

WYOMING ENDANGERED PERSON ALERT

PURPOSE: The Wyoming Endangered Person Alert (EPA) provides Wyoming law enforcement agencies with a single point of contact for purposes of initiating an EPA Alert in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Transportation electronic highway signs, as well as other agencies/entities that can assist with the dissemination of information to the public.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol facilitates the EPA Alert process by serving as the contact agency for initiating such alerts. Local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement agencies maintain their investigative responsibilities. Any alert would require leads to be called to the agency of jurisdiction.

The EPA plan is a cooperative effort between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin. The goal of the EPA is to instantly inform the entire community so that citizens may assist with safely locating an individual in need of assistance.

HOW THE ENDANGERED PERSON ALERT PLAN WORKS: Once a law enforcement agency has been notified a determination is made that the case meets the EPA Plan's criteria for triggering an EPA alert.

1. The incident has been reported to and investigated by a law enforcement agency.
2. The person missing is under unexplained, involuntary or suspicious circumstances.
3. The person is believed to be in danger of death or serious injury.
4. There is enough information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person.

If these criteria are met, concise information is put together for public distribution. The information may include descriptions and photos of the individual(s), vehicle, etc. Under the plan, local law enforcement and the WHP make the determination for an EPA. WHP will activate CodeRed, which sends messages to cell phones (when email addresses and numbers have been registered), providing Amber information, in addition to all radio stations in the state of Wyoming that have signed up to receive the alerts. WYDOT will activate the electronic overhead highway signs when vehicle information is available, and the information will also be posted on the WHP Facebook page.

The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation can provide assistance to investigative agencies with the Locator System. The Locator system can produce and disseminate through group fax and email, posters for missing children as well as suspect(s).

Upon notification from the law enforcement agency that the individual has been located, the WHP would initiate a cancellation of the EAP.

INTERSTATE COMMUNICATION/ASSISTANCE: Central points of contact in all states has been established and allows for another state to assist with an EPA.

WHP EPA ALERTS

- 2016- Grand Teton Park Service: Female who was working in the park and left to go to the restroom and did not return. The subject was later found in a cabin with her boyfriend.
- 2016 Fremont County SO: Elderly male with dementia who left Jeffrey City on foot heading towards Lander. Found in a motel in Lander.
- 2017-None
- 2018- Green River SO: Elderly male with dementia who left the assisted living home in Rock Springs on foot. Subject was found two days later in an abandoned apartment in Rock Springs.
- 2019-Wind River PD: Eight-year-old female who was last seen at Trout Creek by a male relative at 1540. At the time, she was with the family dog. At 1922 Wind River called and requested an AMBER Alert which did not qualify, so we did the Endangered Person Advisory. At 2011 the child was located safe.