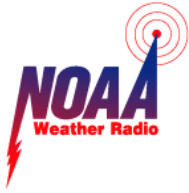


# Working Together to Save Lives



## AMBER Alerts and the National Weather Service

- 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 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children suggests 3 criteria that should be met before an Alert is activated:
  - law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted
  - law enforcement believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death
  - there is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help
- NWR and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) use the same digital protocols, and NWR is the primary means for NWS alerts to activate EAS.
- Some local and state 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" event code. Broadcasters' EAS encoder/decoder equipment must be upgraded to implement the new codes.
- In 2003, after broadcasters have had the opportunity to make their EAS equipment changes, the NWS will begin to use the new event codes.
- NWS invites your comments. Please send comments to Herb White, NWS Dissemination Services Manager, at [Herbert.White@noaa.gov](mailto:Herbert.White@noaa.gov) and Chris Alex, Dissemination Services Meteorologist, at [Christine.Alex@noaa.gov](mailto:Christine.Alex@noaa.gov).

### Related web sites:

NWS Home Page ..... [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) or [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)  
 NOAA Weather Radio Home Page ..... [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr)  
 All Hazards Emergency Message Web Page ..... [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm)  
 NWS EAS Code Implementation Overview ..... [www.nws.noaa.gov/om/NWS\\_EAS\\_chg\\_impl.pdf](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/NWS_EAS_chg_impl.pdf)  
 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ..... [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)