

# DEMENTIA AND ABUSE PREVENTION

## Understand Dementia

- Persons with dementia are thought to be at greater risk of abuse and neglect. Understand that residents with dementia can't help their behaviors.

## Communication Strategies

- Communication is a two way street. Persons with dementia can't change the way they communicate, so we must change ours.

## Understand Behaviors and Actions

- Consider behaviors of a person with dementia as actions and reactions that are forms of communication. Evaluate possible reasons behind the actions and reactions.

## Stop Chain of Events

- Respond to resident actions in such a way that might prevent a negative series of actions and reactions that can lead to abuse.

## Respond to Abuse

- Consider the SAFE acronym when responding to abuse: Safe, Alert, Friend, Emergency.