



# *Oregon State Police*

## **AMBER Alert Plan & Manual**

July 2018

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# Introduction

Time is the enemy following child abduction, and law enforcement's response must be immediate and focused. Oregon's geography offers many advantages to a child abductor, including the opportunity to quickly transport the victim across county and state borders, or otherwise escape to areas where detection can be difficult. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, most children who are abducted and later murdered are killed within the first three hours of their abduction. In light of these facts, it is essential to child safety that a coordinated response take place within those precious hours immediately after abduction occurs.

America's **Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Alert**, or **AMBER Alert**, is a statewide innovative program that partners the law enforcement community, media broadcasting stations, and the public in locating abducted children. The goal of AMBER Alert is to immediately involve the public, especially motorists, in the search for an abducted child.

Oregon's AMBER Alert is modeled after the AMBER Plan, which was developed in 1996 after nine-year old Amber Hagerman was abducted near her home in Arlington, Texas, and later found murdered. Amber's tragic death had such a profound impact on her community and throughout northern Texas that it prompted regional law enforcement agencies and the Dallas/Forth Worth (Texas) Association of Radio Managers to develop an innovative emergency alert plan to help recover abducted children. Communities throughout the nation have since adopted modified versions of the original AMBER Plan with great success. To date, these plans have been instrumental in the successful recovery of children nationwide.

In October of 2002, under an Executive Order by Governor John Kitzhaber, the Oregon State Police (OSP) was tasked to formulate an Oregon AMBER Alert plan in partnership with the Oregon Association of Chief's of Police (OACP), Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), and Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB) and broadcast stations.

## **Purpose of This Manual**

This Manual is the functional State of Oregon AMBER Alert Plan. As such it is intended for use by all law enforcement and media agencies in Oregon to refer to when dealing with an AMBER Alert situation. It provides useful information that includes:

- History and Background of the Oregon AMBER Alert program.
- Components of the Oregon AMBER Alert.
- Roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, the media, and support agencies.
- When and how to activate an AMBER Alert.
- Contact information on resource agencies.
- Convenient AMBER Alert Activation Guide Sheets for use by law enforcement agencies.
- References and resource material to aid in the recovery of abducted children.

# How Does AMBER Alert Activation Work?

Under the AMBER Alert concept, law enforcement agencies employ the assistance of local radio and television stations to interrupt normal programming and request public assistance in locating children who have just been abducted. Emergency bulletins are relayed from law enforcement agencies to the media through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS is a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) system used to alert the public of severe weather conditions and civil emergencies. Additionally, FEMA authorizes the use of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) mass notification messaging to inform citizens with wireless devices of an AMBER Alert.

## Media Broadcasts and Mass Notification

When a law enforcement agency receives a report of child abduction, the agency must first confirm that the case meets *all* specific criteria for AMBER Alert activation. The law enforcement agency must then contact the Oregon State Police Northern Command Center (OSP NCC) to initiate a statewide AMBER Alert via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) systems. OSP uses a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) portal to initiate the EAS message to Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) in Portland. OPB transmits the EAS message to the appropriate local primary (LP-1) radio stations, which then relay the message to other media/broadcast outlets within the designated regions. When accepted by media/broadcast outlets, the emergency message pre-empts local programming and is preceded and concluded with distinctive tones. Additionally, OSP sends mass alert and warning WEA messages using the same FEMA portal. Both EAS and WEA messaging inform the public to be on the lookout for the missing child(ren) and/or the abductor(s).

## Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)

Once the required information is entered into the LEDS/NCIC system as outlined in the AMBER Alert criteria, an AMBER Alert is issued using mass notification software. The mass notification software used by OSP allows authorized OSP personnel to access FEMA's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) to activate both Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages. These messages are disseminated within Oregon to all persons with WEA permitted devices (primarily cell phones), to EAS permitted television/radio broadcast stations, as well as to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). NCMEC also distributes the alert information via NCMEC Secondary Alerting Systems that rebroadcast alerts via their websites and/or individual Alerting Networks.

## Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a federal communications system designed to inform the public in the event of a civil emergency. EAS messages, when accepted by participating radio and television stations, pre-empt local programming and are preceded and concluded with distinctive alert tones. The EAS can be activated on either a regional or statewide basis. For purposes of EAS administration, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) currently has divided Oregon into

areas based on media markets. Each of these areas has a Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC), which prepares plans for the use of the EAS and distributes EAS equipment to media outlets authorized to relay EAS messages. Local agencies only have the ability to send an EAS message to a pre-designated local primary radio station (LP-1) within their own FCC area. Although other local radio and television stations are required to monitor EAS messages transmitted by the LP-1, they are not required to rebroadcast the message. The development of regional/local plans will help solidify communication and institute agreements when broadcasts can be expected. It is important to note that when activating an EAS Alert from a government EAS encoder and station, and depending on the Event Code used, the originator is “taking control” of radio and television broadcast air at that time and, in essence, is operating as a broadcaster. Local broadcasters, in accordance with the Local EAS Plan, are ready to assist agencies with activating the EAS on a regional basis. To activate the EAS for AMBER Alerts on a multi-regional or statewide basis, the local law enforcement agency must contact the OSP NCC.

## **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**

Beginning January 1, 2013 AMBER Alerts began being distributed to cell phones as part of the AMBER Alert program’s secondary distribution through the WEA program. This program is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It distributes notifications from authorized federal, state, local and tribal government agencies that alert customers with capable devices of imminent threats to safety or an emergency situation. The messages are intended as a supplement to the existing Emergency Alert System, which broadcasts alerts over radio and television.

In addition to AMBER Alerts, the program includes National Weather Service, Presidential and imminent threat alerts. If you own a capable mobile device, you will automatically receive these alerts when you are in the geographic area where an alert has been issued.

Because the alerts are sent on a special wireless carrier channel called Cell Broadcast they are not affected by congestion on the voice or SMS text channels. The alerts are transmitted simultaneously to all mobile devices within range of the cellular carrier towers in the affected area. The system does not need to know your mobile number and it does not track your whereabouts; it simply broadcasts the alert, and any mobile device that can “hear” the alert will display it to the user. There is no charge for receipt of these messages.

## **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a federally funded agency that broadcasts all AMBER Alerts and provides comprehensive resources for all those working to find missing children and re-unite them with their families. NCMEC is an invaluable ally to law enforcement personnel during an AMBER Alert. In addition to the resources available from the Oregon State Police, law enforcement agencies can contact NCMEC for assistance with any missing child case. NCMEC can be found on the web at <http://www.missingkids.com>, and by calling 1-(800)THE-LOST (800-843-5678).

# The Role of Oregon State Police

## Oregon State Police

The Oregon State Police Northern Command Center (OSP NCC) is responsible for providing statewide coordination of Oregon's AMBER Alert program. Housed in Salem at the Anderson Readiness Center, OSP NCC is next door to the Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS), and one of ODOT's Communications Centers.

The OSP NCC has a critical role in AMBER Alerts. In conjunction with the law enforcement agencies initiating a request for an AMBER Alert, the OSP NCC coordinates the statewide launching of an AMBER Alert, via the FEMA IPAWS system, which initiates radio and television EAS messages, and wireless emergency alert (WEA) mass notifications. Additionally, the OSP NCC coordinates with ODOT for activation of the Variable Message Signs (VMS) system on Oregon's highways, and other emergency response activities. To request assistance, agencies should call the OSP NCC at **(503) 375-3555**, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The OSP Southern Command Center (SCC), is the backup center to NCC for AMBER Alert notifications. In the event that NCC is not available, law enforcement agencies can request an AMBER Alert by contacting OSP SCC at (541) 776-6111. SCC is also staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The OSP NCC will also notify the state AMBER Alert partners (i.e. Oregon Lottery, Oregon State Library network).

OSP NCC will contact Oregon State Police Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of all AMBER Alert activation requests. CID supports local law enforcement and the AMBER Alert program with immediate resources such as a fully staffed Tip Center, the State's Missing Children's Clearinghouse for assistance in poster/flyer development and distribution, as well as access to crime analysts, and major crime investigators statewide.

