

Wade Nelson

Wade Nelson is currently employed by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office having over 17 years of Law Enforcement experience. Prior to starting his Law Enforcement career, he served six years in the United States Navy as an Intelligence Specialist. He served the last two years as the Lead Petty Officer for his division. During his law enforcement career, he has worked as a Patrol Deputy, Marine Enforcement Deputy, Emergency Management Plans Coordinator, Search and Rescue Coordinator, Emergency Operations Team leader/Trainer, Defensive Tactics Instructor and Civil Deputy.

Wade is currently the lead Defensive Tactics instructor for his department. He has been with the Defensive Tactics cadre for over three years. Wade has been training within the fighting arts for over 25 years. Prior to joining the Defensive Tactics cadre, he was the team leader and trainer for the Spokane County Emergency Operations Team (EOT). He was responsible for all water-based emergency responses. He instructed the team in all facets of Swiftwater rescue, dive rescue, and underwater investigations.

Wade also served as the Search and Rescue Coordinator for his department. He was responsible for managing and training over 150 volunteers in land-based operations. During this time, he also became an instructor for the Law Enforcement Mountain Operations School. Wade was chosen to be a FEMA Incident Command Systems (ICS) instructor for his department and completed all ICS instructional courses through ICS-400. Wade also filled the position of Emergency Management Plans Coordinator. During that time, he facilitated the Counties Comprehensive and evacuation plans.

Through his career he has become a subject matter expert in Land and Water-based Search and Rescue missions within his region. He has deployed to several counties and two States, to assist and advise in both water and land-based search and recovery mission.

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