If Person With Autism is Missing

☐ **Treat each case as critical.** Those with autism can have an impaired sense of danger and often go straight to water or traffic.

☐ Ask the caregiver if the person wears a personal tracking device, if so, immediately initiate tracking measures.

☐ **Search Water First!** Even if the child or adult is said to dislike water, search any type of nearby water, including waste water.

☐ Ask about other dangers that the person may be attracted to; busy roads/highways/construction sites, etc. and immediately dispatch personnel to secure those areas.

☐ Ask about individual’s likes that may assist in search efforts – Will they be drawn to certain music, favorite characters, fire trucks, mom’s voice, etc.

☐ Ask about individual’s dislikes and fears or sensory issues that may hinder search efforts. (Dogs, Sirens, Aircraft, Lights, Shouting.)

☐ Ask if the individual will respond to his/her name when called.

☐ Implement Reverse 9-1-1 (Visit achildismissing.org for details.)

☐ Issue an Endangered Missing Alert.

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“**We’re ecstatic we found this kid with everything stacked against us.”**

Capt. B.J. Jones, who helped locate a nonverbal 7-year-old boy in a riverbed after an eight-hour search - ModBee, January 2014

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**Training & Search Resources**

- **National Center For Missing & Exploited Children:** missingkids.com; 1-800-THE-LOST
- **Project Lifesaver Tracking:** projectlifesaver.org
- **SafetyNet Tracking:** SAFETYNETTRACKING.COM
- **Reverse 911:** achildismissing.org
- **Autism Risk Management:** autismriskmanagement.com
- **Take Me Home Registry:** Officer Jimmy Donohoe Jdonohoe@ci.pensacola.fl.us
- **EMA Emergency Alert Guidelines:** ncjrs.gov

**Prevention Resources for Families**

- **National Autism Association** nationalautismassociation.org
- **NAA’s Big Red Safety Box** bigredsaftybox.com
- **AWAARE Collaboration** awaare.org

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First Responder Toolkit - National Autism Association, 2017