# The Role of Local Law Enforcement

Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for developing comprehensive AMBER Alert Plans that detail the response procedures and protocols specific to their jurisdictions. Following are key elements that should be addressed in developing and maintaining an effective local AMBER Alert Plan.

Local law enforcement agencies should ensure that all law enforcement officers are aware of the criteria to initiate an AMBER Alert. Many agencies have put together AMBER Alert packets which are routinely carried in every patrol vehicle.

After receiving a report of child abduction, agencies must conduct a preliminary investigation and determine if all the AMBER Alert activation criteria have been met.

- 1. The first step in the AMBER Alert process is to determine if the following criteria are met:**

## **AMBER Alert Criteria**

- 1. Law Enforcement officials reasonably believe that an abduction has occurred; and**
- 2. The child is 17 years or younger; and**
- 3. Law Enforcement officials believe that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death; and**
- 4. There is adequate descriptive information available to believe that its dissemination to the public could help locate the child, suspect, and/or suspect's vehicle; and**
- 5. The child's name and other critical data elements-including the child abduction (CA) and AMBER Alert (AA) flags must be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.**

**Even if formal activation criteria have been met, the following may make activation impractical:**

**Available information is not specific enough, and/or an extended period of time passed since the disappearance. For example, an AMBER Alert specifying involvement of a white van, (without a license plate number) could actually hinder an investigation by causing the public to inundate police agencies with possible sightings.**

Reasonable belief that a child has been abducted should be established through eyewitness accounts if possible. Eliminating other possibilities through investigation can also lead law enforcement to reasonably conclude that a child has been abducted. Familial abductions also can qualify if the child is endangered by the actions of the abducting family member.

For purposes of an AMBER Alert, “child abduction” is defined as an incident in which a child is reported to be involuntarily missing from the person(s) having care-taking responsibilities for the child. Absent an eyewitness to the abduction, agencies should have reliable evidence that the child’s disappearance was not voluntary, or that the child was lured into voluntary compliance by the abductor(s).

AMBER Alert **should not** be used for cases involving runaways, missing children, or child custodial disputes in which there is no evidence of **imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death**. Additionally, AMBER Alert is also not designed to be used in case of missing adults, but may be appropriate in cases where all other AMBER Alert criteria have been met and because of disability the adult’s mental functioning is that of a child.

## **2. Cases not meeting AMBER Alert criteria**

The EAS/WEA systems should be activated only in those child abduction cases meeting the mandatory AMBER Alert criteria. In cases that do not meet these criteria, law enforcement agencies should continue to exercise discretion in determining which of the many other tools available would be the most appropriate for transmitting information and photos to other officers, the media and the public.

Law Enforcement agencies typically notify local media of such cases via press releases, social media and other means as determined by their agency Public Information Officer (PIO). Alternately, agencies can contact the Oregon State Police Public Information Officer (PIO) for assistance. LE Agencies can also notify the law enforcement community by issuing a LEADS AM message with a BOLO for the missing child. The OSP AMBER Alert program is not used to distribute information about a missing child when the AMBER Alert criteria have not been met.

## **3. Establishing a Call/Tip Center**

It is typical that the broadcast of an AMBER Alert will immediately generate a volume of calls from the public desiring to furnish information. An adequate Tip Center with multiple phone lines, fax and internet capabilities should be established by the local law enforcement agency requesting the AMBER Alert to receive these calls.

Local agencies may consider incorporating as a part of their AMBER Alert plan, a response and mutual-aid agreement to staff a telephone Tip Center utilizing resources from the various local law enforcement agencies. This may involve using sworn law enforcement resources as well as professional support staff. A training program should be provided to those answering telephone calls and filling out tip forms.

If the requesting law enforcement agency doesn’t have the resources to establish a Call/Tip Center, Oregon State Police Criminal Investigation Division will, upon request, initiate a Tip Center at the Anderson Readiness Center, adjacent to OSP NCC, staffed with trained personnel.

