832.269.2553
support@tcftm.org
centerforthemissing.org

TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING

WANDERING: WHO IS AT RISK?

Six in ten people with dementia will wander. People can wander or become confused about their location at any stage of dementia, even the early stage. If an individual with dementia wanders or becomes lost, Texas Center for the Missing (TCM) can help.

CONTACT US IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE DIAGNOSED WITH DEMENTIA WHO:

- Returns from a regular walk or drive later than usual.
- Forgets how to get to familiar places.
- Talks about fulfilling former obligations, such as going to work.
- Tries or wants to "go home" even when at home.
- Is restless, paces or makes repetitive movements.
- Has difficulty locating familiar places, such as the bathroom.
- Asks the whereabouts of past friends and family.
- Acts as if doing a hobby or chore, but nothing gets done.

TCM RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- Houston Regional Silver Alert System -- activated at the request of law enforcement.
- Houston Regional Endangered Missing Persons Alert System -- activated at the request of law enforcement.
- Identification Kit
- Missing Persons Response Plan Development Tool
- Technology Resources to assist with tracking and recovery

For more information and resources, visit:
centerforthemissing.org/learn/endangered-adult-resources/

We bring hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS MISSING...

NOTHING IS WORSE THAN LOSING A LOVED ONE. STAY CALM, BUT ALLOW OTHERS TO HELP. REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

If you suspect a loved one is missing, ACT QUICKLY. REMEMBER, **THERE IS NO 24-HOUR WAITING PERIOD** to report someone missing!

- **DIAL 9-1-1.** Give your name, exact location, and say clearly, "I want to report an endangered missing person." Ask that an officer come immediately.
- **SEARCH, BUT DO NOT TOUCH.** Look carefully under beds, in closets, sheds, vehicles, and pools. Try to touch as little as possible so as not to disturb possible evidence or clues.
- **BE READY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.** List your loved one's full birth name, nickname, and age. Compile caregivers' names, addresses, home and work numbers, and email addresses.
- **BE SPECIFIC WHEN TALKING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.** Give the time and location that your loved one was last seen. Describe your search specifically. If your loved one left in a car, identify its color and body style. If your loved one is diagnosed with dementia, Autism, or other intellectual disability, inform the investigator IMMEDIATELY. If your loved one requires medication, inform investigators ASAP.
- **PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION.** Have a recent photo (digital is best) to give to investigators. Provide your loved one's current height, weight, body build, hair color and length, eye color, and visible birthmarks. If you have an ID Kit, provide it. Police receive many false alarms so help them to really know your loved one as you do.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT.** They will ask tough questions and search your home. They may take some of your loved one's possessions for fingerprinting or DNA analysis. Ask the police for their plan of action and provide them with information that may aid in their search. Ask for the Agency Case Number. Request progress reports and what investigators' next steps will be.
- **CONTACT TCM.** TCM Staff are available 24/7 to support you during this time of crisis. Call us at 713.599.0235 or email us at support@tcftm.org.

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