# MISSING BEHAVIORAL RESIDENT

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| **MISSION** | |
| To manage the process of locating and recovering a lost or abducted behavioral resident, from the skilled nursing facility. | |
| **DIRECTIONS** | |
| Read this entire response guide and use as a checklist to ensure tasks are addressed and completed. For each response period, all activated IMT positions should refer to their Job Action Sheet for additional actions. Each IRG is intended to be a starting point and not all inclusive. Customize to your facility.  *Note: Section duties and responsibilities remain the responsibility of the Incident Commander unless delegated.* | |
| **OBJECTIVES** | |
| 🞎 | Ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors while initiating search procedures. |
| 🞎 | Coordinate with law enforcement in the response to and recovery of a vulnerable missing resident with behavioral care needs. |
| 🞎 | Provide behavioral health support to residents, staff, and families. |

| **RAPID RESPONSE CHECKLIST** | |
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| 🞎 | Record the time that the behavioral resident was discovered missing and when and where he/she was last seen. |
| 🞎 | Verify that the behavioral resident has not signed out. If behavioral resident family members are onsite, ask them. |
| 🞎 | Activate the facility’s EOP and appoint a Facility Incident Commander (IC) if warranted. |
| 🞎 | Search the facility’s grounds for the behavioral resident. Identify previous elopement attempts and asses accordingly. If necessary, distribute copies of the resident’s photograph to the staff searching the grounds. Keep a record of the areas searched. Be sure to check:   * Closets * Walk-In Refrigerators/Freezers * Storage Rooms * Under Beds and Behind Furniture |
| 🞎 | If the missing behavioral resident is not found following an expedient search (approximately 30 minutes), call 9-1-1 and provide:   * Name and description of missing resident * Description of clothing, ambulation method, cognitive status and specific behavioral issues. * Photo if available |
| 🞎 | Notify:   * Responsible party / next of kin that resident is missing and search is underway * Notify appropriate state survey agency to report an unusual occurrence and activation of facility’s EOP. |
| 🞎 | Coordinate with public safety agencies in searching for the missing resident. |
| 🞎 | Once the resident is found, notify the responsible party/next of kin, facility staff and public safety agency representative. |
| 🞎 | *Add other response actions here consistent with the facility EOP.* |

| **Immediate Response (0 – 2 hours)** | | |
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| **IMT Position** | **Action** | **Initials** |
| **Incident Commander** | Confirm that a missing behavioral resident incident has occurred. |  |
| Activate lockdown procedures, Incident Management Team, and Nursing Home Command Center. |  |
| Notify nursing home Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors, state survey agency, and other appropriate internal and external officials of situation status. |  |
| Notify law enforcement and provide details of the incident. |  |
| Establish operational periods, objectives, and regular briefing schedule. Consider using the NHICS 200: Incident Action Plan (IAP) Quick Start for initial documentation of the incident. |  |
| **Liaison/PIO** | Activate the communication plan and respond to media inquiries in coordination with law enforcement and the Incident Commander. |  |
| Develop information for release to the media with law enforcement. Ensure the family/guardian of the lost or abducted person is aware prior to the release of any information. |  |
| Coordinate with law enforcement to issue a “Silver Alert.” |  |
| Monitor media outlets for updates on the incident and possible impacts on the nursing home. Communicate information via regular briefings to Section Chiefs and Incident Commander. |  |
| Notify community partners in accordance with local policies and procedures (e.g., consider local emergency operations center, other area nursing homes, local emergency medical services, public safety officials, and healthcare coalition coordinator), to determine incident details, community status, and establish contacts for requesting supplies, equipment, or personnel not available in the nursing home. |  |
| **Safety Officer** | Ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors during nursing home and campus search procedures. |  |
| Secure the nursing home and campus:   * Deny entry or exit to all but known responders * Direct all persons trying to leave the building or campus to a holding site * Coordinate movement with law enforcement |  |
| In coordination with the Operations Section Chief, ensure activation of search procedure:   * Assign staff to conduct a floor-to-floor and room-by-room search * Coordinate all search results and provide information to law enforcement on arrival * Provide all staff involved in search with basic information about missing or abducted resident |  |
| Provide law enforcement with missing resident information including:   * Height, weight, hair color, etc. * Any available photos * Distinguishing features * Clothing worn, articles carried * Medical equipment in use, etc. |  |
| Provide law enforcement with surveillance camera footage, facility maps, blueprints, master keys, card access, search grids, and other data as requested. |  |
| Conduct staff and family/guardian interviews to gather information and evidence in conjunction with law enforcement. |  |
| Complete NHICS 215A to assign, direct, and ensure safety actions are adhered to and completed. |  |
| **Operations Section Chief** | Ensure continuation of resident care and essential services. |  |
| Support the search procedure in coordination with the Safety Officer. |  |
| Coordinate with the Safety Officer to secure the nursing home and implement limited visitation policy. |  |
| Implement tasks listed below if Branches are not activated. |  |
| **Resident Services Branch Director** | Monitor resident care activities. |  |
| Identify staff familiar with behavioral residents’ characteristics and special care needs. |
| **Infrastructure Branch Director** | Refer to the Job Action Sheet for the appropriate tasks. |  |
| **Planning Section Chief** | Establish operational periods, incident objectives, and the NHICS 200: Incident Action Plan (IAP) Quick Start in collaboration with Command and General staff. |  |
| Gather critical information, policies activated, blueprints, search grids, and other critical data for inclusion in the Incident Action Plan. |  |
| Gather internal situation status including supply and equipment status, current staff and visitor census. |  |
| Initiate the tracking of residents, staff, and visitors. Provide tracking data to law enforcement in coordination with the Safety Officer. |  |
| **Logistics Section Chief** | Provide the logistics needs of nursing home staff and law enforcement personnel. |  |
| Gather information on planned or expected deliveries or pickups for the day; provide this information to the Safety Officer. |  |
| Notify operators of planned deliveries or pickups of the need to postpone or reschedule. |  |
| **All Activated Positions – Refer to Job Action Sheets** | | |

