



## Canadian police consider GPS for people with Alzheimer's

### 加國警方考慮提供阿茲海默病患GPS手鍊

Police in Montreal are studying the possibility of offering GPS bracelets to people suffering from **Alzheimer's disease**, an official told AFP.

The Montreal Police Service (SPVM) is looking at ways to keep safe people suffering from diseases that **degrade** brain function, including memory.

Sufferers who leave their homes without the ability to find their way back are **dicing with death** by putting themselves at risk of hunger and the cold.

"For us, the priority is the safety of the population. In cases where citizens go missing because of Alzheimer's, we want to get involved as quickly as possible to return them," Daniel Rousseau, the police official heading community action strategies, told AFP on Tuesday.

Last month, a 73-year-old woman suffering from Alzheimer's was found dead in the snow after a three-day search.

The SPVM study will analyze the costs of offering GPS bracelets, as well as the ethical and legal **implications** of any such measure.

GPS bracelets are already used by Canadian authorities, particularly to keep track of prisoners who are on conditional release.

According to the Montreal Alzheimer's Society, a person suffering from the disease has a one in two chance of being injured or even dying if they are not discovered within 12 hours of going missing.

GPS, or Global Positioning Satellite, is a global **navigation** system that uses 32 medium Earth orbit satellites to precisely identify an individual's location. (AFP)

蒙特婁警方對法新社表示，他們正在研擬提供阿茲海默病患全球定位系統手鍊的可行性。

蒙特婁警局 (SPVM) 正在尋求各種方式，保護罹患腦部功能退化疾病 (包括記憶等) 病患的安危。

這些離家找不到路回家的病患，面臨飢寒交迫的生命威脅。

警方社區行動策略主管丹尼爾·盧梭上週二對法新社說：「我們最重要的職責就是保護民眾安全。若有罹患阿茲海默症的市民走失，我們希望能在最短的時間內介入協尋，並將他們送回

家。」

上個月，警方經過三天的搜索後，在雪地裡發現已經身亡的七十三歲阿茲海默症婦人。

蒙特婁警方的這項研究將分析發放定位手鍊的成本，以及此類措施可能牽涉的倫理和法律面問題。

加拿大有關當局已經開始使用定位手鍊，尤其是在追蹤假釋期間的囚犯。

蒙特婁阿茲海默症協會表示，罹患這種疾病的患者一旦走失，若十二小時內未被尋獲，受傷、甚至死亡的機率就有五成。

全球定位系統 (或全球定位衛星) 是一種利用三十二顆沿著地球軌道繞行的中程衛星，精確找到個體所在位置的全球導航系統。 (法新社/翻譯：袁星慶)

A model displays the new navigation device TOMTOM Go 930 T GPS during the CeBIT computer fair in the northern German town of Hanover in this March 4, 2008 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

二〇〇八年三月四日拍攝的這張檔案照片中，德國北部漢諾威市的國際信息及通訊技術博覽會電腦展上，一名模特兒展示新型導航裝置「TOMTOM Go 930 T GPS」。 照片：路透社

#### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

##### 1. Alzheimer's disease, /'ɑ:ltz,haɪmərˌdɪˈzɪz/ n.

阿茲海默症 (a1 zi1 hai3 mo4 zheng4)

例: Alzheimer's disease usually starts to develop between 40 and 60. (阿茲海默症好發於四十到六十歲間。)

##### 2. degrade /dɪ'ɡred/ v.

退化 (tui4 hua4)

例: It's important that the factory doesn't degrade the environment. (工廠不應造成環境退化。)

##### 3. implication /,ɪmˈplɪˈkeɪʃən/ n.

牽涉 (qian1 she4)

例: The implications of this law will affect everyone. (此法牽涉的層面將影響每一個人。)

##### 4. navigation /,nævəˈɡeɪʃən/ n.

航行 (hang2 xing2)

例: Darkness posed a severe threat to navigation. (黑暗是航行的一大威脅。)

#### IDIOM POINT 重要片語

##### dice with death 冒生命危險

If you **dice with death**, you do something extremely dangerous. According to the article, it can be extremely dangerous for Alzheimer's patients to go out alone.

Examples: "You're **dicing with death** if you go skiing without the proper equipment," or "Every time you get on your motorbike you're **dicing with death**."

若說你「dice with death」，就表示你做了某件極為危險的事情。上文中提到，阿茲海默症患者獨自出門會十分危險。

例如：「沒準備合適的裝備就去滑雪，根本是拿自己的性命開玩笑」，或是「你每次騎車都是在賭命」。