As with Alzheimer's patients, persons with autism may wander. Persons with autism may be attracted to water sources, roadways, or peer into and enter dwellings.

**TIPS FOR INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH AUTISM**
- Display calming body language; give person extra personal space.
- Use simple language.
- Speak slowly, repeat, and rephrase questions.
- Use concrete terms and ideas; avoid slang.
- Allow extra time for response.
- Give praise and encouragement.
- Exercise caution during restraint.
- Person may have seizure disorders and low muscle tone.
- Avoid positional asphyxia. Keep airway clear. Turn person on side often.
- Given time and space, person may desensitize their behavior.
- Seek advise from others on the scene who know the person with autism.

If in custody, alert jail authorities. Consider an initial isolation facility. Person would be at risk in general prison population. REMEMBER: Each individual with autism is unique and may act or react differently. PLEASE contact a professional who is familiar with autism.

For more information, visit www.autismriskmanagement.com ©Debbaudt Legacy Productions, 2005