

Course Title	Improving First Responder Interactions with Persons with Disabilities- Alzheimer's and Dementia
P.O.S.T. Required Hours	0
Academy Required Hours	0
Instructor(s)	As Assigned by Individual Agencies
Prepared By (name and title)	Commission on Improving First Responder Interactions with Persons with Disabilities
Date Prepared	January 2022
Date Revised	
Learning Goal	The student will understand how law enforcement and first responder interactions with the disabled community can be improved with the knowledge of recognition and tools to approach each unique situation with respect and dignity.
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist law enforcement and first responders with recognizing Dementia and Alzheimer's symptoms. -Teach law enforcement and first responders to understand dementia-related behavioral changes and aid in choosing the appropriate responses. -Instruct law enforcement and first responders how to communicate effectively with the individual. -Give law enforcement and first responders the tools to have the ability to refer the individual or their caregiver to community resources for ongoing support. -Work to reduce the potential for a Use of Force response.
Methods of Instruction	Lecture, Case Study, Directed Activity (Scenario Based Training), Table Top Scenario Exercises-At the discretion of the delivering agency.
Equipment Needed	Recommended: Computer, projector, training space, PowerPoint, and paper for handouts/scenario based training/table top exercises.
Handouts	Specifically listed in the Toolkit.
Assessments	At the discretion of the delivering agency
Source Material	Listed separately
Is safety plan included?	No site safety plan required

Reviewed by (name and title)

Date Reviewed

Content/Instructor Guidance	Delivery Notes/Prompts Slide Titles/PO#/TQ#
<p>Specific Performance Outcomes are listed separately in the main folder.</p> <p>Instructional Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Definition: Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurologic disorder that causes the brain to shrink (atrophy) and brain cells to die. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia — a continuous decline in thinking, behavioral and social skills that affects a person's ability to function independently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize differences between Alzheimer's and Dementia: Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that affects memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms eventually grow severe enough to interfere with daily tasks. Dementia is a general term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life. b. Note that it is not a normal part of the aging process. c. It is progressive and fatal and there is no known cure, only treatment d. You may include statistics, typical age ranges, and warning signs. B. Common contacts for first responders: missing persons, operation of a motor vehicle, falls or other medical assists, abuse or neglect, shoplifting or other theft, disaster response. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Common behaviors or symptoms of individuals with Alzheimer's or forms of Dementia: anxiety or agitation, confusion or suspicion, aggression, repetition, and wandering, poor judgement, disorientation, use of nonsensical words, and/or blank facial expression. 	<p>The items listed in the left column are key points to cover in your training.</p> <p>These points are not all inclusive and you should not feel limited. Expand as much as you see fit to meet your training needs.</p> <p>Utilize the items in the Toolkit provided to add content, videos and to seek out scenario examples.</p> <p>Utilize subject matter experts whenever available.</p>

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- b. Behaviors may be triggered by overstimulation, sadness, loss, physical discomfort, fatigue, hunger, thirst, or uncomfortable temperature.
 - c. Common challenges for law enforcement and other first responders.
 - d. Seek out forms of identification, some may be related to the individual's memory impairment, such as medical bracelets, labels or patches sewn or ironed on their clothing.
- C. Approaching individuals (victims or alleged offenders) with Alzheimer's and other forms of Dementia:
- a. Introduce yourself.
 - b. Maintain eye contact.
 - c. Reduce distractions and background noise, move individuals away from crowds.
 - d. Assess for the need for medical assistance (dehydration, hypothermia, visible injuries etc.).
 - e. May use gentle pat to get their attention, but avoid physical contact that could be interpreted as restraining.
 - f. Keep conversations simple, short to the point and avoid using slang.
 - g. Use visual clues in their body language to maintain the contact and avoid escalation.
 - h. Do not argue, join their reality and remain calm and patient.
 - i. Do not leave the individual alone. Contact a caregiver, and if no caregiver can be identified then utilize resources provided by the Alzheimer's Association, Safe Return Program.

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- D. Officer Safety: You cannot compromise officer safety. Remain aware of your surroundings, the individuals' hands, use of weapons, potential weapons, vehicle use and various other situations.

 - E. Tools and Resources: There are various tools and resources listed in the toolkit for content material, videos, handouts, quick tip guides and potential scenarios. You are encouraged to utilize subject matter experts whenever available.

Alzheimer's Resources

Alzheimer's Association-Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior, www.alz.org/co

Alzheimer's Association-Introduction to Alzheimer's Presenter's Guide

Alzheimer's Association-10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Association-Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia Presenter's Guide

Mayo Clinic, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alzheimers-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20350447>

Niagara University; First Responder Disability Awareness Training

First Responder Guidebook

Alzheimer's Association of Colorado

Tips for First Responders, 2nd Edition; Center for Development and Disability.

<http://cdd.unm.edu/products/tipsforfirstresponders.htm>

Pueblo Police Department Education /Training for First Responders; Alzheimer's Association 2021

Alzheimer's Association, Colorado Chapter: Alzheimer's and Other Dementia Training for Law Enforcement & First Responders

Montgomery County Department of Police; Autism/IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) and Alzheimer's Outreach Program, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/howdol/autism-alzheimer-outreach.html>

New York Basic Course for Police Officers 5.E.1; Persons with Disabilities Part 5 Section E.