

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Glendale Police Ask Families of Alzheimer's Patients to Prepare

Glendale, Ariz. – It seems more often than not these days, when officers get the call to search for a missing person, it involves someone suffering from Alzheimer's or Dementia related diseases. Glendale's most recent was less than a week ago. During the 5 hour search, over 4700 homes were sent messages which provided descriptive information on the search for the 90 yr old female via the reverse 911 system; fortunately she was located that day and was in good condition.

The International Chiefs of Police have recognized this trend and have launched the "IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives". More than anything, this is awareness, not only for law enforcement officers called to search for persons with Alzheimer's or Dementia, but for the families or care takers of people stricken with the disease. It's believed that 1 in 8 people over 65 yrs old have Alzheimer's and nearly half the population over 85 years of age suffer from the disease. **Experts say that 60 percent of persons with Alzheimer's will wander, get lost or go missing on more than one occasion.**

There are a number of locative / GPS technologies available which are being utilized by families of persons suffering Dementia type diseases. These types of devices are easily researched via the internet. In addition, there are well established associations in existence like Medic-Alert and Alzheimer's Association Safe Return, which catalog patient information and provide bracelets worn by individuals with the disease. If a person is located with one of these identifying bracelets, a simple phone call to the number attached can quickly reunite them with their missing loved one.

Aside from this, the Glendale Police Department asks families who have persons with Dementia type diseases to prepare, because it's truly not "if", it's "when" regarding your loved one wandering off. If you have a person living with you who suffers from this disease, here are some things you can do and some information officers would like you to have available:

- Recent photographs, preferably digital
- Information on co-existing medical conditions and required medications
- Always take note to what your loved one is wearing every day.
- What are their limitations physically and mentally
- Do they know their name, phone number and/or address
- Do they have a locative technology system or Medic-Alert type bracelet.
- What is the person's general daily routine.
- Where do they like to visit (their favorite places to go or favorite restaurant)
- Do they have a fear of crowds, strangers, etc...
- Have they gone missing before and where were they located.

For more information on the IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives, please visit: www.theiacp.org/alzheimers

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is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve."*

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a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*