

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 Area Communications (SAC) will serve as the point of contact between local law enforcement and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) for the initial child abduction call. After the initial eight hours of an abduction have elapsed, the Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children will assume the role as point of contact. IEMA will be the EAS liaison with the media 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 SAC and submit the necessary AMBER alert documentation by telephonic facsimile. The contacted agency will immediately confirm receipt of transmission to ISP.
- ISP will then confirm the completeness/correctness of all alert information and forward the information to IEMA. 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. If available, a copy of the abducted child's portrait will be forwarded to IEMA by ISP.
- IEMA will contact any/all broadcasting companies through EAS activation. If available, IEMA will forward a copy of the abducted child's portrait to any/all broadcasting companies.
- The AMBER Alert Notification Plan and all necessary AMBER forms will be available for viewing and downloading from the ISP web site at www.isp.state.il.us. The Illinois State Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children can be reached via electronic mail at missing@isp.state.il.us.