

## What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is an illness of the brain. It causes large numbers of nerve cells in the brain to die. This affects a person's ability to remember things and think clearly. Doctors don't know what causes the disease. They do know that it usually begins after age 60, and nearly half of people age 85 and older may have Alzheimer's disease. However, it is not a normal part of aging.

Many people with Alzheimer's disease still have access to a car. This is why the Silver Alert is so important. These endangered persons could be our friends, neighbors, spouses, parents or grandparents.



For further information, visit  
[www.FloridaSilverAlert.com](http://www.FloridaSilverAlert.com)  
or call  
**877-404-SILVER/877-404-7458**

*This brochure was provided by:*



**ORANGE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**EMERGENCY 9-1-1**  
Non-Emergency 407-836-HELP (4357)

[www.ocso.com](http://www.ocso.com)

The Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Senior Crime Prevention Unit is available for  
any type of senior questions,  
senior concerns and  
senior general assistance.

Please contact:  
Laura Lang; Senior Advocate,  
Florida Elder Crime Prevention Practitioner.

**407-254-7375**  
[laura.lang@ocfl.net](mailto:laura.lang@ocfl.net)



**ORANGE COUNTY  
SHERIFF**

*Sheriff Jerry L. Demings*

**SILVER  
ALERT**

*A Safety Net For Some of Our  
Most Vulnerable Citizens*



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## What is Silver Alert?

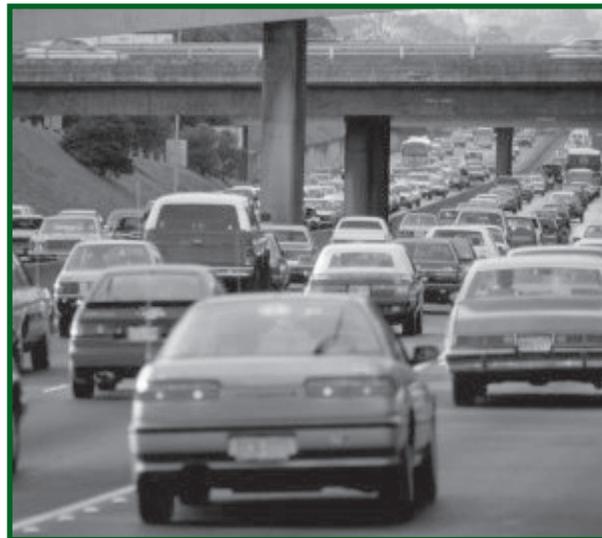
Florida's Silver Alert is a plan to help law enforcement rescue elderly persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder who are driving a car and become lost. The public is informed about the missing person through dynamic message signs on the highway.

These lighted message signs display the words "Silver Alert" and give the make, color and license tag number of the car being driven by the missing person. Police may also notify the media and send out recorded telephone messages.



## Purpose of Silver Alert

People with Alzheimer's disease are extremely vulnerable when they are on their own. They can easily become confused and disoriented, even in familiar surroundings. If they are driving a car, they may end up many miles from their home, often in another county, or even in another state. They may drive erratically and not remember traffic laws, putting themselves and others in danger. They often drive towards the woods or water. The Silver Alert is designed to rescue them quickly before a tragedy occurs.



## What You Can Do

Watch for Silver Alert notifications on the highway. If you happen to see the car identified on the sign, call law enforcement immediately and give them the location. They will safely intercept the person and return them home to their loved ones. Law enforcement officers need everyone's help to return these missing persons safely home.

## Prevention is Always Best

When someone has Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, their safety is at risk. This is a very difficult situation, because driving represents independence and control. However, the disease has damaged their ability to make sound judgments, react quickly and make split-second decisions - the cornerstones of safe driving. You may wish to enlist your doctor's help when you have the "no more driving" discussion. Your doctor can write the prescription, "do not drive," and provide guidance on how to enforce this.

