



Silver ALERT

SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Florida's Silver Alert Plan

A safety net for some of our most vulnerable citizens

- On October 8, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist signed an Executive Order enacting Florida's Silver Alert Plan.
- The purpose of the statewide Silver Alert is to help law enforcement officers rescue missing seniors with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia disorder who become lost while driving a car.
- Silver Alert allows widespread broadcast of information to the public that a person is missing through the use of dynamic message signs on highways that note the color, make and tag number of the vehicle the missing person is driving.
- In addition to dynamic message signs, law enforcement may notify the public through the media and neighborhood telephone alerts.
- More detailed information about the missing person, including photograph, age, birth date, physical description and last known location is available at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>
- The public may sign up to receive Silver Alerts at <http://lists.elderaffairs.org/listmanager/listinfo/silveralert>
- Florida has 502,000 people with probable Alzheimer's disease; 60% of individuals with Alzheimer's disease will wander at some time during the disease process.
- Because of damage to the brain caused by the disease, people with Alzheimer's become lost and disoriented, even in familiar locations. They are extremely vulnerable and unable to take care of themselves.
- They make errors in judgment such as driving erratically, driving into the woods or driving into water. They may not remember their current address or phone number. They may not ask for help.
- During the first year there were 115 Silver Alerts issued; the majority were males.
- 53% were recovered outside of their home county; 8% were found deceased.
- Florida's Silver Alert Plan provides a coordinated response between local and state law enforcement agencies and the Florida Department of Transportation because the person may drive far from home.
- The Silver Alert Plan may prevent tragedy among one of Florida's largest and most vulnerable groups.