

SEARCH & RESCUE CHECKLIST | MISSING PERSONS WITH AUTISM

- ✓ Treat each case as CRITICAL. Children with autism have an impaired sense of danger and face immediate risk
- ✓ Interview and listen to caregivers, they know best the areas their child may be seeking
- ✓ Ask if the child wears a personal tracking device. If so, immediately initiate tracking measures
- ✓ SEARCH WATER FIRST. Immediately dispatch personnel to nearby bodies of water. Ask about any pools, rivers, ponds, etc. in the area to which the child may be especially drawn.
- ✓ Ask about other dangers that the child may be attracted to; busy roads/highways/construction sites, etc. and immediately dispatch personnel to secure those areas
- ✓ Ask about child's likes that may assist in search efforts – will they be drawn to certain music, favorite characters, fire trucks, etc.
- ✓ Ask about child's dislikes and fears or sensory issues that may hinder search efforts (Dogs, Sirens, Aircraft, Lights, Shouting)
- ✓ Ask if the child will respond to his/her name when called

- ✓ Immediately implement Reverse 9-1-1 (A Child is Missing)
- ✓ Issue an Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA)
- ✓ Continue search efforts even when all hope is lost. Past cases have shown that children/adults with autism can survive a long time.

Once the child/adult is found:

- ✓ Maintain a calm and relaxed environment
- ✓ Speak in a normal tone of voice using simple phrases
- ✓ Bring caregiver to the recovery site as quickly as possible
- ✓ Avoid the use of dangerous restraints

For more information visit awaare.org/lawenforcement.htm