



Resident Safety News

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STANLEY

Healthcare Solutions

Locating for improved resident safety

Maimonides Geriatric Center adds locating to its RoamAlert system

Effective wander prevention is never simple. Even with an individual program to try to address the triggers of wandering and involve the resident in activities, it just isn't possible to know in advance when a resident might wander or where they might try to go.

With the RoamAlert® system, you know that your exits are safely protected, and that the resident will not be at risk of exposure to the weather or other hazards outside your facility. But it's still possible for a resident to get pretty seriously lost inside the building (or even deliberately hide), especially if there are multiple floors and wings.



It was the challenge of finding such residents that prompted the Maimonides Geriatric Center, in Montreal, Quebec, to investigate the locating options available with the RoamAlert system.

The center has been using the RoamAlert system for a number of years to protect stairwell exits on each of its seven resident floors, as well as the main entrance on the ground floor. But experience with drills to locate a missing resident (which the

facility calls a "Code Yellow") showed that it could take a long time to find someone, says John Paterson, Director of Technical Services at Maimonides.

"We have a comprehensive procedure that we go through when someone is not on the floor where they should be. We did the best we could with that, but we wanted to find a way to improve it."

The facility worked with authorized RoamAlert dealer Clercom, Inc. to upgrade its RoamAlert system to include a locating capability. This involved adding the RoamAlert software, connecting the door monitors into a network, and adding a few receiver devices.

Location information is provided by wireless devices installed at key points throughout the facility. Every time a resident wearing a RoamAlert tag passes by one of these devices, the system captures the information.

The most recent location is shown right in the Census view of the software, making it easy for staff to quickly find where a resident was last seen by the system.

Mr. Paterson says that it will be much easier to locate residents in a Code Yellow. "It gives us all we need to know. Where is Mrs. Smith? She's lost; but she was last seen on 7B. That means we only have to search one wing, and not the whole building."

These steps are all part of a complete plan to respond to a wander incident. The facility also keeps a file of wander-prone residents to share with police should that be necessary, as well as complete plans of the facility to help with a search.

And now with the RoamAlert system, Maimonides is able to offer an even higher level of security against wandering for its residents. ■