5.4 million Americans of all ages currently have Alzheimer’s disease. That could be as many as 16 million by 2050.*

It’s not a question of if law enforcement will be dealing with persons with Alzheimer’s disease, but rather when and how we’ll respond.
First responders need to become skilled at effective interactions with people with Alzheimer’s disease:

**“Do’s”**
- Introduce yourself and explain you are there to help
- Remain calm, smile, and use a friendly voice
- Speak slowly and ask simple questions
- Check for a tracking device or MedicAlert ID
- Change the topic to something pleasant if the person becomes agitated
- Provide security and comfort (i.e. blanket, water, or someplace to sit)

**“Don’ts”**
- Don’t take comments personally
- Don’t correct the person
- Don’t approach from behind without warning
- Don’t argue
- Don’t touch without asking/explaining
- Don’t repeat a question too many times as it may provoke agitation

To help law enforcement protect this special population, IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives program is committed to helping first responders improve their knowledge and skills, and interact appropriately with persons with Alzheimer's disease and their families and caregivers.

For more information, please visit: www.theiacp.org/alzheimers.

To request additional postcards for your department, please email alzheimers@theiacp.org.

* Statistics courtesy of the Alzheimer’s Association’s 2012 Facts & Figures report. For more information, please visit www.alz.org.

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