



Working Together to Save Lives

AMBER Alerts and NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS)

- Non-weather emergencies, including AMBER Alerts, may be relayed over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) by the NWS **at the request** of local and/or state officials. The NWS does **not** initiate the contact or 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
- Many local and state Emergency Alert System (EAS) plans and agency agreements with NWS offices include provisions for AMBER Alerts, using the "Child Abduction Emergency" (CAE) EAS event code.
- Some EAS plans still use the original "Civil Emergency Message" (CEM) event code, but will transition to the CAE event code as the EAS plans are updated.
- NWS invites your comments on broadcasts of AMBER Alerts over NWR. Please send them to either:

*Herb White, NWS Dissemination Services Manager, at Herbert.White@noaa.gov
 Art Kraus, Dissemination Services Meteorologist, at Arthur.Kraus@noaa.gov*

Related Web Sites:

NWS Home Page www.weather.gov **OR** www.nws.noaa.gov
 NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards 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
 U.S. Department of Justice AMBER Alert Web Page <http://www.amberalert.gov/>