

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Missing Persons Unit

2021 Ohio Alerts Conference



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Today's Discussion

- Overview of Alerts Issued
- AMBER Alert
- Endangered Missing Child Alert
- Endangered Missing Adult Alert
- Blue Alert

Alert Stats

- **AMBER Alerts**
- **First Ohio AMBER Alert issued October 2002**
- **Issued since inception (through May 7, 2021)**
 - 221 AMBER Alerts issued
 - 271 children
 - 265 children recovered safe
 - 6 recovered deceased

Alert Stats

- **AMBER Alerts**
- **2020**
 - 7 AMBER Alerts issued
 - 7 children found safe
- **2021 YTD**
 - 6 AMBER Alerts issued
 - 7 children found safe

Alert Stats

- **Endangered Missing Child Alerts**
- **2020**
 - 10 alerts issued for 10 children
 - 8 found safe
 - 2 found deceased
- **2021 YTD**
 - 3 alerts for 3 children
 - 3 recovered safe

Alert Stats

- **Endangered Missing Adult Alerts**
- **2020**
 - 153 alerts issued
 - 145 recovered safe
 - 8 recovered deceased
- **2021 YTD**
 - 58 Issued
 - 55 recovered safe
 - 3 recovered deceased
- **Almost 1800 since inception**

Alert Stats

- **Blue Alert**
 - **2 issued since inception**
 - **Both issued for officers killed and the suspect was still on the run.**

Overview of Alerts

- **What are the alerts?**

- All of the alerts are an “additional tool” for law enforcement to use to help locate a missing child or adult.
- All of the alerts utilize the media to help alert the general public of this missing person and “galvanize” the community.
- The alerts can also use other partners to broadcast the information.
- Basically is a broadcast “Media Release” sent to all media outlets statewide

Basic Understanding of Each Alert

- **AMBER Alert**

- This alert is for “abducted” children
- It is designed to be issued quickly.

- **Endangered Missing Child Alert**

- If your case does not meet AMBER criteria, but child is still “at risk” and can be any type of missing child
- Not released as quickly as AMBER and does not use all the same resources

- **Endangered Missing Adult Alert**

- For Elderly (65 yrs and older) or for any adult with a mental disability at risk of serious physical harm or death
- The disability must be diagnosed by a medical professional

AMBER Alert

1. Law Enforcement confirms child is under 18 yrs. of age.
2. Law enforcement believes the abduction poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child
3. There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the suspect and/or the circumstances surrounding the abduction to believe that activation of the alert will help locate the child
4. A law enforcement agency determines that the child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a family abduction, unless the investigation determines that the child is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death

AMBER Alert

Entering a missing person record with a message key of EME, EMEC, EMI, or EMIC along with a MNP value of “AA” for a child under 18 years of age will automatically generate an in-state Amber Alert message to:

- Adjacent counties
- OSHP Columbus Communications Center
- Attorney General’s Office
- FBI Child Abduction Unit
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

** Ohio media will be notified through the activation process

OSHP Hub

(833) OH-WATCH

osphub@dps.ohio.gov

•Ohio AMBER Alert Website

www.ohioamberplan.org



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Ohio AMBER Alert Activation Statistics

Total Annual Activations	2018 - 5 (YTD)
	2017 - 11
	2016 - 6
	2015 - 12



Click on the logos above to view more information about each type of alert

No Active Alerts

AMBER Alert Mission Statement

The Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee and its member organizations are committed to a statewide approach to the emergency alert programs through coordination of resources, information sharing, and training. The committee is dedicated to ensuring the most timely and efficient notification to law enforcement, emergency alert partners, and the public. Its purpose is to help increase the chance for a safe recovery of the victims of abduction or other life-threatening situations, when administering the AMBER Alert, Endangered Missing Child Alert, Endangered Missing Adult Alert, and the Ohio Blue Alert programs.

AMBER Alert History



In January 1996, nine year old Amber Hagerman was riding her bicycle when a neighbor heard the girl scream. The neighbor saw a man pull Amber off her bike, throw her into the front seat of his pickup truck, and drive away at a high speed. The neighbor called police and provided a description of the suspect and his vehicle, but couldn't recall much else. Arlington, Texas police and the FBI interviewed other neighbors and searched for the suspect and vehicle. Local radio and TV stations covered the story in their regular newscasts. Four days later, Amber's body was found in a drainage ditch four miles away. Her throat had been cut. Her kidnapping and murder remain unsolved.

A concerned citizen contacted a Dallas, Texas radio station suggesting the idea that Dallas radio stations should repeat news bulletins about abducted children just like they do severe weather warnings. The idea was presented to the general managers of the radio stations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They agreed that such a program would provide an important public service and might help save the life of a child.

Although the Amber Plan is named after Amber Hagerman, this national program is dedicated to all children nationwide who've been abducted. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, nearly 262,100 children are abducted every year. Specifically, 58,200 are non-family abductions and 203,900 are family abductions.

The Amber Alert Plan was launched in Ohio on January 1, 2003.

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee

- Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Local/Regional AMBER Plan Representative
- Ohio Association of Broadcasters
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- State Emergency Communications Committee Representative
- Victim's Advocate
- Community Member

Endangered Missing Child Alert

- Victim under 18 years of age
- Missing Child – Runaway, Lost Non-Witnessed / Non-Confirmed Abduction, Child is missing with circumstances unknown
- Child's missing status confirmed by law enforcement and victim is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There is enough descriptive information concerning the circumstances, suspect, vehicle, and victim where the public would be able to assist.

How to initiate or request an alert?

- Enter child into NCIC
- Call 1-740-845-2224

****NCIC does not automatically notify us****

Missing Adult Alert

- The local investigating law enforcement agency confirms that the individual is missing.
- The individual is 65 years of age or older or any adult that has a mental impairment.
- The disappearance of the individual poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the individual.
- There is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the individual's disappearance to indicate that activation of the alert will help locate the individual.
- Enter the person into NCIC using the “SA” code. NCIC automatically notifies BCI and OSHP**

Mental Impairment Definition

"Mental impairment" means a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, or ability to live independently or provide self-care as certified by a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist.

Missing Adult Alert

- **Things to consider**
 - Confirm that the individual is missing
 - Check hospitals, jails, nearby bars/ casinos & boy or girlfriends
 - Cell phone, On-Star or other technology
- **Are they at risk of serious physical harm or death?**
 - Are they taking medication?
 - Medical or mental health diagnosis by professional?
 - Taking medications?
 - Are they living on their own, still driving?
 - Prior reported missing?
 - If they are not found quickly, will they die or suffer serious physical injuries?
 - Indications crime committed

Blue Alert

- **A local law enforcement agency confirms that a law enforcement officer has been seriously injured or killed, and a suspect has not been apprehended, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.**
- **There is sufficient descriptive information about the suspect or the circumstances surrounding a law enforcement officer's injury, death, or disappearance to indicate that activation of the alert may help locate a suspect or a missing law enforcement officer.**

Blue Alert

- **Initiate a COP Alert and check the box for Blue Alert**
- **Immediately goes to all Ohio Law Enforcement LEADS Terminals**
- **Duty officer will call to confirm information**
- **Media Blast, radio broadcast, and other non-EAS alert systems activated**



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