Event 9 – Critical Incident
Session 19- Missing Persons- Scenarios
LD # 27 Missing Persons

Date Revised: 11/04/19

Goal: To provide the student with basic skills necessary to complete a missing person's investigation in a manner consistent with the law and Department policy. The student will develop the skills and abilities to successfully and thoroughly complete a missing person's investigation

Session Time: 2 hours

Resources:

- Blank Missing Persons' Report and completed Exemplar
- Crime Scene Tape
- Blank Crime Scene logs
- FI Cards
- Radios
- Notebook dividers
- Quiz
- BWV Camera

- **Session Summary:** The students, through scenario role play, will perform the basic skills necessary to complete a missing person's investigation in a manner consistent with California statutes and Department policy. The student will complete the Session with a quiz to reinforce the related subject matter.

Outline	Instructor Notes

A. Practical Application-Missing Person's 1. Review previous Missing persons part 1 2. Explain Missing Person's Report 3. Role play (Missing persons Investigation) 4. Debrief role play 5. Complete Missing Person's Report Investigation 6. Quiz	**Learning Activity #1: Role Play Scenario** See Media Relations/Missing Persons Role Play Script **[Quiz] Session #1 material**

Learning Activity #1

I. Missing Persons/Media Relations Role Play

Purpose:
Students will role play a missing person's investigation, which will reinforce areas discussed in the lesson plan and allow them to apply their overall knowledge of Victimology, interviewing skills, law, radio procedures and other investigative skills necessary to complete a thorough Missing Persons Investigation.

Students will also have an opportunity to experience an encounter with the media during an ongoing investigation that includes a possible crime scene.

Materials:
Blank Missing Person Report
Blank Crime Scene Logs
Crime Scene Tape
FI Cards
Radios

A. Procedures:

1. 2 recruit officers will be assigned as first responding officers.

2. 1 Instructor will be assigned as the Reporting Person

a) REPORTING PERSON ROLE-PLAY INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) Your name is Janet Jones. You are the parent of the missing 10-year old child. Her name is Jessica Jones. You arrived at the playground/parking lot approximately 15 minutes ago. You child was playing in the area when you realized that you had left your cell phone in your vehicle. You turned your back for just a moment to retrieve the phone and when you turned back the child was nowhere to be seen. However, you did see a black van speeding away from the location.

(2) When the police arrive, you are extremely distraught. You describe your child as a female/race consistent with role player, brown/brown, 409/80 lbs., wearing blue jeans, red t-shirt and pink tennis shoes.

(3) No child custody issues exist.

3. 1 Instructor will be assigned as a reporter

a) REPORTER ROLE-PLAY INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) You arrive on scene after hearing the missing persons broadcast on your police scanner. As you arrive –with or without your cameraperson- you begin to question the first responder. Be polite but persistent. If you are asked to remove yourself from an area, do so, but politely protest.

4. 1 Instructor will be assigned as a Field Supervisor

a) SERGEANT ROLE-PLAY INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) Respond to the scene only if requested. Find out what the first responder has found out and what they would like to do. Do not interfere with the interaction with the media people.

5. 1 Video Unit person will respond with video camera as Press Photographer (optional)

6. All remaining group members will be assigned as observers unless additional units are requested

a) Advise observers to watch role-play and be prepared to act as additional units and/or critique the scenario at its conclusion.

7. Once selections have been made, ensure that the role players are given the specific role play instructions for their role to review prior to the role play.

8. The scenario takes place in the rear parking lot (weather permitting).

9. Allow the role play to continue until appropriate resources have been requested, the reporting person has been interviewed, the media role-players have arrived and enough of the scene has played out to allow positive and negative aspects of it to become clear.

