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The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System: Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code Now Live

The FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduces a new event code – the Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) code. It allows **state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities** to send emergency alerts over television, radio, and cell phones to recover missing and endangered persons.

The IPAWS Division is available to support jurisdictions in using the new MEP event code across the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code

The MEP event code is for anyone who does not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, including children and adults. It supports a faster, more coordinated response from law enforcement and community members.

Missing and Endangered Persons Code Benefits and Impact



The MEP event code was created to fill the gap and help address the **over 180,000 people** who go missing annually that do not qualify for an AMBER Alert. It allows for quick and direct action because every second counts when someone goes missing.



Implementation of the MEP event code meets the call to action from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Resolution to enable a more rapid, coordinated response to incidents involving missing indigenous persons. Although use of the MEP event code is voluntary, it could be **particularly beneficial to Tribal communities who are at a disproportionate risk of violence, murder, or vanishing.**



The MEP event code can **rapidly help mobilize public responses** and equip rural and hard-to-reach areas for more resilient emergency communications for missing and endangered persons, which can provide lifesaving information quickly for communities that need it most.

Missing and Endangered Persons Code Usage

- It is important to update and establish internal emergency communications plans to use the MEP event code effectively and avoid incoherent or duplicative messaging.
- State Emergency Communications Committees may provide guidance when, how, and under what conditions agencies may use the MEP event code in their state.
- The Message Design Dashboard 2.0 includes message creation for this new event code, allowing jurisdictions to more rapidly draft clear, concise, and effective emergency communications in missing and endangered persons cases.

Next Steps for Alerting Authorities

- Update your Public Alerting Application permissions in the IPAWS User Portal to use the MEP event code for WEA and/or EAS.
- Broadcast and cable operators must update their EAS devices to accommodate the MEP event code. Implementation by broadcasters is voluntary, so if they choose to relay the MEP event code, they must configure equipment accordingly.
- Share and discuss with stakeholders how the MEP event code can save lives and strengthen partnerships between broadcasters, law enforcement and emergency management communities before an event occurs.

IPAWS Technical Assistance

IPAWS Technical Support Services can work with you to create message templates that help send MEP alerts faster and more efficiently. These templates ensure that critical information – like physical descriptions, last known locations, and contact instructions – can be shared quickly when time matters most.

IPAWS Technical Support Services is staffed 24/7 with subject-matter experts experienced in emergency management, public safety communications, public works, and broadcasting, who assist Alerting Authorities. For more information, send an email to fema-ipaws-lab@fema.dhs.gov or call, toll-free at **1-84-IPAWSLAB** or **1-844-729-7522**.