

OVERVIEW

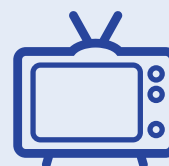
The FCC has adopted a new event code for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to deliver emergency alerts about missing and endangered persons (MEP). The new event code is implemented as a three-character code, “MEP,” and has a 12-month implementation period extending from the publication of the Order in the Federal Register.



BACKGROUND

EAS Protocol utilizes fixed alert codes to identify the various elements of an emergency alert so that each alert can deliver accurate, secure, and geographically targeted alerts to the public.

Alert originators, such as local public safety officials, select from a group of event codes based on the nature of the emergency (for example, “CAE” signifies a Child Abduction Emergency, otherwise known as an AMBER Alert).



WHO QUALIFIES FOR AN MEP ALERT?

The MEP code can be used for EAS alerts about missing and endangered people who do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert.



**In 2023, more than 188,000 people went missing
who fall outside of the criteria for AMBER Alerts.**



BENEFITS

Adding the MEP alert code:

- Helps law enforcement agencies galvanize public attention to missing and endangered people of all ages.
- Assists in mobilizing public responses to missing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Black persons, who constitute 40% of missing people in the U.S. In 2023, 10,650 American Indian and Alaska Native persons were reported missing, of which 3,269 were age 18 or older. Further, despite being 12% of the U.S. population, more than 35% of missing persons over age 18 are Black.
- Builds on efforts by Tribal Nations, the Department of Interior, and the Department of Justice to collect comprehensive data on missing and endangered American Indian and Alaska Native person cases in line with Savanna’s Act (25 U.S.C. § 5701, et. seq.).