| **Intermediate Response (2 - 12 hours)** | | |
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| **IMT Position** | **Action** | **Initials** |
| **Incident Commander** | Determine the need to cancel or postpone visiting hours based on the projected length of the incident. |  |
| Activate Medical Director/Specialist if needed (e.g., Risk Management, Legal). |  |
| Ensure residents, staff, visitors, and senior leadership are briefed on the incident and any alterations in services. |  |
| **Liaison/PIO** | Continue media briefings and updates; work within the Joint Information Center if activated. |  |
| Update social media sites if in use for incident. |  |
| Continue to update key stakeholders and local officials of the incident and the status of response. |  |
| **Safety Officer** | Conduct an ongoing analysis of executed response actions for safety issues; implement corrective actions and update NHICS 215A. |  |
| Ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors during the closure of entry and exit points; coordinate with law enforcement as needed. |  |
| **Safety Officer** | In consultation with law enforcement, determine the need to continue the search and the use of nursing home staff at entry points. If staff are released, ensure briefing of personnel. |  |
| Work with law enforcement to ensure continued security of nursing home and ongoing operations. |  |
| **Operations Section Chief** | Ensure continuation of resident care and essential services. |  |
| Implement tasks listed below if Branches are not activated. |  |
| **Resident Services Branch Director** | Consider moving the family/guardian away from the missing resident room to a secure location. |  |
| Plan for the safe and confidential reunification of the lost or missing resident with family/guardian. |  |
| Assign a staff member to check in with family/guardians and provide a safe location for the resident’s family/guardian to ensure confidentiality while providing access to information and services. |  |
| Continue to assess residents for change in condition. |  |
| Provide behavioral health support to the impacted families/guardians of residents as needed. |  |
| Identify staff familiar with behavioral residents’ characteristics and special care needs. |
| **Infrastructure Branch Director** | Ensure nursing home cleanliness. Initiate special cleaning as necessary. |  |
| Continue to monitor the status of the physical plant and ensure the integrity of and/or restoration of utilities and communications. |  |
| **Planning Section Chief** | Plan for the next operational period and shift change, including staff patterns, location of labor pool if activated, nursing home campus entry and exit in view of lockdown. |  |
| Continue resident and bed tracking. |  |
| Initiate staff and equipment tracking. |  |
| **Logistics Section Chief** | If the campus lockdown continues, consider the impact on scheduled deliveries and pickups. |  |
| Contact vendors to ensure provision of needed supplies, equipment, medications, and water and food to residents, visitors, and families. |  |
| **Finance/ Administration Section Chief** | Track costs and expenditures of the response; include estimates of lost revenue. |  |
| Initiate screening and tracking of incoming volunteers and/or new personnel. |  |
| Begin to track hours associated with the emergency response. |  |
| **All Activated Positions – Refer to Job Action Sheets** | | |

