10 Warning Signs a Driver May Have Alzheimer’s Disease

1. Erratic driving with slow or poor traffic decisions.
2. Intoxicated-like behavior such as incorrect words, delusional thoughts, and poor eye contact.
3. Inability to pull over safely.
4. Lost or disoriented behavior.
   * Never give directions or let the person go if he or she seems disoriented. The person may not realize that he/she is lost.
5. Defensive or agitated behavior.
6. Vague answers that don’t match the question.
7. Destination location or route doesn’t make sense or doesn’t exist anymore.
8. Shuffle or reduced gait in movement.
   * Not all persons with Alzheimer’s disease exhibit a shuffle.
9. Problem producing a valid driver’s license or vehicle registration and insurance documents.
10. Difficulty determining date, time, or year.
   * Avoid giving “reality checks.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.theiacp.org/alzheimers
10 Steps for Interacting with Drivers Who May Have Alzheimer’s Disease or Dementia

1. Speak in a calm, friendly tone. Do not raise your voice or argue.

2. Approach from the front and, if possible, remove hat and sunglasses to maintain eye contact.

3. Avoid touching the person without asking or explaining.

4. Be prepared for sudden mood or demeanor changes.

5. Ask one simple question at a time and allow extra response time.

6. Move the person to a safe, comfortable location in his or her own car, if possible.

7. Check for a tracking device or MedicAlert + Alzheimer’s Association Safe Return ID.

8. Run the vehicle registration to check for missing person alert.

9. Ensure safe transit home with a relative or friend.

10. ALWAYS WRITE A CITATION. This establishes a record and a possible need for driver re-evaluation.

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