

Aging and Dementia Tip Sheet

Common symptoms of dementia

- Memory loss
- Difficulty performing simple, daily tasks
- Trouble with communication
- Misplacing objects
- Becoming disoriented, even in familiar places such as one's home
- Changes in mood and behaviour

Possible signs of dementia when a First Responder is called to help an older person

- Public disturbances
- Appearing intoxicated in public
- Making false accusations against others
- Dangerous driving
- Missing incidents
- Shoplifting

Other considerations

- When responding to an incident, look for **signs and symptoms** of dementia
- Persons living with dementia may **act differently** than expected. Behaviour which appears combative or uncooperative is not intentional, but is responsive, expressing a need
- Dementia is associated with **cognitive impairment**, meaning that the person may not be able to follow instructions or communicate
- **Compassion and respect** are vital to dementia-friendly interactions