

A close-up photograph of several purple forget-me-not flowers with yellow centers, set against a dark, blurred background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds.

When a person with dementia goes missing

BCCPA, May 2014

**No one thing is going to ensure
the safety of the person with
dementia ...**

**Multiple strategies are
recommended.**

Reasons for Wandering

The person may be ...

- disoriented or confused
- too hot or too cold
- agitated due to medication, too much noise or other over-stimulation
- hungry or in pain
- experiencing delusions and hallucinations

Reasons for Wandering

The person may ...

- believe they need to go to work or the store
- want to go somewhere that is more familiar
- be seeking relief from stress or boredom
- have extra energy they need to use up

Managing Wandering

- Allow for safe wandering
- Look at the environment
- Reduce the triggers
- Provide visual clues
- Develop meaningful activities
- Involve in exercise
- Keep records

Prepare for Wandering

- Care Plan
- Identification Kit
- Locating devices
- Search Plan
- Search Kit
- Staff education

Community Awareness

- Families
- Volunteers
- Your neighbourhood
 - about dementia, the risk of people getting lost, what to do if they encounter someone or hear about someone who has gone missing

Resources

- Wandering Package

<http://www.alzheimerbc.org/wandering.aspx>

- *MedicAlert® Safely Home®*

<http://www.medicalert.ca/Safely-Home>

- Search is an Emergency

<http://www.alzheimerbc.org/We-Can-Help/Resources-for-Health-Care-Providers.aspx>