



MISSING PERSONS

San Jose Police Department



BENEFITS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT

- Community Support
- Personal and Professional Satisfaction
- Reduction of Civil Liability



DEFINITIONS

- **MISSING PERSON** - Any person who is reported missing to a law enforcement agency whether it be an Adult or a Juvenile.



Documentation of a police report

- Currently, all missing person reports are referred to Communications for documentation on a TRAC report **unless** one of the following is involved:
- the missing person is 11 years of age or younger
- the missing person is reasonably considered “at risk”
- a search of the area is necessary
- there is suspected foul play
- parental abduction is reasonably suspected
- the collection of evidence is necessary



Per Post Guidelines there are Nine Types of Missing Persons

- Catastrophic Missing
- Parental Abduction
- Runaway
- Unknown
- Voluntary Missing Adult
- Dependent Adult
- Lost
- Stranger Abduction
- Suspicious Circumstances



Catastrophic Missing

- Child or adult who is reported missing and assumed to be a victim of a disaster (fire, flood, earthquake, terrorist act, etc.)



Parent/Family Abduction

- Child who is taken, detained, concealed, enticed away, or retained by a parent/family member or person at the request of the parent

RUNAWAY

- Any child who is voluntarily missing.
 - A person is no longer considered a runaway at the age of 18.



UNKNOWN MISSING

- Cases where there are insufficient facts to determine the missing person's disposition.





VOLUNTARY MISSING ADULT

- Adult who is reported missing, but who has left of their own free will



SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

- Child or adult who is reported missing, and the circumstances give rise to believe that:
 - Foul play may be involved
 - The person is a danger to self or others
 - The disappearance is out of character for the person and no known reason can be determined



DEPENDANT ADULT

- Adult who is reported missing and who has physical or mental limitations, e.g., dementia, Alzheimer's disease, autism, etc.
- Any disability which restricts their ability to carry out normal activities



LOST

- Child or adult who is reported to have strayed away and whose whereabouts are unknown



Stranger Abduction

- Child or adult who is taken or abducted against their will by an unknown person or a known person who is not a family member



AT RISK

- The juvenile is 11 or under
- The person missing is the victim of a crime or foul play
- The person missing is in need of medical attention
- The person missing is mentally impaired, including cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled



DISPATCHING THE CALL

□ Priority

- shall be given preference over non-emergency property crimes
- includes holding calls for shift change as well as meal and other breaks
- also over administrative activities such as report writing, servicing patrol vehicles, etc.



DISPATCHING THE CALL

- Content of Dispatch
 - Three determining factors a dispatcher should consider when formulating dispatch content are:
 - Level of Urgency
 - Informational needs of the officer
 - Department Policy



DISPATCHING THE CALL

- Dispatch content needs to contain sufficient information to allow for identification of the missing person:
 - Name, age (d.o.b.), address
 - Physical description
 - Clothing
 - Mental, emotional and/or physical condition



DISPATCHING THE CALL

- Content (continued):
 - Time and location last seen
 - Availability and mode of transportation
 - Suspect information
 - Pattern of previous behavior
 - Pertinent information and instructions to the reporting party



DISPATCHING THE CALL

□ Local Broadcasts

- Must be made without delay on all reported missing persons
- May be via radio and/or Teletype



FIELD PROCEDURES

- Means for locating a missing person
 - Make a local B.O.L.
 - Without delay on all missing persons
 - Via local radio, teletype, CLETS ,
 - Notify DOJ via MUPS
 - Missing Person's vehicle
 - Suspect information
 - Suspect vehicle information



FIELD PROCEDURES

- Search the area
- Determine existence of court orders
- Utilize additional resources, i.e. Amber Alert, Silver Alert, Search and Rescue



FIELD PROCEDURES

- Conditions that influence the nature and level of response:
 - Age: 11 and under At Risk
 - Access to vehicles
 - Knowledge of area
 - Foul Play or Suspicious Circumstances
 - Mental or emotional condition
 - Medical or physical condition
 - Weather and climate



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 14211(a) - Accept without delay, give priority, B.O.L. if under 16 years of age or AT Risk, assess steps for locating.
- 14211(e)- Report to DOJ via MUPS within 2 hours if AT RISK or under 21 years of age.
- 14211(b)- A report is to be taken regardless of the missing person's residence or location last seen unless an agency is accepting a missing person's report



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- When the Missing Person is located
 - Must advise the agency that took the initial report
 - Cancel any automated system entries
 - immediately notify DOJ via MUPS
 - if abducted and found within 24 hrs, submit a report to DOJ
 - if found before reported missing must still submit report to DOJ



MISSING PERSONS REQUESTS

- GET CELL PHONE FOR R/P
- GET EMAIL ADDRESS FOR R/P AND MISSING PERSON
- GET DOB FOR R/P, IF NOT POSSIBLE, AGE
- GROUP HOME CASES NEED P/O, S/W AND PARENT INFO AS WE NEED TO CONTACT THEM AFTER M/P RUNS
- VERIFY AREA CODES FOR ALL PHONE NUMBERS
- VERIFY IF MISSING PARTY IS CONSERVED IF AN ADULT AT GROUP HOME OR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

QUESTIONS

