

Dementia (Alzheimer's)



Search & Rescue Challenge Badge

% of cases	Distance between place missing and place found
25%	300 metres
50%	1 kilometres
75%	2.4 kilometres
95%	12.8 kilometres

% of cases	Likely places found
20%	Found in structures
18%	Found on roads
17%	Found in woods
14%	Found in fields
9%	Found by streams or ditches
9%	Found on tracks/paths
7%	Found by rivers, ponds or lakes

Other notes to consider

Sufferers' field of vision is narrowed creating "tunnel vision". This may account for the trademark slow shuffling walk and often results in people continuing forward until they are stuck. Perception of sights and sounds can be severely disturbed.

Dementia results in a wide range of changes in behaviour and thinking skills ranging from mild, where the person is still able to perform all normal activities, to severe, including loss of memory, judgement and language to such an extent it interferes with daily living. The more severe symptoms, the more likely a person is to wander.

Female sufferers have a greater tendency to be traced at friend's home, males tend to be found wandering the street.

% of cases	Scenario
96%	Lost
1%	Overdue

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Investigation
Previous wanderings
Potential destinations
Severity of dementia
Check taxi's, buses, trains and hospitals

Place last seen
Search 300 meters
Search local homes and gardens
Repeat searches of local areas

Immediate local area
Talk to neighbours
Thorough search of the 25% zone
Use media, door to door, leaflets

Investigative Questions

- Do they suffer from mild, moderate or severe dementia?
- How well do they know the local area, do they go out often?
- Obtain the most recent picture and note when it was taken.
- Obtain a list of old addresses, work places, occupations, relatives' names and addresses, favourite places, hobbies and interests.
- Have they wandered before, if so where did they go and where were they found?
- Has anything changed recently, are there any anniversaries?
- Would the person travel independently using public transport?

Travel Routes
Hasty search of roads, tracks, paths and other routes leading away from the place last seen
Look for decision and turn off points

Priority Tasks
Previous lost locations
Previous homes
High hazard areas, water, buildings, garages, sheds and overgrown areas