One of the worst nightmares for families who have a loved one with Alzheimer’s or a developmental disability is the fear that he or she will accidently run or wander away – an act that can result in devastating consequences. Lincoln County agencies have partnered to launch a program which can help alleviate this fear and give these families a little more piece of mind.

The Care Trak telemetry tracking system is designed to locate lost individuals who are wearing a specially designed wrist transmitter. The system allows first responders to track the individual wearing the wrist transmitter from one (1) mile away on the ground and five (5) miles from the air. These transmitters are waterproof – so they can be worn all day, every day – and are programmed with unique frequencies for each individual.

Lincoln County families interested in participating in the program should contact Lincoln County Health Department at (636)528-6117 to request an application.

For more information on how your organization can support the Care Trak Program in Lincoln County, please call the Lincoln County Health Department at (636) 528-6117
What is Care Trak?

Introduced in 1986, the Care Trak system allows for family members to track loved ones who have a history of wandering from their homes. The mobile tracking system uses a radio frequency wrist unit to locate lost individuals.

When an individual wearing this system is reported missing by calling 911, trained and certified first responders can begin the search using the radio telemetry system. The hand-held, directional response system is targeted at the specific frequency assigned to each individual, allowing searchers the ability to track within a few inches of the lost person, day or night, inside or outside. The telemetry system is preferred over GPS and cellular units because the signal can be tracked inside of buildings, in heavy foliage, or in times of heavily clouded skies — something that is not always the case with these newer technologies.

Over its more than 30 year existence, the Care Trak system has successfully located several thousand missing participants, with response times of less than thirty minutes.

### How does it work?

Should an individual registered with Lincoln County’s Care Trak wander away or become lost, their caregiver would call 911 and notify the dispatcher of their participation in the program. After giving the dispatcher the individual’s name and membership information, trained responders will begin searching for the person immediately upon contact.

Tracking the specific transmitter frequency, the responders will follow the radio signal as it becomes stronger and louder. The response antenna is highly accurate and receives a signal from up to (1) one mile away on the ground and five (5) miles from the air. If an air search is required, Law Enforcement would utilize Metro Air Support, or AirEvac if available.

### Participant Requirements

- Must be a Lincoln County resident
- Must have a medically diagnosed condition, including: Alzheimer’s, autism, dementia, or other developmental disabilities
- Must have a history of wandering or be at risk of wandering
- Must be under continuous 24-hour supervision
- Caregiver must commit to daily transmitter checks and to bring these logs to bi-monthly battery checks

### Fees and Registration

To participate in the Lincoln County Care Trak Program, there is a one-time registration fee of $300. This fee includes enrollment into the program and covers initial equipment costs for the transmitter, waterproof case, and tamper resistant bands.

Participants are responsible for ongoing battery replacement costs (around $6) every two months during the program. Other minor equipment costs may be incurred during participation.

For registration information or to begin the application process, please call the Lincoln County Health Department at 636-528-6117.