

MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS UNIT (MUPU) FAQs & FYIS

DO NOT wait to report your loved one missing.
There is **NO waiting period** to report someone as missing.

Why isn't my family/friend listed on Washington State Patrol's (WSP) "list of missing persons/children"?

Our missing persons list is not a complete list. Posters are created at the request of law enforcement agencies, family, or friends.

How can I request a poster for my loved one?

File a missing person report with your local law enforcement agency. Remember, there is no waiting period. Once that is completed, fill out the Missing Persons Packet with as much information as possible and email the form, along with a current digital photo of the missing person, to MPU@wsp.wa.gov. A case manager will then contact you for follow-up.

Why are there no posters for missing indigenous persons?

WSP Tribal Liaisons maintain a Missing Indigenous Persons (MIP) list. Posters can also be requested by law enforcement agencies, family members, or friends.

What is the difference between a poster and an alert?

	Missing Person Poster	Any alert-AMBER, Endangered Missing, Silver, MIPA
Who is missing?	Any missing person	See alert criteria for specific requirements.
Who can request?	Family member, close friend, law enforcement	Law enforcement agencies only
What form to use?	Missing Person Packet	Alert Data Entry Form
Where to send the form?	mpu@wsp.wa.gov	AMBERAlertRequest@wsp.wa.gov
Email monitoring/poster creation	M-F 8:00-4:30	24/7
What happens next?	Missing poster on WSP website. Poster is also sent to requestor to distribute.	Alert flyer distributed via email listserv, including media, and posted on Facebook and X (Twitter). DOT Highway signs are used if a vehicle involved. The flyer is sent to requester.

What is WEA? (Wireless Emergency Alerts)

WEAs are emergency messages sent by government authorities through your mobile carrier. Alerts are designed to inform the public of imminent threats to safety or missing person alerts in your area.

Who is responsible for activating an AMBER Alert?

MUPU activates on behalf of the investigating law enforcement agency. AMBER Alert requests must come from law enforcement agencies only.

Why aren't all endangered missing children receiving an AMBER Alert activation?

AMBER Alert activation in Washington state MUST meet all 4 criteria:

1. A child is under eighteen (18) and known to have been abducted.
2. The child is believed to be in danger of imminent death or serious bodily injury.
3. There must be enough descriptive information available to believe that an AMBER Alert will assist in the recovery of the child.
4. The incident must be reported to and investigated by law enforcement. The child, suspect (if known), and vehicle (if known) must be entered into NCIC as soon as sufficient information is available.

Why isn't there an alert for disabled children or adults?

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory (EMPA) is an alert for a person of any age who is in danger because of age, physical or mental health, severe weather conditions and not able to return to safety without assistance.

REMINDER:

- A vehicle is NOT required for ANY of Washington's alert types.
- All alert types in Washington state can utilize the use of WEA on a case-by-case basis. No alert is more important than the other.
- Highway signs can only be utilized when a full license plate number is provided.