

The following organizations have contributed greatly to the development, implementation and maintenance of the North Carolina AMBER Alert System.

NC Department of
Crime Control and Public Safety

NC Governor's Crime Commission

NC Division of Emergency
Management

NC State Highway Patrol

NC Department of Transportation

NC State Bureau of Investigation

NC Attorney General's Office

NC Association of Broadcasters

NC Sheriff's Association

NC Association of Chiefs of Police

Revival Soy, a Kernersville-based family business,
was a major contributor to the system.



1-800-522-5437



North Carolina Center for Missing Persons
Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement
Department of Crime Control & Public Safety
4706 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-4706
1-919-733-3914
1-800-522-5437
Fax 1-919-715-1682
TID: CMP
www.nccrimecontrol.org

1-800-522-5437

North Carolina Center for Missing Persons



AMBER:
America's
Missing:
Broadcast
Emergency
Response

1-800-522-5437

What is AMBER Alert?

AMBER = America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response

A voluntary cooperative effort between broadcasters and law enforcement to enlist the aid of the public to serve as law enforcement's "eyes and ears" in the case of a stranger abducted child.

How did AMBER Alert get its name?

The original AMBER Plan was created in 1997 as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped and brutally murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas.

The tragedy shocked and outraged the community. Local broadcasters teamed with local law enforcement agencies in northern Texas and developed an early warning system to help find abducted children.

Does North Carolina have an AMBER Alert System?

Yes. On June 12, 2003, Governor Michael F. Easley signed the AMBER Alert bill into law. This law builds upon the success of the North Carolina Child Alert Notification System, the forerunner of the NC AMBER Alert System.

How does the system work?

When a local law enforcement agency wants an AMBER Alert activated, they must:

1. ensure activation criteria has been met
2. enter case into National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) database
3. contact North Carolina Center for Missing Persons at 1-800-522-5437 and request activation
4. contact National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
5. establish 24-hour manned telephone lines
6. continue investigation
7. keep Center informed of case developments

The NC Center for Missing Persons:

1. ensures case meets activation criteria
2. directs activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), the same system used to provide weather and civil emergency alerts
3. requests Department of Transportation activate Dynamic Message Signs located over highways throughout NC and flash AMBER Alert information - if needed

What are the activation criteria?

- Child is 17 years of age or younger
- Child is believed to have been abducted OR to be in danger of injury or death
- Abduction is not known or suspected to be by a parent of the child unless the child's life is suspected to be in danger
- Child is not believed to be a runaway or voluntarily missing
- Abduction has been reported to and investigated by a law enforcement agency

An AMBER Alert will be activated ONLY if sufficient information is available that could assist in locating the child, suspect and/or suspect's vehicle.

ONLY the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons can activate an AMBER Alert

ONLY a law enforcement agency can request activation of an AMBER Alert

Stranger abducted children are rare occurrences in North Carolina. AMBER Alerts will be activated infrequently.

Overuse of the system is akin to "crying wolf" and could cause AMBER Alerts to be ignored.