Family Wandering Emergency Plan

Make sure your family has a response plan in case of a wandering emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide where to search, how you will get in contact with each other, and what you will do in an emergency situation. Keep a copy of this plan.

Helpful Tips

Inform Others
Fill out the alert form found on NAA’s website or click here. Provide this to trusted family members, neighbors, & search partners.

Identify Threats
Identify threats beforehand, especially nearby ponds, lakes, pools, canals, water plants, etc., & nearby busy roads.

Create a Group Contact for family members, neighbors, and search partners, and assign it a name so you can easily text everyone at the same time.

Create an Emergency Plan

- Set a meeting with your family & trusted neighbors
- Inform them of your child/adult’s tendency to wander/bolt & provide the alert form
- Assign each willing family member & neighbor a location to search
- Assign one emergency contact to stay with your younger children during emergencies
- Create a group text and easy group name
- Provide the group text with a snapshot of their agreed search location (below)
- Plan a mock drill as if it were the real emergency plan
- Update or reassess the plan as needed

Search Locations
List the main places your child/adult may likely go, especially nearby ponds, lakes, pools. Be specific. Search these areas first. If you’ve assigned search partners ahead of time, make sure they know which location is assigned to them. Discuss and visit the assigned location to which they are assigned.

Example: the pond on Maynard Road; Smith’s pool on Ralph Street

1. Assigned to
   Name/Number
2. Assigned to
   Name/Number
3. Assigned to
   Name/Number
4. Assigned to
   Name/Number
5. Assigned to
   Name/Number

Our Group Name is: ________________________

Search Partners

Before an emergency happens, assign at least five willing search partners who will commit to searching for your child/adult in case of an emergency. Make sure they are close by, understand your loved one, understand their responsibilities, and know their assigned search location.

Example: Neighbor Stacie, 919-555-1616
Older Sibling’s Name, 919-555-0808

If your child/adult with autism is missing, call 911 immediately & Search Water First.

Snap a picture of this section & text it to your group.