

CASE STUDY

Safe Intervention of Eloping Senior

Overview

John is an 88 year old man living alone in a 55+ community. Preferring to age in his own home, his family hired home health aides to care for him during the day but felt he was capable of being alone from 8:00 PM to 7:30 AM. John was generally healthy but was beginning to showing signs of “time of day” confusion. John’s family caregiver, his daughter, subscribed to envoyatHome to ensure his safety and wellness during the evenings and overnights when he was alone.

Approach

One cold and snowy January morning, John’s area was in the midst of an unusually vicious blizzard. John woke up extra early that morning to be on time for his weekly breakfast with his buddies. He hurried out the front door worried he was already late to the diner. It was 4:00 AM, dark, and dangerously icy.

He had forgotten that and his buddies stopped meeting for breakfast years ago.

Results

Within seconds after John’s front door opened at 4AM, his daughter’s mobile phone woke her with a loud and piercing tone. The screen flashed red, and an emergency notification message scrolled across the lock screen. envoyatHome had recognized that John left home at a time inconsistent with his personalized plan. John was immediately and safely intercepted, albeit cold, wet, and embarrassed.

Conclusions

Symptoms of cognitive impairment and memory decline are often obvious only when the senior is alone. After his elopement incident, John's family examined envoyatHome behavioral data reports. The reports showed more subtle signs of cognitive decline. Nobody was with John to observe that he was pacing for hours at night and often fell asleep in the living room, which explained why his aide felt he was tired during the day.

Impressed with the objectivity, clarity, and transparency of the envoyatHome data, John's doctor made the formal diagnosis of early stage dementia and began a treatment regimen.