

COMPASS

Moving Forward Together



NATIONAL AWARENESS FOCUS IN SEPTEMBER



Campus Safety Awareness Month

In 2008, National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCSAM) was unanimously approved by Congress to encourage a public conversation on important topics in violence prevention at our nation's colleges and universities.

According to **Educator's School Safety Network** in their [Violent Threats and Incidents in Schools: Analysis of the 2024-2025 School Year](#):

- ✓ The number of threats in a given school year has decreased longitudinally, however the rate of violent incidents is still higher than in the pre-pandemic years.
- ✓ Gun violence remains a concern, however the majority of incidents that occur in a school continue to be not gun related.

In the 2024-2025 school year, the **four most common incidents of violence** were:

- A false report of an active shooter
- A gun found on campus
- Non-gun-related violent incident (such as violent and aggressive behavior)
- Outside violence spilling into the school

2022-2023
699 violent incidents in schools

2023-2024
536 violent incidents in schools

National Recovery Month

According to the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#), in 2025 over "30 million adults aged 18 or older perceived that they ever had a substance use problem" with 73% adults considering themselves in recovery (SAMHSA, 2025). This is an encouraging statistic that may signify a growing awareness, increased access to resources and a willingness to pursue recovery. In this edition, we recognize those on their recovery journey and we remain committed to ensuring criminal justice professionals and service providers have access to meaningful training, TA and resources to impact change in their communities.

Together, we can break the stigma and foster a community that prioritizes mental well-being for all.

Hear from NCJTC Staff

NCJTC coordinators Kevin Poleyumptewa and Kevin Mariano share insight and an important conversation around National Recovery and National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Watch their videos [HERE](#).



IN THIS EDITION:

- ✓ September Observances
- ✓ September Trainings
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TELL US YOUR STORY

You can **inspire others** and **earn NCJTC perks** by taking part in our Tell Us Your Story series?
ncjtc.org/tellusyourstory

750K+

We have provided training and technical assistance to over 750,000 criminal justice professionals over the course of 32+ years. **More at ncjtc.org.**

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(855) 866-2582

7:00 am - 4:30 pm CT (M - F)



September Training

Training in action. West Palm Beach, FL

Kudos to these dedicated professionals from across the country for their commitment to learning and strengthening their response to domestic violence cases. They explored real-world case studies, exchanged insights with peers, and gained practical strategies to support victims, strengthen investigations, and improve case outcomes.



[View upcoming opportunities](#) to participate in our next **Advanced Strategies for Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence** course.



Clarksboro, NJ | Suspicious Death Investigations:

Over two days, participants explored real-world suspicious death cases, examined key scene findings, and connected investigative observations with autopsy results. Led by two experts: Homicide detective William "Bill" Hanson and forensic pathologist David Winston, MD, PhD, the training emphasized the importance of strong communication and collaboration between investigating agencies and medical examiners.

There are still seats available for **Suspicious Death Investigations: Finding the Right, Eliminating the Wrong, and Avoiding the Undetermined** in November in Irving, TX. [Learn more and secure your spot](#)

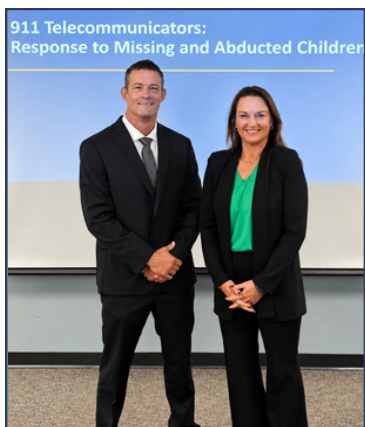
Initial Response Strategies and Tactics When Responding to Missing Children

Sept. 2 in Rainbow City, Alabama: AATTAP instructors—Chuck Fleege (Region 3 Liaison), Elaine Hall, and Tony Rodarte led an impactful session at the Rainbow City Police Department. This no-fee IRST course equips first responders with vital knowledge on:

- Critical investigative activities during endangered missing or child abduction cases
- How first responder actions shape the broader law enforcement response
- Supporting families and understanding the deep emotional impact of these incidents
- Best practices for search and canvass implementation



Want to bring this training to your area or find an upcoming session near you? [Check out the details and request a course](#)



Northeast Texas law enforcement and emergency personnel gathered today in Greenville for our **911 Telecommunicators: Response to Missing and Abducted Children (911 TMAC)** course.

