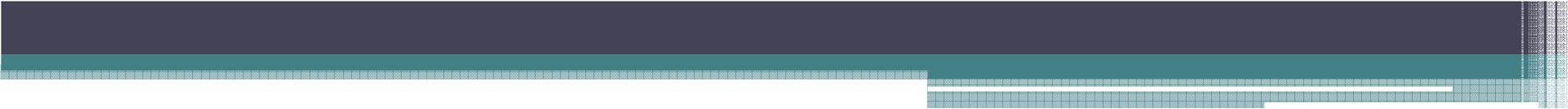


Missing Persons with AD/D

- Seventy-five percent will leave on foot and tend to hide or seclude themselves in natural areas such as woods or bodies of water
- May not respond when someone is calling for them or realize that people are looking for them
- May not ask for help or understand that people are searching for them
- Most common cause of death is exposure or drowning

Searching for Missing People with AD/D

- Start at missing person's residence – may hide in small places like closets, crawl spaces, under beds and attics (revert back to childhood)
- Coordinated search should be conducted immediately
- Often missing are located short distance from their home
- Disease prevents missing person from realizing they are not properly clothed, may be dehydrated, or that they are in danger
- Missing person may evade searchers if suffering from paranoia or delusions – may think that they're "in trouble" – know that they did something wrong, or are scared of their unexpected surroundings



Challenges for Public Safety

- Missing person may not take a coherent path – searchers must redirect thinking of likely or logical routes and appropriately modify traditional missing person protocol
- Missing person may try to seclude themselves in natural areas – such as lakes, ponds, brush, or woods – once secluded are likely to remain at that location
- Missing person may not respond to anyone calling for them or ask for help or understand that they are the subject of a search

Weapons

- People suffering from AD/D have been known to arm themselves with a weapon
 - Officer safety comes first, but keep in mind that if someone does not pose an imminent threat, but seems to be aimlessly wandering, try to speak calmly and use time to de-escalate situation if possible

Six hours

- **First six hours** are most critical
 - 60% of missing persons located
 - 30% located with 6 – 12 hours, one to five miles from their home
- Challenge is increased if missing person has taken a vehicle or public transportation
- INITIAL RESPONSE OF PUBLIC SAFETY is MOST CRITICAL component of investigation

Not over when located

- Investigation does not end when person located
 - Missing person should be interviewed and all know circumstances around disappearance documented – this information could be important if person is reported missing again
 - Could also identify possible issue of neglect, abuse, or lack of supervision
 - Internal police department follow-up should be conducted to identify what worked, what could be improved – and to identify security breaches

IACP Alzheimer Materials and Videos

- A list of the materials that IACP has made available can be found at:
 - <http://www.theiacp.org/About/Governance/Divisions/StateAssociationsofChiefsofPoliceSACOP/CurrentSACOPProjects/MissingAlzheimersDiseasePatientInitiative/tabid/897/Default.aspx>
- To register for or order training scenario videos, check out:
 - <http://www.theiacp.org/About/Governance/Divisions/StateAssociationsofChiefsofPoliceSACOP/CurrentSACOPProjects/MissingAlzheimersDiseasePatientInitiative/AlzheimersTrainingCenter/AlzheimerTrainingVideo/tabid/1131/Default.aspx>

**IACP ALZHEIMER MATERIALS AND VIDEOS
AVAILABLE TO ALL OF PUBLIC SAFETY ON
REQUEST**