



Working Together to Save Lives



AMBER Alerts and the National Weather Service (NWS)

- Non-weather emergencies, including AMBER alerts, may be relayed over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) by the NWS *at the request* of local and/or state officials. The NWS does *not* initiate the contact nor the message.
- AMBER alerts are issued where AMBER plans are in place. AMBER plans are voluntary partnerships between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.
- Each locality establishes its own AMBER criteria. The U.S. Department of Justice recommends five criteria that should be met before an Alert is activated:
 - ▶ law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted
 - ▶ the child is 17 years or younger
 - ▶ law enforcement believes the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death
 - ▶ there is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help
 - ▶ the child's name and other data have been entered into the National Crime Information Center
- Some local and state Emergency Alert System (EAS) plans and local agreements with NWS offices include provisions for AMBER alerts, using the currently available "Civil Emergency Message" (CEM) EAS event code.
- The Federal Communications Commission recently adopted new EAS event codes, including a new "Child Abduction Emergency" (CAE) event code. Broadcasters' EAS encoder/decoder equipment must be upgraded to implement the new codes.
- NWS offices will begin implementing the new EAS event codes in messages broadcast over NWR on June 30, 2004.
- NWS invites your comments on broadcasts of AMBER alerts over NWR. Please send them to either:

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Related Web Sites:

NWS Home Page www.weather.gov **OR** www.nws.noaa.gov
 NOAA Weather Radio Home Page www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr
 All Hazards Emergency Message Web Page www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm
 EAS Event Codes on NWR www.nws.noaa.gov/os/eas_codes.htm
 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children www.missingkids.com