Regardless of the location of the AMBER Alert Tip Line Call Center, OSP maintains the AMBER Alert Tip Line phone number, **1-866-5AMBER5**. **OSP NCC, upon request, will forward this**



**number** to any Tip Center designated by the local law enforcement agency, so that all calls into that number are received at the designated call center location. This number will be broadcast to the public during the EAS message. This number should not be used as a contact number for the media. The requesting law enforcement agency should assign a different telephone number to handle all media inquiries.

The requesting agency should have a designated Department media contact (or PIO) person in place and also have a news release prepared to release at or near the time the AMBER Alert is activated. This will assist in the providing of information on paper that may help clarify or understand the EAS/WEA information provided. The agency should also consider their agency website and/or social media outlets for placing news releases and photo(s) information. Such dissemination can be a secondary resource for media, public, and in some cases, another agency to obtain information. This can be especially helpful for an incident that has extended beyond state borders. As a back-up, OSP PIO can share information if the requesting agency does not have this capability.

#### **4. Agency Training**

The activation of AMBER Alert requires that designated agency personnel immediately execute predefined tasks in a coordinated and efficient manner. Therefore, it is essential that all personnel who potentially have a role in AMBER Alert activation are thoroughly trained in their assigned functions. Such training should be conducted regularly, particularly to ensure the preparedness of any newly assigned personnel.

Agencies should send representatives to any sponsored AMBER ALERT training opportunities and have those who attend become the trainers for their respective agency. Regional AMBER ALERT training is advertised via the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), and nationally via Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), and via NCMEC.

# The Role of Broadcast Media

In most news organizations, the report of child abduction is considered a breaking story. Prior to the activation of an AMBER Alert, each radio and television station is encouraged to develop a coordinated plan that brings together the engineering, production, talent, and newsgathering departments. The broadcast community does not participate in the specific decision-making process that triggers a particular AMBER Alert. However, the voluntary cooperation of radio and television stations is critical to the success of AMBER Alert, inasmuch as they are Oregon's primary visual and audio connection to Oregon's residents on a daily basis. Broadcast stations/Media should address the following functions when developing plans in conjunction with law enforcement:

## **1. Receiving EAS Messages**

The EAS message will be relayed from the law enforcement agency through the LP-1 to designated media outlets via the EAS "decoder," which receives the message in an audio format, not as printed text.

## **2. Responding to EAS Messages**

Time is crucial in a child abduction case; the faster the information is broadcast to the community, the better the chance for a successful recovery. Therefore, each radio and television station needs to establish proper procedures for quickly handling information received as part of an AMBER Alert.

Currently, when a child is abducted, broadcasters in many areas are using the EAS under the "Child Abduction Emergency" (CAE) event code that all stations are programmed to receive. Primary stations transcribe EAS messages and broadcast the alert "live" through the EAS to area broadcast stations. Messages are disseminated simultaneously to all participating radio and television stations regardless of the format or time of day. Each station monitors at least one of the EAS stations on its receivers.

The primary radio and television stations activate the EAS by sending out three digital data signals, followed by a distinctive Emergency Alert tone. The broadcaster then provides summary information regarding the abduction and any other pertinent details provided by law enforcement.

Following transmission of the message, three digital data signals are sent to terminate the message. The audio message from the EAS stations simultaneously reach each EAS receiver at participating radio and television stations area-wide. Procedures for interrupting programming will vary according to station policy and the local-area EAS Plan.

Stations may program their EAS equipment to automatically interrupt programming or may choose to transcribe the alert and rebroadcast the message using an anchor/reporter. If a station decides to transcribe the alert, a system needs to be established within each news division to handle the transcription, since the EAS message is transmitted to the station only once.

If stations are in the middle of a newscast, the anchor/reporter can immediately break in with AMBER Alert information. If the Alert comes into the station during regular programming, a

television station may create a “crawl” that would be displayed on the screen containing vital information about the abduction.

