



Alzheimer *Society*

Police Interaction With Persons Affected by Alzheimer's Disease

Presenters:

Don Denver, Commander, Ontario Provincial Police (Retd.)

President, Board of Directors, Alzheimer Society of Kenora/ Rainy River Districts

Northern Regional Director, Board of Directors, Alzheimer Society of Ontario



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Overview

- “Rising Tide” has alerted the community to the growing number of people in Canada who will suffer some form of dementia in the next 25 years
- Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia
- Canadian services related to dementia care are uneven and uncoordinated
- By 2038, 1,125,200 people in Canada will have dementia
- Most will live at home

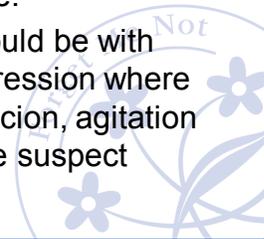




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Overview

- More than 180,000 Ontarians have some form of dementia at this time.
- This is expected to increase 40 percent by 2020.
- People suffering from Alzheimer's Disease will be coming into more and more contact with the police.
- It is likely that the most difficult contact would be with those in middle stage of the disease progression where disorientation, decreased judgment, suspicion, agitation and family recognition behaviours become suspect



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Types of police involvement

- Missing/wandering persons
- Motor vehicle contacts
- Welfare checks
- Investigative ie: victims of crime or accused
- Reported elder abuse
- Disaster Response





Missing/wandering

- Majority of events involving AD persons and police.
- Reported by caregivers or persons close to the victim ie neighbour, relatives via telephone.
- Police protocol, procedures and training are specific and clearly in place for these types of events.
- All reported missing AD victims are treated as high priority by police.



Motor Vehicle Contacts

- Drivers and or passengers suffering from AD often appear confused and disoriented.
- Can cause police to question impairment or injury of victim.
- Persons with AD may not have or be able to produce proper documents or give an explanation of the event.
- It is likely that at this time there is in excess of 50,000 drivers with some dementia in Canada





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Motor Vehicle Contacts

Watch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqyw1cj4j-k>
Time: 2:31 min

YouTube Search | t

Old Man with Alzheimer's Disease Runs from Ohio State Highway Patrol

Chenoholic88 1,944 videos | Subscribe



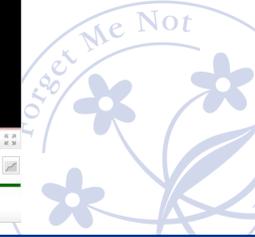
1:46 / 2:31 240p

Like Add to Share 2,091

Uploaded by Chenoholic88 on Apr 30, 2010

At first the state trooper chasing this pickup truck thinks the driver is just a

Show more



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Welfare Checks

- Police are called to check on person due to deviation from normal activity.
- Example- neighbour has not seen Mrs. Smith in several days, person observed in abnormal attire or location
- Absence of caregiver or community care contact





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Investigative-victims

- AD is victim of elder abuse. Can be physical, sexual, financial or neglect.
- Is often reported by friends, neighbours, banking officials.
- Concerns of police if abuse is real or not-ie “someone has been stealing my money” with no evidence.
- Middle stage functioning may not allow complete disclosure of relevant facts



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Investigative-accused

- AD victims do not have criminal intent to commit most offences they may be involved in.
- Example-shoplifting.
- Recent well publicized incidents including domestic violence and homicide.
- Risk of violence instigated by AD sufferer.
- No special considerations by police or judicial system dealing with these incidents.





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Investigative-accused

Watch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ML3ifpNtN5A>

Time: 2:47 min

The image shows a screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video title is "Elderly Woman Knife WCMH NBC 4 News 8/2/09 Weinblatt". The channel name is "richardweinblatt" with 189 videos and a subscribe button. The video player shows a man in a police uniform, identified as "DR. RICHARD WEINBLATT, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR". The video has 45,964 views and was uploaded on August 2, 2009. The description below the video reads: "Elderly Woman with knife taken down by police in Wal-Mart parking lot on".



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Current Police Programs

- Safely Home-Wandering Registry
- Project Lifesaver
- Silver Advisory
- Senior Assistance Teams
- Local programs





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Safely Home-Wandering Registry

- RCMP maintain on Canadian Police Information Co-operative (CPIC).
- In partnership with Alzheimer Society of Canada.
- Designed to assist police officers in the safe and timely return of individuals with AD.
- Caregivers register the individual.
- Pay \$35 to register.
- Individuals given an identification bracelet and a pocket card.



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Project Lifesaver

- Designed for persons with AD and Autism
- in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police departments in local areas.
- Individuals are issued with tracking bracelet with a specific frequency.
- In the event of wandering or missing, trained police officers will use specialized equipment to locate the individual.
- Project Lifesaver chapters are community organized to provide funding for equipment and liaise with local police to develop training and partnerships.

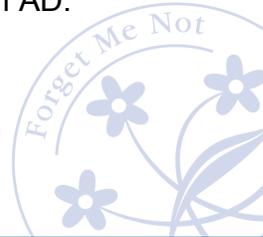




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Silver Advisory

- Announced by Ontario government in May 2011.
- Program to be developed over next year Ontario-wide.
- In partnership with Alzheimer chapters in Ontario and police.
- Likened to an Amber Alert for persons with AD.



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Senior Assistance Teams

- In partnership with local police, these community groups are organized to provide contact for elderly, and possibly early stage persons
- Usually small and community driven





Police and the Alzheimer Community

- Police are very skilled when the person is known to suffer from Alzheimer's Disease – search for missing person
- During spontaneous contact, such as a motor vehicle check, there is no specific training to identify the person as a dementia victim
- What care or contact exists for police to take someone to if they are unable to remember personal details?
- Can First Link, or other Society programs, assist police when needed?



Concluding Thoughts

- "Rising Tide" has alerted us that there is no national dementia strategy including inter-professional collaboration
- The Alzheimer Association, in the United States, provides free training to first responders
- During organizational collaboration for development of the Ontario Silver Advisory Program, first response training could be advanced
- Discussion?





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Thank you



The slide features a blue header bar with a photograph of pink flowers on the left and the text "Alzheimer Society" in white. The main content area is white with the text "Thank you" in blue. A circular logo in the bottom right corner contains the text "Forget Me Not" and a stylized flower design.



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Questions & Answers



The slide features a blue header bar with a photograph of pink flowers on the left and the text "Alzheimer Society" in white. The main content area is white with the text "Questions & Answers" in blue. A circular logo in the bottom right corner contains the text "Forget Me Not" and a stylized flower design.