

America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response
AMBER Alert Notification Plan Executive Summary

Public Act 92-0259 mandated the Illinois State Police (ISP) develop and implement, by January 1, 2002, a coordinated program for a statewide emergency alert when a child is reported endangered.

As a result of Public Act 92-0259 and in cooperation with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, and the Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children, a statewide "AMBER Alert Notification Plan" was developed. The goal was to create a "workable" AMBER plan applicable to and implemented by any city (including towns and villages), county, or state law enforcement agency in Illinois and amiable to radio and television broadcasting companies. The "AMBER alert" quickly informs the public of specific information regarding the abduction of a child whose life may be in danger. The Plan provides information about the child's alleged abductor(s) and possible vehicle description to the public through an Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS provides for broadcasting this important information over radio and television stations. The media message instructs the public to contact law enforcement agencies with any information identifying possible leads for sightings of the child and/or the child's abductor(s). The plan also defines the role of the officer in the activation and cancellation criteria and directs the reporting individual to the appropriate city/county agency where the abduction occurred.

The ISP Springfield Communications Center (SCC) will serve as the point of contact between local law enforcement and the Illinois Missing Person Clearinghouse for the initial child abduction call. After the initial eight hours of the abduction have elapsed, the Illinois Missing Person Clearinghouse Manager will assume the role as point of contact. The ISP will act as the liaison between the media, National Weather Service (NWS), and The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for AMBER alert notifications. The AMBER Plan works in the following manner:

- The contacted agency will compile the initial incident information and determine if the incident meets the criteria for an alert. If an AMBER alert is warranted, the contacted agency will notify the ISP SCC and submit the necessary AMBER alert documentation by facsimile or email. A photo of the missing child(ren) should also be forwarded at this time. The contacted agency will **immediately** confirm receipt of transmission to ISP. The requesting agency will be put in contact with the Illinois AMBER Alert Coordinator or his designee for AMBER Alert approval. If the AMBER Alert is approved:
- ISP will then confirm the completeness/correctness of all alert information and begin contacting and forward the information to the NWS for release through the EAS system, the Illinois Department of Transportation for release on its road signs and emails and faxes to the various media partners. ISP district of occurrence will prepare and broadcast an ISPERN message to law enforcement agencies containing information regarding the abduction. ISP will forward all details to the Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children. A copy of the abducted child's portrait will be forwarded to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Secondary dissemination of information will also occur through NCMEC including Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) for cell phone users.

- The AMBER Alert Notification Plan and all necessary AMBER forms will be available for viewing and downloading from LEADS and the Illinois AMBER Alert web site at www.illinoisamber.org. The Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children can be reached by phone at 1-800-843-5763 or via electronic mail at missing@isp.state.il.us.