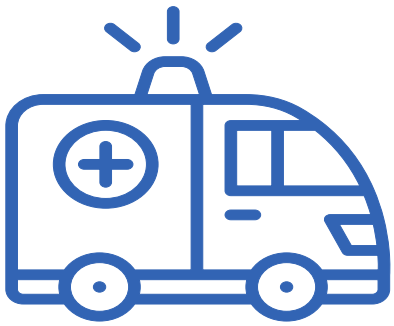


TN Dementia Friendly First Responders

This section provides communities with suggestions to engage first reponders, tools to offer first responders, and references training resources and opportunities for first responders in Tennessee.



TN Department of Health

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TENNESSEE

Tennessee Dementia Friendly First Responders

Engaging First Responders in Community

First responders play a critical role in local communities by protecting and serving individuals in instances of emergencies. Each day, first responders come in contact with individuals that may be suffering from various illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. First responders may come in contact with someone living with cognitive decline during healthcare or other types of emergency situations, when an individual is found wandering, when caregivers are committing crimes, or when the individual themselves are found to be committing a crime. Individuals living with cognitive decline require additional support to keep them safe, especially in an emergency situation.

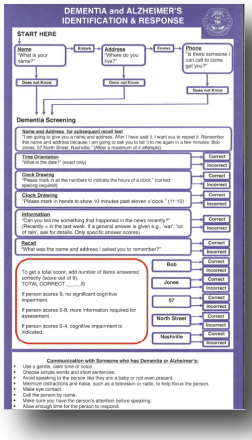
PROVIDING SUPPORT

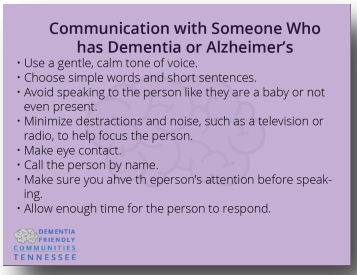
In order for first responders to recognize the signs of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and respond appropriately, first responders must be trained and provided with the tools necessary to ensure injuries are prevented, individuals return to their home safely, and are connected to appropriate resources in their respective community.

In Tennessee, both the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Tennessee provide culturally appropriate training to first responders at no cost. The Alzheimer's Association also offers an online training course if an online option is preferred.

FIRST RESPONDER QUICK REFERENCE

Along with extensive training for first responders, there are also guides available to provide a quick point of reference when a first responder comes in contact with someone that appears confused or disoriented. First responders in Tennessee have access to the Dementia and Alzheimer's Identification & Response card to guide them through a simple assessment of cognitive functioning, tips for communicating with someone living with dementia, and a list of resources that can be provided to the individual and/or their care partners. It may be most appropriate to keep this card in a police car, fire truck, ambulance, or any other type of transportation due to the in depth information that is included on the card. The other reference card is a pocket size card that provides basic information about communicating with someone with dementia and community resource numbers for the individual or their care partners. These cards can be printed on business cards and provided to first responders in the community.





TN Department of Health

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TENNESSEE

FIRST RESPONDERS

Tennessee Dementia Friendly First Responders

Engaging First Responders in Community

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION COURSE REGISTRATION

The Alzheimer's Association® Approaching Alzheimer's: First Responder Training (alz.org/firstresponders) is a free online course to help first responders more effectively and efficiently respond to common calls involving a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. First Responders can complete all topics to earn a certificate or simply review those most relevant to their role. Training topics include:

- Alzheimer's and Dementia Overview
- Wandering
- Abuse and Neglect
- Driving
- Shoplifting
- Disaster Response

APPROACHING ALZHEIMER'S
First Responder Training

Once a trainee completes all training topics the participant will receive a certificate of completion. In person training may be requested through a local Alzheimer's Association chapter. Visit alz.or/tn to locate your local Alzheimer's Association chapter and request in person first responder training.

ALZHEIMER'S TENNESSEE COURSE REGISTRATION

Alzheimer's Tennessee provides educational and training services to law enforcement and first responders across the state.

"Recognizing and Responding to Alzheimer's" A Guide for Law Enforcement AND First Responders is a free, on site educational and training program, POST (Peace Officer Standards & Training Commission) and meets the criteria for continuing education training programs that officers are required to complete annually. It is designed to assist law enforcement and first responders to effectively respond to calls regarding a person with dementia.

This in person training is conducted by Alzheimer's Tennessee certified trainers through educational materials, classroom discussion, and review of the Dementia and Alzheimer's Identification and Response cards. The course includes an overview of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), behaviors including wandering; signs of abuse and neglect; driving, and responding to disasters. Alzheimer's Tennessee will provide certificate of completion following the training.

Requests for additional information can be found at www.alztennessee.org.

FIRST RESPONDERS

TN Department of Health

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TENNESSEE

Tennessee Dementia Friendly First Responders

Engaging First Responders in Community

WORKING TOGETHER

There are several strategies for engaging first responders in community efforts. The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center offer the following suggestions to gain buy-in in local communities.

Seek Buy-in from Leadership

In order to gain gain buy-in from leadership, there must be a focus on educating officials on the impact Alzheimer's disease and other dementias has on individuals in their local communities along with the impact this has on how local communities allocate resources and plan for the future. Gaining the support of leadership within a local government organization will help drive interest among the entire organization.

Identify Champions

Local champions may include those individuals who are in a position that specifically relate to Alzheimer's and other dementias, such as elder abuse units, or an individual who have a personal experience with the disease. These individuals will continue to drive efforts related to dementia through further training or community engagement.

Building on Existing Relationships

Leverage existing relationships, initiatives, and regular meetings to include discussions related to existing initiative occurring related to dementia and needs of the community.

Meet Their Needs

Emphasize why being appropriately trained and prepared is important to the organization. Key talking points may include potential for reduced costs, improved morale among employees, and improved community relations.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Tenn. Code Ann §38-6-121 Care alert program (Silver Alert) was enacted to aid in the idenftification and location of missing senior citizens and will be coordinated by local law enforcement. Community members can assist law enforcement in the location of missing loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia by providing accurate information about the missing person's medical condition and can also encourage their loved ones to keep the card below, or a similar type of idenfication card, in their wallet or purse so they can be easily identified and their care partner can be contacted immediately if they are lost or injured.

I am living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Thank you for your assistance.

My Name: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Alternative Phone: _____

TN Department of Health

Front

Communication with Someone Who has Dementia

- Speak clearly and use a gentle tone of voice.
- Make eye contact.
- Minimize distractions such as loud noises.
- Call the person by name
- Ask one question at a time and allow appropriate time for them to answer. Try sticking to yes or no quesitons.
- Don't talk about the person as if they aren't there.
- Do not stand over the person. Instead, sit directly in front of the individual.

TN Department of Health

Back

TN Department of Health

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TENNESSEE

FIRST RESPONDERS

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Chattanooga Police Department

Take Me Home

Goal
To serve members of our community who may have communication challenges.

Program Description
Take Me Home is a web-based database that police officers can cross-reference when they encounter someone who is unable to speak or properly identify themselves due to a cognitive and/or developmental disability.

Program Outcomes
Take Me Home is a free program provided by the Chattanooga Police Department. Take Me Home allows family members and legal guardians to register emergency contact information for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. If an individual is found alone or reported missing, law enforcement and emergency services personnel can search for emergency contact information, a detailed physical description, and a photo of the individual—saving valuable time.



Governor Bill Lee signs Take Me Home into Law

References & Resources

1. **2018 NADRC: Working Together: How Community Organizations and First Responders Can Better Serve People Living with Dementia***:*
https://nadrc.acl.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/docs/FirstRespondersGuidefinal508readonly.docx