



AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Fact Sheet



The **AMBER Alert Program** is a strategy to create a national (and international) seamless network of AMBER Alert Coordinators poised to respond to episodes /incidents of missing, endangered or abducted children; and assist in the safe recovery of these children. The AMBER Alert Program is a U.S. Department of Justice Initiative in partnership with over 150 AMBER Alert Coordinators, Clearinghouse Managers, law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, departments of transportation, tribal communities, non-profit organizations and others committed to the recovery of missing, endangered and abducted children. As of December 31, 2010, 525 abducted children have been recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert Program.

- The **AMBER Alert** strategy calls for the inclusion of key partners to make the network functionally effective, including:
 - Broadcasters/media,
 - law enforcement (local, state, tribal and federal),
 - emergency management officials,
 - departments of transportation,
 - other agencies or organizations within the public safety sector, private sector, public safety communications, non-profit organizations; and
 - Child advocacy organizations
- The key partners are called to create and enhance the capacities of state and local law enforcement responses to incidents of missing, abducted or endangered children which is a critical infrastructure to improve the recovery rate of America's missing children
- Create a Coordinated AMBER Alert Network
- Encourage Compliance/Adherence with National Standards and Best Practices
- Improve Response to Missing Children through Participation and Awareness
- Improve AMBER Alert Program through Ongoing Evaluation
- Improve AMBER Alert Program by Legislative Research and Support
- Enhance Use of Technology
- Improve AMBER Alert Data Collection Methods

National AMBER Alert Network

- Established secure web-based, communications portal for more than 300 AMBER Alert state, local, regional, Tribal and Canadian Coordinators, Clearinghouse Managers, and CART Coordinators
- Electronic newsletter **AMBER Advocate** reaches over 36,000 child protection professionals four times each year
- Established regional and tribal AMBER Alert Liaisons to work with four geographical regions and tribal territories, including all states, Canadian Provinces, Territories, and the District of Columbia providing technical assistance, training, policy development and investigative assistance
- **Technical Assistance** has been provided to thousands of persons, organizations and conferences since the inception of the DOJ AMBER Alert Initiative

AMBER Alert Training Programs

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2007

- 98 training sessions; 2 National Conferences; 4 Regional Coordinator Meetings
- 4,295 participants
- Received 102,104 hours training
- 3,711 of 4,295 submitted evaluations
- 99% provided “good” or “excellent” overall ratings

January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009

- 56 training sessions; 2 National Conferences
- 2,564 participants
- Received 64,544 hours of training
- 2,120 out of 2,564 submitted evaluations
- 99% provided “good” or “excellent” overall ratings

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

- 20 training sessions; 1 National Conference
- 1,242 participants
- Received 32,356 hours training
- 1,035 of 1,242 submitted evaluations
- 99% provided “good” or “excellent” overall ratings
- 40 Technical Assistance events; 2,098 participants

Training Summary:

- 174 training sessions, 5 National Conferences, & 4 Coordinator Meetings
- 8,101 participants
- 199,004 hours of training
- Every State, District of Columbia, Territories and representatives from Canada, Mexico, Greece, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, France, Portugal and Belgium have attended training sessions
- Major News organizations, including Gannett, Pappas Telecasting and Univision participate in AMBER Alert training provided by the University of South Carolina.
- 9 National or Regional Conferences on missing, endangered and abducted children with total attendance of more than 2,725
- Five national roundtable meetings with parents and siblings of abducted children to determine response issues, investigations and prosecution.

Evaluation of the Impact of AMBER Alert Training Programs

- 98% of respondents say they received new insights and information regarding missing and abducted children
- Prior to the training program, only 35% of respondents claimed to have received training in cases of missing and abducted children
- 80% of respondents indicated that they plan to make changes or improvements to special services and follow-up support to family members of missing victims
- 96% of the respondents indicated that they wish to incorporate information and ideas brought back from the courses to their unit or agency’s plans for managing and investigating cases of missing and abducted children.
- 89% of respondents indicated that the courses altered their outlook toward problems of missing and abducted children.
- 93% of Law Enforcement CEO’s plan to make changes in how they train members of their agency

Child Abduction Response Team Network

- Initiative began in Florida in 2005
- National Initiative followed in 2006
- Training programs from January 2006 through December 2010 yielded the following:
 - 247 teams representing 43 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and Canada
- CART Programs are designed to work within US communities, however specialized sessions of CART planning have created the basis for the first “international CART” program, involving federal, state and local authorities in the United States and Canada
- Currently, discussions between Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California and their Mexican counterparts are pushing for joint AMBER Alert Plans and CART Programs

CART Certification Program

- To establish a verification of response capability a Child Abduction Response Team Certification process and challenge was established in 2007
- North Florida, South Florida, Ontario County, NY, Middle Tennessee, South Dakota, Northeast Tarrant and Denton County, TX, Utah, State of Georgia, Southern Oregon, York County, PA, and Kansas CART programs are the first eleven teams to undergo the vigorous test to achieve Certification, meeting all 44 standards and successfully completing the mock child abduction exercise
- Many CART programs throughout the United States are seeking Certification of their respective CART Programs