| **Extended Response (greater than 12 hours)** | | |
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| **IMT Position** | **Action** | **Initials** |
| **Incident Commander** | Continue to monitor operations, consider the length of onsite operations, and determine the need for demobilization. |  |
| With the Liaison/PIO, prepare to speak with residents, staff, visitors, and stakeholders. |  |
| Update the nursing home Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors, state survey agency, and other appropriate internal and external officials of situation status. |  |
| **Liaison/PIO** | Continue to hold regularly scheduled media briefings in conjunction with Joint Information Center (if activated). |  |
| Address social media issues as warranted; use social media for messaging as situation dictates. |  |
| Ensure continued updates of appropriate information to partner organizations, local authorities, and others as determined by Incident Commander. |  |
| **Safety Officer** | Update the Incident Action Plan Safety Analysis (NHICS 215A) for extended operations based on modifications in entry and exit points, visiting hours, entry onto campus, etc. for inclusion in the IAP. |  |
| In coordination with the Operations Section Chief, continue to assess impact on clinical operations of modifications to entry and exit points. |  |
| Modify security procedures as needed and in conjunction with law enforcement. |  |
| **Operations Section Chief** | Observe and communicate the impact of modifications to entry and exit points on clinical operations. |  |
| Implement tasks listed below if Branches are not activated. |  |
| **Resident Services Branch Director** | Assess impact on clinical operations of restricted movement, delayed vendor deliveries and pickups. |  |
| Provide behavioral health support for residents, families/guardians, and staff as needed. |  |
| Identify staff familiar with behavioral residents’ characteristics and special care needs. |
| **Planning Section Chief** | Ensure that updated information and intelligence is incorporated into the Incident Action Plan. Prepare for demobilization. |  |
| **Logistics Section Chief** | With Operations Section, assess impact on clinical operations of delayed vendor deliveries and pickups. |  |
| When approved by Incident Commander, reschedule all delayed deliveries and pickups. |  |
| **Finance/ Administration Section Chief** | Continue to record the ongoing and projected costs from modifications in normal operations. |  |
| **All Activated Positions – Refer to Job Action Sheets** | | |

| **Demobilization/System Recovery** | | |
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| **IMT Position** | **Action** | **Initials** |
| **Incident Commander** | Ensure notification to all impacted persons of the missing person incident resolution. |  |
| Approve the procedures for demobilization. |  |
| Oversee the nursing home’s return to normal operations. |  |
| With the Liaison/PIO prepare to speak with media. |  |
| **Liaison/PIO** | Conduct media briefing to provide incident resolution. |  |
| Ensure that all stakeholders, response partners and state survey agency are notified of incident resolution. |  |
| **Safety Officer** | Oversee the resolution of response actions that impacted operations; ensure entry and exit points are open and functioning. Ensure that fire doors and alarms are in working order. |  |
| Schedule and oversee a test of the nursing home alarm systems. |  |
| Restore normal security operations and demobilize non security personnel staffing, if activated. |  |
| Report staff injury and illness for follow up by Finance/ Administration Section Chief. |  |
| **Operations Section Chief** | Initiate activities to restore normal operations; work with the Planning Section to identify activities that were altered for restoration to normal. |  |
| Restore visiting hours if suspended; determine the need to expand normal hours and ensure behavioral health support for residents and visitors as needed. |  |
| Implement tasks listed below if Branches are not activated. |  |
| **Resident Services Branch Director** | Ensure that impacted behavioral resident care areas that may have been out of service due to evidence collection are returned to service. |  |
| **Planning Section Chief** | Finalize and distribute steps for demobilization in the Incident Action Plan. |  |
| **Planning Section Chief** | Conduct debriefings or hotwash with:   * Command Staff and section personnel * Administrative personnel * All staff * All volunteers |  |
| Write an After Action Report, Corrective Action, and Improvement Plans for submission to the Incident Commander, and include:   * Summary of the incident * Summary of actions taken * Actions that went well * Actions that could be improved * Recommendations for future response actions |  |
| Prepare summary of the status and location of all incident residents, staff, and equipment. After approval by the Incident Commander, distribute as appropriate. |  |
| **Logistics Section Chief** | Oversee the resumption of scheduled deliveries and pickups. Communicate delays in deliveries with the Operations and Planning Section. |  |
| Provide a cost summary due to delays in deliveries, additional charges, rescheduled pickups, etc., with the Finance/ Administration Section Chief. |  |
| Inventory all Nursing Home Command Center and nursing home supplies and replenish them as necessary, appropriate, and available. |  |
| Submit all section documentation to Planning Section for compilation in After Action Report. |  |
| **Finance/ Administration Section Chief** | Document all costs, including claims and insurance reports, lost revenue, and expanded services, and provide report to Command Staff. |  |
| Work with local, state, and federal emergency management to begin reimbursement procedures for cost expenditures related to the event. |  |
| Contact the insurance carriers to initiate reimbursement and claims procedures, if necessary. |  |
| **All Activated Positions – Refer to Job Action Sheets** | | |

| **Documents and Tools** |
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| **Nursing Home Emergency Operations Plan, including:**   * Communication plan * Security procedures * Behavioral care special needs * Behavioral health support procedures * Lockdown procedures |
| **Forms, including:**   * NHICS 200 – Incident Action Plan (IAP) Quick Start * NHICS 205 – Communications List * NHICS 214 – Activity Log * NHICS 215A – Incident Action Plan (IAP) Safety Analysis |
| Job Action Sheets |
| Paper forms for down-time documentation, data entry, etc. |
| Access to nursing home organization chart |
| Campus floor plans, maps, and evacuation routes |
| Television/radio/internet to monitor news |
| Telephone/cell phone/satellite phone/internet/amateur radio/2-way radio for communication |