10. Return to classroom for debrief.

B. **DEBRIEF:**

1. What worked well?
2. What could be done better? Be sure to cover:
    a. Victimology
    b. Radio procedures
    c. Interviewing skills
    d. Crime Scene Tape
    e. Crime Scene Logs
    f. Exhibit sensitivity to the reporting party
        i. **Ask** the class: What procedural justice issues should officers consider in these situations? Let's revisit the 4 tenants of procedural justice
            1. Exhibit sensitivity to the reporting party
            2. Reporting parties and families of missing persons often experience feelings of helplessness and anxiety.
            3. **Refer to** R/O's MP stories shared at the beginning of class, if applicable.
            4. Officers, dispatchers or other designated personnel should be sensitive to their feelings and respond appropriately.
        ii. **Ask** the class: How would you calm someone who is distraught and distressed over a lost person?
            1. Acknowledge ordeal
            2. Use active listening
3. What would be the appropriate verbal response to the media in the role play?
    a. What *can* you say?
        i. What you know i.e., "There is a child missing."
        ii. Use plain English - not jargon
    b. What should you avoid saying?
        i. "No comment"
4. The Media can go anywhere the public can go
    a. They can also go into areas closed to the public *except* crime scenes.
        i. If there is an ongoing crime scene investigation, or evidence may be destroyed by their presence, media may be excluded.
        ii. If a situation is dangerous but not a crime scene (ex. earthquake, fire) the media cannot be excluded, but should be advised of the danger.
5. Additional Learning Points
    a. Always be aware of cameras and tape recorders.
        i. Assume you are always being filmed and recorded
    b. The media can photograph and interview anyone.
        i. This includes suspects, arrestees, witnesses, and you.

Quiz Session #1
(Instructor's Copy)
True/False

Question #1: Peace officers need to understand their legal and professional obligations as well as the need for sensitivity and effective communication when responding to a Missing Person's Investigation

Answer: True

Question #2: Peace officers do not need to know how to obtain sufficient and accurate preliminary information from the reporting party

Answer: False

Question #3: Peace officers must know that a thorough preliminary investigation does not improve the chances of a missing person being located quickly and safely

Answer: False

Question #4: Officers should approach each Missing Person Investigation as a potential criminal investigation.

Answer: True

Question #5: A Voluntary Missing Person is an individual who has left on that person's own free will.

Answer: True

Question #6: During a Missing Person's Investigation, a police officer should not ask specific questions such as: physical descriptors, medical conditions, hangouts, family/friends, clothing worn, school, tattoos, mode of transportation, etc. as it may be considered offensive.

Answer: False

Question #7: Age, family and social environment, missing person's knowledge of the area, suspicious circumstances, mental, emotional, medical or physical condition, weather/time of day, resources available to missing person, length of time person has been missing, parental custody status; ***are conditions that influence the level of law enforcement response to a report of a missing person.***

Answer: True

Question #8: Missing Person Reports shall be accepted by law enforcement personnel regardless if the missing person's residence or last place the missing person was seen is in another jurisdiction.

Answer: True

Question #9: It is not the duty of all law enforcement agencies to immediately assist any person who is attempting to make a report of a missing person (14210 P.C.)

Answer: False

Question #10: The following below are considered as classifications of a missing person case.

1) Voluntary Missing
2) Dependent Adult
3) Parent/Family Abduction
4) Runaway
5) Catastrophic Missing
6) Lost
7) Stranger Abduction
8) Suspicious Circumstances
9) Unknown Missing

Answer: True

Quiz Session #2
(Student's Copy)
True/False

Question #1: Peace officers need to understand their legal and professional obligations as well as the need for sensitivity and effective communication when responding to a Missing Person's Investigation

Answer:

Question #2: Peace officers do not need to know how to obtain sufficient and accurate preliminary information from the reporting party

Answer:

Question #3: Peace officers must know that a thorough preliminary investigation does not improve the chances of a missing person being located quickly and safely

Answer:

Question #4: Officers should approach each Missing Person Investigation as a potential criminal investigation.

Answer:

Question #5: A Voluntary Missing Person is an individual who has left on that person's own free will.

Answer:

Question #6: During a Missing Person's Investigation, a police officer should not ask specific questions such as: physical descriptors, medical conditions, hangouts, family/friends, clothing worn, school, tattoos, mode of transportation, etc. as it may be considered offensive.

Answer:

Question #7: Age, family and social environment, missing person's knowledge of the area, suspicious circumstances, mental, emotional, medical or physical condition, weather/time of day, resources available to missing person, length of time person has been missing, parental custody status; ***are conditions that influence the level of law enforcement response to a report of a missing person***

Answer:

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5) Catastrophic Missing
6) Lost
7) Stranger Abduction
8) Suspicious Circumstances
9) Unknown Missing

Answer: