Wandering Prevention Strategies & Project Lifesaver

Wandering away from home, school or in the community can be dangerous for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Project Lifesaver is one resource to help locate individuals who have wandered and may become lost. The best outcome is to prevent unsafe wandering whenever possible. CARD-USF has compiled some resources to assist your family to reduce unsafe wandering for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. CARD-USF is also available to provide consultation to help you support your loved one at home, school or in the community.

Autism and Safety in the Home (Autism Society of America)
http://www.autism-society.org

Elopement (Running Away) - Butterfly Effects
http://www.butterflyeffects.com

Behavior Intervention Plan suggestions for elopement...... (from the Autism and PDD Support Network message board)
http://www.autism-pdd.net

AUTISM SAFETY TOOLKIT: Keeping Our Children Safe (National Autism Association)
http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/

Preparing for an Autism Emergency - (Dennis Debbautd)
http://www.autismriskmanagement.com

Elopement, or Wandering, In People With Autism
http://www.blisstree.com

Protecting the Child or Adult with Autism (South Carolina Autism Society)
http://www.scautism.org

10 Ways to Prevent Wandering (WebMD - not about autism specifically)

Book recommendation:

*Autism, Advocates, and Law Enforcement Professionals*

*Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Dennis Debbautd
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2001
Available on Amazon.com
From the Project Lifesaver International website:

“Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderers area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1,500 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.”

www.projectlifesaver.org

If you would like to enroll in Project Lifesaver, need more information, or would like to volunteer or provide financial support for Project Lifesaver in your community, please contact the organization serving your area. Check with your local organization for enrollment fees.

1) Pinellas County Sheriff's Office - Contact Person Sgt. Berrentine Phone # 727-582-6992
   10750 Ulmerton Road
   Largo, FL 33778
   E-Mail: lnalven@pcsonet.com

2) Collier County Sheriff's Office - Contact Person Angela Larson Phone # 239-793-9468
   3301 Tamiami Trail East Bldg J
   Naples, FL 34112-4902
   Fax # 239-430-1730
   E-Mail: seniors@colliersheriff.net

3) Hendry County Sheriff's Office Phone # 863-674-4060
   101 South Bridge Road
   P.O. Box 579
   LaBelle, FL 33975
   Fax # 863-674-4624

4) Lee County Sheriff's Office - Contact Person Jamie Bartc Phone # 239-477-1000
   14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
   Fort Meyers, FL 33912-4406
   Alt Phone # 239-477-1274
   E-Mail: jbartc@sheriffleefl.org

5) Pasco County Sheriff's Office - Contact Eddie Eckert Phone #:727-847-5878
   8700 Citizen Dr
   New Port Richey, FL 34654
   X1283
   Fax #:727-847-7742
   eeckert@pascosheriff.org

6) Sarasota Police Department - Contact Person Ford Snodgrass Phone # 941 954-7056
   2050 Ringling Blvd.
   Sarasota, FL 34230
   Fax # 941 954-7034
   E-Mail: joseph.snodgrass@sarasotagov.com
7) Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and City of Tampa Police Department **

To enroll call LoJack at 1-877-4-FIND-THEM (1-877-434-6384). For additional information you may also call 211.

https://www.lojacksafetynet.com/Enroll/Membership/home.aspx

To enroll online

** CARD-USF is pleased to collaborate with, and partially fund, the start up of Project Lifesaver in Hillsborough County.