A huge thank you to the Hunt County Sheriff's Office for hosting, with support from the Greenville, TX Police Department, and to our expert instructors, Kristen Campanella and Captain Brandon Zachary.

When a child is in danger, seconds count. 911 telecommunicators are the true first responders in missing children cases—acting as the vital link between a child in danger and their safe return home.

Want to bring this life-saving training to your region? View details and request training [HERE](#).

[Check out our Facebook](#) to see other trainings held in September.

NEW Videos and Publications



TUYS Episode 05 - Dropping October 1

Working as a solo detective at a small agency means Peter Petrucci carries a heavy load. For the last seven years of his 17-year career, he's been responsible for every case the Blakely Police Department can't resolve on scene: narcotics, fraud, property crimes, special victims. "It's like feast or famine," he says.

Unexplained child deaths don't happen often in Blakely Borough, but Petrucci knew one would come eventually. When he came across training on Unexplained Child Death Investigations offered through NCJTC, something told him to sign up, even though he hadn't had a case yet.

Petrucci completed NCJTC's child death investigations training and walked away with tools he hadn't encountered anywhere else in his 17 years. One stood out immediately: the investigative reenactment.

[Watch a sneak peek](#) and check back on October 1 for the full story!

"You can do this in a way that's respectful to the family, but still conduct your extensive, comprehensive investigation."

Subject Matter Experts on Youtube!

Hear directly from NCJTC subject matter experts as they share insights, practical tips, emerging themes, and what's ahead in training. Explore timely topics, discover upcoming learning opportunities, and take away strategies you can apply in your work.

Whether you're looking for a quick tip, deeper insight into a training topic, or a new perspective on challenges facing the field, find practical knowledge and expert guidance all in one place.

View all videos on our [YouTube page](#).



66th Edition of the AMBER Advocate magazine

For the newest issue, our feature story honors the memory of 10-year-old Ashley Johnson-Barr from Kotzebue, Alaska. Her story sparked a national conversation on the missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) crisis and helped drive critical changes in policy and community response.



For our "Faces" spotlight we go behind the scenes with Lieutenant Benjamin Endres, Statewide Search and Rescue Coordinator for the Alaska State Troopers.

And for innovation in action, our "Front Lines" article looks at Arizona's first Turquoise Alert. Its "gray space" solution proves that cross-state collaboration and flexible alerting tools save lives.

We also offer AMBER Alert-related news briefs from the U.S., Indian Country, and around the globe.

Find this issue—plus numerous learning opportunities, resources, and more— at AMBERAdvocate.org

NCJTC in the News

Why a toddler's case did not meet Amber Alert criteria

Children go missing every day, and yesterday, it happened in our own community. As news of the case unfolded, Janell Rasmussen, NCJTC Director and National AMBER Alert Program Administrator, helped provide insight into how AMBER Alerts are activated and the circumstances under which they are used. Thankfully, this child was found safe. At NCJTC, we are proud to support law enforcement and public safety professionals with the training, resources, and tools they need to respond effectively when a child goes missing and help bring children home safely.

Read the full article [HERE](#)



"Continued collaboration can help ensure the needs and experiences of Tribal communities remain an important part of public safety planning while strengthening the response for victims, families, and communities affected by MMIP."

Enhancing Tribal Collaboration to Build Sustainable Public Safety Partnerships

A recent roundtable discussion brought together law enforcement officers, public safety professionals, Tribal representatives, and community partners from Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon.

A major focus of the roundtable was the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, commonly known as MMIP. Organizers emphasized that MMIP cases often involve complex jurisdictional issues and require cooperation among multiple agencies and communities. Building relationships before a crisis occurs was identified as an important part of improving the response to missing-person and homicide investigations involving Indigenous people.

We are proud to be a part of this vital work, and are thankful for partners who share in the mission. [Read the Full Article](#)



An Exciting Leadership Announcement from NCJTC

A new chapter of leadership begins at NCJTC. Janell Rasmussen has been named NCJTC's new Executive Director. Learn more about the leadership transition and Janell's vision for NCJTC's future in the [FULL RELEASE](#).



Did You Know?

We can come directly to YOUR facility to [host](#) our most highly-sought after training courses!



Did you miss the last issue of the NCJTC Compass? [Read the August issue!](#)



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Fox Valley
TECHNICAL COLLEGE