Wandering is not mindless walking

It can happen at any time. People with dementia can become easily confused or overwhelmed, making them more susceptible to getting lost.

People with autism can wander for many reasons, including a change in routine, lack of adult supervision, or for stress release.

60% of people with Alzheimer's and 49% of people with autism will wander at some point in their lives.

Helpful Resources

Alzheimer's Association
24/7 Helpline
1 (800) 272-3900
alz.org

Alzheimer's Los Angeles
1 (844) 435-7259
AlzheimersLA.org

National Autism Association
1 (877) 622-2884
nationalautismassociation.org

Autism Society Los Angeles
1 (424) 299-1531
autismla.org

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP)
1 (800) 510-2020
ow.ly/valY50SY0po

Scan Me

For more information:
1 (833) 569-7651
lafound@ad.lacounty.gov
AD.LACounty.gov/LAFound

L.A. FOUND

WE GOT YOU!

Sometimes those with Alzheimer's, dementia, or autism, get lost.

L.A. COUNTY IS HERE TO HELP.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Aging & Disabilities Department

PREVENTION IS KEY!

1. Secure your home.

You can deter your loved one from wandering by using mechanical locks, door/window chimes, or a stop sign by the door.

2. Create a family emergency wandering plan so you know what to do before the emergency occurs. A plan may include:

- A list of people to call for help.
- A recent, close-up photo of the person.
- Medical information and medications the person is taking.
- A list of places where the person may wander, or has wandered to, before. This may include past jobs, former homes, or even a restaurant.
- A recently worn article of clothing. Keep in a sealed plastic bag for scent tracking.
- For more information on creating an emergency wandering plan, you may visit: alzheimersla.org

3. Engage the community.

- Let your neighbors know you have a loved one with autism or dementia.
- Consider using NextDoor.com to educate your community.
- If your child has autism, talk with the school and include wandering in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

WHAT CAN YOU DO...

4. Prevent drowning.

91% of wandering deaths for people with autism are due to drowning.

- Teach your child, or loved one, with autism how to swim.
- Be familiar with all nearby bodies of water including pools. You can use Google Earth.

5. Consider tracking technology to help locate your loved one in the event they wander. Research to determine the technology that best fits your loved one's and your family's needs.

- To apply for a free tracking bracelet in Los Angeles County, please visit ad.lacounty.gov/lafound/how-to-apply

AFTER THE PERSON GOES MISSING

1. Immediately call 911. The first few minutes are the most crucial. Don't wait!

Provide the operator with the following information:

- Physical characteristics of the person;
- Diagnosis;
- What the person was last wearing;
- Time and location where the person was last seen;
- List of favorite places the person may wander to, or past wandering locations;
- Nearby bodies of water;
- Whether the person is wearing tracking technology.

TO PREPARE?

2. Activate your Family Emergency Wandering Plan.

- Have the most recent photo available to share.
- Activate social networks and use social media to share pictures or information. Ask others to do the same.

3. Stay at the location to wait for responding law enforcement.

4. Ask the police to:

- Request canine unit & bloodhounds immediately, before the scent can dissipate (critical on a hot day).
- Request that dispatch conduct hourly broadcasts.
- Activate Silver Alert (for a person with autism or any cognitive impairment).
- Notify adjoining police jurisdictions & other law enforcement agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1 (833) 569-765

AD.LACOUNTY.GOV/LAFOUND