MISSING PERSONS – PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Panelists
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Level Setting Today's Discussion

What do we mean by a missing person

"Walkaways" or At Will

A couple of data points:

- Arizona – 12 to 14.2 missing persons per 100,000 people (one of the highest rates in US
- 60% of people with dementia wander at least once
- Approx 151,500 people 65+ living with Alzheimer's in Arizona
- Az at risk population >>> 90,900 people

When should the police be called?

- Don’t delay
- Silver Alert >>> SAFE Alert (Seek & Find Alert)
  - 65+ years of age
  - Alzheimer’s Disease or dementia
  - Developmental or Cognitive Disability

Items to provide to police

- Photos – current as possible
- What they we wearing
- Medical conditions
- Gender, height, weight, age & identifying characteristics
- Vehicle description, plate number
- Shoe size, type (brand/style), photo of bottom of shoe

Social Media – helpful or no?

- Positives – can be a great way to spread information
- Negatives – efforts may be hampered; wrong information shared

Clinical considerations?

- Alzheimer's or dementia?
- Preceded by sudden change in behavior – UTI, head injury, medications
- Cognitive impairment impacted by anxiety, depression
- Difficulty with reasoning once found
- Redirecting, distracting, just get them out of heat

Depending on the setting, what are other things to consider?

- If person is mentally ill, they have choice & can't be held against their will
- Program vs. Tenant rights – wellness checks, authorized entry
- Working with guardians

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Interested in helping?

- Volunteer: MCSO Volunteer Sheriff's Posse - MCSO Posse Positions
- Support: Search and Rescue | Dares | Arizona