



LAW ENFORCEMENT MESSAGE



Law Enforcement Leader Considerations in Recognition of National Missing Children's Day – May 25th

On Wednesday, May 25th, law enforcement organizations may be recognizing National Missing Children's Day to honor those who work diligently to protect children and increase public awareness of this important issue. Each year there are nearly 600,000 people that are missing or unidentified, and is often considered the nation's silent mass disaster.¹ National Missing Children's Day is also an ideal time for law enforcement leaders to review their existing policies and training efforts to ensure their agency appropriately addresses this critical issue. In addition to efforts to increase public awareness, law enforcement leaders may wish to:

1. Review existing policies regarding missing persons to ensure the information is current, including appropriate contacts, resources, and investigative measures, considering the continually advancement of technology and changing social media platforms.
2. Ensure policies contain the provisions as outlined in the New Jersey Attorney General Directive, [Missing and Unidentified Persons Investigations](#).
3. Participate in the [Missing Kids Readiness Program](#), supported by the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). This program supports best practices for responding to calls for missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children.
4. Ensure that all agency personnel have completed the MEL Safety Institute [Protecting Children From Abuse Training](#).
5. Review the MEL Safety Institute [Special Event Best Practices Bulletin](#), and ensure that *Incident Action Plans* for special events include provisions on how situations involving missing persons will be properly handled.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Law Enforcement Risk Control Consultant.

¹Department of Justice - Office of Justice Programs. (2022, February 22). How Prevalent is Violence in Missing and Unidentified Persons Cases. *National Institute of Justice*. Washington D.C.

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