### **3. Signing Up to receive AMBER Alerts**

Broadcast stations/Media can sign-up to receive Oregon AMBER Alerts via the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Anyone can sign up to receive the AMBER Alerts through the NCMEC website: <http://www.missingkids.com/Amber.html> . Media can view the posted information/photos through the website, as well as any up-dated information. NCMEC will receive and post all of the initial and updated information regarding the AMBER Alert.

### **4. Contacting law Enforcement**

Broadcast stations/Media should consider the fact that additional telephone calls to the initiating law enforcement agency for additional information can quickly overload the law enforcement agency’s capacity of telephone lines and personnel. This is usually true if the agency is smaller in size and does not have the capacity to receive the volume of calls through their phone system. Additional calls to the law enforcement agency may also interfere with outgoing telephone line capabilities as well. All requests by the media for additional information on the requested AMBER Alert should be made to the designated PIO’s telephone number.

### **5. Handling Calls from the Public**

If viewers or listeners call the media in response to an AMBER Alert, media staff should refer the callers to the appropriate AMBER Alert Tip-Line Center (**1-866-5AMBER5**), or appropriate local law enforcement agency contact number(s).

If a member of the public calls broadcast station/media to activate an AMBER Alert, the caller should be informed that the decision to request AMBER Alert activation can only be made by the respective law enforcement agency that responds to the reported abduction, and that the caller should contact their local law enforcement agency immediately.

# Activating an AMBER Alert

This section outlines the key steps required to activate a statewide AMBER Alert that law enforcement agencies should incorporate into their AMBER Alert Plans. (These steps are also listed in the accompanying AMBER Alert Activation Guide which is designed as a quick reference in emergency situations.)

## **STEP 1: INVESTIGATION**

A preliminary investigation must be done prior to requesting AMBER Alert activation:

Investigating agencies should not request activation based solely on information received from a caller. Once investigation determines that abduction has occurred, activation should be viewed as just one component of the investigation. Other actions should be taken simultaneously, in accordance with agency child abduction response plans.

## **STEP 2: REQUEST AMBER ALERT**

Once it is confirmed that all AMBER Alert criteria have been met, the law enforcement agency will contact the Oregon State Police Northern Command Center at **(503) 375-3555** to request initiation and approval for AMBER Alert activation.

Summary information should be available and ready for the EAS audio-message (see Required Information for AMBER Alert on page 21), including the name, age, sex, physical description and clothing of the victim and suspect, vehicle description, possible direction of travel, and location and time last seen. Consideration will be given as to extending the Oregon AMBER Alert to adjoining states depending on the circumstances and time delay. This will be coordinated through the OSP NCC.

## **STEP 3: STAND UP TIP CENTER**

The staffing of a Tip Center needs to be in process to expedite the transfer of the AMBER telephone Tip-Line number to the activated Tip Center. Agencies should have a telephone roster tree and activation plan to contact personnel to respond to staff a Tip Center. The Tip Center could utilize various personnel from local agencies to staff a Tip Center.

The requesting agency will provide a telephone number of their Call/Tip Center to allow OSP NCC to forward the **1-866-5AMBER5** telephone number. The **1-866-5AMBER5** number will be displayed to the public to call if they have relevant information.

If the agency does not have the available resources, including: staff, bank of telephones, and a designated area that is ready to activate and staff a Call/Tip Center, a request should be made for

the Oregon State Police CID to respond and initiate a Call/Tip Center. A telephone number, e-mail address, and fax number for the initiating agency must be given to allow the OSP Tip Center to forward pertinent information to the investigating agency/officer as it is received. When the call volume to the OSP Tip Center has decreased to a manageable level, a determination to forward the Call/Tip Center responsibility back to the investigating agency will be made based on available resources, the nature of the on-going investigation, and the needs of the investigating agency.

