

**\*\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\*\***

**ELDERLY MAN WITH DEMENTIA WANDERS OFF;  
FOUND SAFELY WITHIN 30 MINUTES**

***First Rescue Using Project Lifesaver/LoJack SafetyNet Program in British Columbia***

**What:** On Sunday July 5, an elderly resident with dementia and a client with Project Lifesaver/Lojack SafetyNet, wandered off from a residential care facility in Victoria where he resided. Within minutes, staff realized he was gone and contacted the Search and Rescue Society of British Columbia who dispatched a team and immediately began searching for the man. Five minutes after the search began and 45 minutes after he was reported missing, the gentleman was found, unharmed, two kilometers from his residence—the first rescue of its kind in British Columbia.

This rescue occurred the day following a similar episode in which four elderly patients with dementia wandered away from another centre after a gate was left unlocked. The difference between the man who wandered and the four women was that he was a Project Lifesaver/Lojack SafetyNet client and was found by a small SAR team using electronic equipment and returned to his residence within 55 minutes from the time the team was contacted. It took several hours and the kindness of good citizens to help police find the four women.

**What:** Project Lifesaver/Lojack SafetyNet answers a critical need for people with cognitive conditions at risk of wandering, and is a particularly important service for caregivers and family members during the summer months when the life-threatening issue of wandering tends to increase.

LoJack SafetyNet is a comprehensive system that enables first responders to *pinpoint* the location of a person at risk who wanders. A Personal Locator Unit (PLU) is placed on a band worn around the wrist or ankle by the person at risk. It constantly emits a Radio Frequency (RF) signal, which can be tracked regardless of where the person has wandered using a handheld, portable Search and Rescue receiver. The receiver can actually detect the signal from the PLU within a range of approximately one mile in on-the-ground searches and 5-7 miles in searches by air.

Project Lifesaver International, a non-profit organization, specializes in training, certification, ongoing management and support to first responders like the Search and Rescue Society of British Columbia. The training includes teaching public safety officials how to use the LoJack SafetyNet System and how to gain the trust of and communicate with people who wander.

**Who:** Project Lifesaver/Lojack SafetyNet of Greater Victoria is a three-way partnership between Search & Rescue Society of BC who perform the searches, the Commissionaires who provide monthly home visits to change the battery and strap on the PLU transmitters and We Rage We Weep Alzheimer Foundation who conduct enrolment, administrate, market and provide community outreach and funding for as many clients as possible to participate in this valuable service.

**CONTACTS:** To arrange an interview please contact the following:

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