



# West Virginia Emergency Management Division Lost Person Behavior

**Location:** State Fair of WV, WVU Building, 947 Maplewood Ave., Lewisburg, WV

**Instructors:** Natural Awareness Tracking School, LLC.

**Course Dates:** March 7,8, 2026 - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**There will be a limit of 50 students for this class**

**Course Description:** The Lost Person Behavior Course is a two-day classroom workshop (16 hours) based on Dr. Robert Koester's *Lost Person Behavior* research and is designed to support search planning for both ground searchers and command staff. Students will be introduced to the latest information and research re-garding the lost person behavioral profiles, including important subject background information, implications for search and rescue, search statistics, behavioral statistics, and how to plan a search for each subject type. Particular emphasis is placed on the newer research concerning people with Alzheimer's, despondency, intellectual disabilities/psychosis and abducted children. The instructors present opportunities to work several practical scenarios that leave attendees with basic knowledge, skills, and confidence to create a strategic and tactical plan for their next missing persons operation. Before arriving in class, students will benefit from downloading the free Lost Person Behavior App into their phone/tablet and gaining some familiarity with SARTopo via the free CalTopo app/online platform. Students will receive Dr. Koester's *LPB* book, a *LPB* workbook, and the *Endangered and Vulnerable Adults & Children* handbook.

**Students will need to register through <https://wvpst.org/events/lost-person-behavior-3/> or scan the QR code for a direct link.**

Please contact David J. Weller with questions about registration at [djweller@wvesc.org](mailto:djweller@wvesc.org) or 304-596-2653

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Cunningham, SAR Training Officer at 304-414-7682 or 304-941-6025. Email: [jeff.o.cunningham@wv.gov](mailto:jeff.o.cunningham@wv.gov)