#### **STEP 4: LEDS BOLO**

Send a statewide **Be-On-the-Look-Out (BOLO)** Administrative Message (AM) via LEDS to all law enforcement agencies statewide. The text must start with the words “**OREGON AMBER ALERT**”. Include the following information in the message, if available:

- Name, age, sex and physical description of the victim
- Description of clothing
- Location and time last seen
- Description of possible suspect(s) and vehicle
- Last known direction of travel and possible destination
- Investigating law enforcement agency, investigating officer, and telephone number

Following is an example of a LEDS BOLO:

AM:ALX  
SUBJECT: OREGON AMBER ALERT  
ATTN: BROADCAST IMMEDIATELY

THE (LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY) IS INITIATING AN AMBER ALERT. THE VICTIM IS JANIE DOE, A 9-YEAR OLD FEMALE JUVENILE. SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR, BLUE EYES, IS 4' TALL AND WEIGHS 85 POUNDS. SHE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING A S/SLEEVE RED TOP AND BLACK PANTS. POLICE BELIEVE SHE WAS ABDUCTED THIS DATE AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00PM, BY A WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY 25-35 YEARS OLD, APROXIMATELY 6'-2"/230 POUNDS , BROWN HAIR WITH A SHORT BEARD AND MOUSTACHE. SUSPECT IS DRIVING A SILVER SUV, LAST SEEN HEADING NORTHBOUND ON ALPHA STREET FROM THE (ABDUCTION LOCATION/CITY) AREA. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT EITHER DETECTIVE SERGEANT JOHN DOE OR DETECTIVE JIM DOE, (LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY) AT (503) XXX-XXXX. THIS NUMBER IS FOR INVESTIGATIVE LEADS/INFO ONLY, AND NOT FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES.

#### **STEP 5: LEDS/NCIC ENTRY**

The agency requesting/initiating the amber alert is to enter the suspect information and victim information into LEDS/NCIC.

If known, enter the suspect name in the “AKA” moniker field if possible. This will allow cross reference to the Child Abduction entry, prior to any arrest warrant(s) being entered into LEDS.

## **STEP 6: OBTAIN PHOTO OF VICTIM/SUSPECT**

If possible, obtain a photo of the victim and suspect (and suspect vehicle if applicable) as soon as possible and forward to the OSP NCC via electronic means (e-mail) as an attachment. The photos may be used for dissemination to the public. The AMBER alert does not require photos but they have obvious potential for aiding positive identification once disseminated. OSP NCC should not be considered the primary means of public dissemination of photos, as the agency conducting the investigation can provide them as part of their PIO effort. Contact the OSP NCC and advise when the photos have been forwarded. The photos should also be provided to NCMEC for use on their website, and either OSP NCC or the investigative agency can do that.

### **Initiate Alert Updates/Cancellations, as appropriate**

Any updates or cancellation of an AMBER Alert will be forwarded to the OSP NCC in a timely basis. Up-dated photos of the victim, suspect, or suspect vehicle should be forwarded via electronic means. Information updates may generate follow-up alerts to the public via EAS and/or WEA. The cancellation of an AMBER Alert generally will not be broadcast via EAS/WEA. Law enforcement and the media should handle updates or cancellations with the same priority as the initial alert.

When cancelling an AMBER Alert, agencies must call the OSP NCC at **(503) 375-3555**, and request to speak with the OSP NCC Supervisor on-duty. This would include requests to cancel the Oregon AMBER Alert with other states that were requested to extend the Oregon AMBER Alert. A prepared news release by the requesting agency should also be given to the media when an AMBER Alert has been cancelled or deactivated.

The originating agency requesting the Amber Alert is reminded to also cancel any LEDS/NCIC entries, if appropriate.

# Support Agencies

**Oregon State Police Northern Command Center**

(503) 375-3555

24 hour/7 days a week

**Oregon State Police Southern Command Center**

(541) 776-6111

24 hour/7 days a week

**Other OSP Resources that NCC can contact:**

**Criminal Investigation Division:**

**Missing Children Clearinghouse (Statewide point of contact for NCMEC)**

**Investigative Support Unit (Crime Analysts, HITS, Crime Scene Reconstruction)**

**Major Crimes Section (Investigative resources/assistance)**

**Sex Offender Registration Unit**

**Oregon State Police PIO**

**Email: [OSPPIO@state.or.us](mailto:OSPPIO@state.or.us)**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

Portland: (503) 224-4181

**Federal Bureau of Investigation after hours/holidays/weekends** – contact (503) 224-4181 for duty officer.

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**

(800)-THE-LOST (843-5678)

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

**181A.315 Amber Plan; rules.** (1) The Department of State Police shall work with Oregon law enforcement agencies, the Department of Transportation, local media and broadcasters and others to fully implement a state Amber Plan.

