Autism Society

Wandering Emergency Plan Information

1. Identify/ Assess

Bring awareness to caregivers and other key stakeholders that the individual wanders. Identify potential triggers for wandering and ways to increase safety.

2. Make a Plan

Sample plan:

- Identify who will be calling 911.
- Identify who will alert the neighbors or key stakeholders (relatives, school, educators, etc.) to search.
- Identify the places that the individual is likely to wander to (water, movies, drains, etc.).
- Identify who is going to search identified places and in what order.

3. Implement

Call 911, alert key stakeholders, implement the plan, check water first, and search identified favorite spots. Follow the plan as practiced.

4. Fine Tune/Adjust/Modify

Continue to monitor the individual for changes in behavior, changes of favorite spots or interests, and keeping information up to date so that the plan can be as useful as possible.

Emergency planning is one of the many ways that you can practice safety in your community.