



For Immediate Release

Captain Monica Alexander
Government and Media Relations

April 15, 2019

Contact: Trooper Chelsea A. Hodgson

Phone: (360) 265-1332

Email: Chelsea.Hodgson@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @wsp8pio

Endangered Missing Person from Seattle located in Port Townsend

PORT TOWNSEND – A 76-year-old man last seen leaving his Seattle home Sunday afternoon was found unharmed Monday morning in Port Townsend within seven hours of being reported missing.

An Endangered Missing Persons Advisory (EMPA) Alert was issued for Wyatt Wood by the Seattle Police Department at 4 a.m. Monday. Wood reportedly suffers from a history of heart problems, diabetes and dementia.

After the alert was issued, several citizens reported to 9-1-1 of seeing a yellow 2001 Nissan Xterra, similar to the one believed to be driven by Wood. One caller placed the vehicle in Port Townsend just after 11 a.m.

Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Jamieson Hodgson and Port Townsend Police Department Detective Jon Stuart responded and were able to identify Wood at a coffee shop within the Maritime Center. Wood told officers he checked into a Port Townsend hotel Sunday night and turned his cell phone to airplane mode.

Due to his health history, Wood agreed to be evaluated by medical aid. Responding aid crews cleared Wood, believing he would be able to return to Seattle on his own. Responding officers advised Wood's caretaker and family members, who agreed he could drive home.

"Thank you to those citizens who were alert and proactive in calling 9-1-1," said WSP District 8 Captain James Mjor. "Through expediting accurate information by way of our social media and news outlets, we continue to recognize positive conclusions from our involved citizens – the key stakeholders in our 'Alert' programs, and appreciate their efforts in helping us locate those vulnerable that go missing."

The EMPA Alert plan was incorporated into Washington State law in June 2010. For an EMPA Alert to be issued, a person must be considered missing and in danger because of age, physical or mental health, severe weather conditions and believed not to be able to return safely on their own. The reporting party must have enough information to assist in the recovery of the missing subject. If enough information is available, the incident is reported to and investigated by law enforcement.

The alert disseminates information about the person to the media, public and local law enforcement agencies with the goal of safe return as quickly as possible.

District 8 serves Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties.

###