



July 26, 2019

Contact: Erin Gowenlock

Phone: (253) 312-3273

For Immediate Release

**DuPont Police selected as new host agency for
WSP's Missing and Exploited Children & Human Trafficking Task Force**

The DuPont Police Department has been selected as a new host agency for the Washington State Patrol's Missing and Exploited Children & Human Trafficking Task Force (MECTF/Human Trafficking). This state-wide taskforce spearheads multi-agency operations, including federal, state, and local law enforcement aimed at finding and recovering sexually exploited children and apprehending child predators. This task force also focuses on human trafficking, which is currently considered a national crisis.

“We are extremely proud to have been selected as a host agency for the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force. The safety of our children and joining the national fight against human trafficking is a top priority for the DuPont Police Department. These types of serious crimes don't respect jurisdictional boundaries. Supporting this state-wide effort by taking a proactive and cooperative stance on these contemporary public safety issues is in the best interests of the City of DuPont. In addition to reinforcing our core values and mission, there are tangible benefits to this partnership, such as cost savings and increased investigative presence and capabilities. Team DPD looks forward to supporting the Washington State Patrol, and other law enforcement agencies across the region, in safeguarding our children and making our communities safer,” said DuPont Police Chief Doug Newman.

The DuPont Police Department will house members of MECTF along with the unit's supervisor. The anticipated move in-date for the task force is mid-August, 2019.

For more information on MECTF, visit: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mectf/>