(2) The Department of State Police shall adopt rules establishing the criteria to be applied in determining whether to issue an alert under the Amber Plan.

(3) A broadcaster participating in an Amber Plan implemented under this section is immune from civil liability for any act or omission of the broadcaster in the course and scope of that participation. The immunity provided under this subsection:

(a) Applies regardless of the method of transmission used by the broadcaster.

(b) Does not apply to intentional misconduct or to conduct that was grossly negligent.

[Formerly 181.035]

**Note:** 181A.315 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 181A or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.



## EXAMPLES

A 14-year old juvenile female is seen by neighbors returning to her home after school. However, when her father arrives home several hours later, the girl is not there. There is no sign of foul play. A check with neighbors reveals no one saw the girl leave, nor did anyone see anything unusual or suspicious. Police are called and immediate investigation fails to reveal information regarding the location of the girl. Within a couple of hours, the girl returns home and it is determined that she had been at a friend's house. She had neglected to leave a note or tell anyone where she was going. Although the determination is made in hindsight, evaluation of the scenario reveals very little benefit would have been derived from broadcast of information relative to this case. Other than a description of the girl and the clothing she was last seen to be wearing, there was very little information to provide to the public. There was no suspect description, no vehicle description, and no direction of travel. There was no sign of foul play and the girl was old enough to have gone somewhere of her own volition. ***This case would not qualify for an AMBER Alert.***

A 3-year old girl is playing in a fenced yard, while her mother is working inside around the house. The mother looks out into the yard and doesn't see her child anymore, but notices an unfamiliar car parked near the driveway. When the mother exits the house, the car pulls away at a high rate of speed and the child is not found in the immediate area. Police respond and conduct a quick cursory area search with neighbors, but the child is not located. While the mother did not see the occupant(s) of the vehicle take her child, it is likely they did. She describes the vehicle as an older model Ford van, green in color, with partial Oregon plate of ABC, which are the first 3 letters of the plate. ***This case would qualify for an AMBER Alert.***

The father of a 4-year girl arrives at her home in violation of an order of protection. He is highly intoxicated and agitated, and removes the child from the home in spite of protests by the mother, who is physically assaulted for attempting to keep him from taking the child. He has been physically abusive to the child in the past and is despondent over his pending divorce. He makes comments to the mother that if he can't have custody of the child, no one will. He places the child in his car and leaves at a high rate of speed. Police respond and a preliminary investigation, which includes interviewing neighbors who witnessed the incident. The police check his residence and find that he did not return to it. A description and license plate of the suspect vehicle is obtained. Although this is a custodial situation, the history of abuse against the child by the father in the past, his current mental and physical condition, and the threats he made lead the police to believe the girl is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death. ***This case would qualify for an AMBER Alert.***

A mother and her 3-year old child are returning to their vehicle in a shopping mall parking lot. The mother starts up the vehicle to cool the vehicle down with the air-conditioner. The mother places the child in the car seat in the rear of the vehicle. As she re-enters the front driver area side of the vehicle, a male subject pushes her aside and enters the vehicle and drives off, stealing the vehicle. Police respond to the scene and obtain information on the suspect and victim's vehicle. Even though the suspect may not have been aware the child was in the vehicle, and the unknown identity of the suspect who just committed a felony, the child is deemed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death. ***This case would qualify for an AMBER Alert.***

**SAMPLE  
AMBER ALERT FIELD CHECKLIST**

INCIDENT DATE	INCIDENT TIME	INCIDENT NUMBER	SUPERVISOR APPROVAL BY
---------------	---------------	-----------------	------------------------

***ALL FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA MUST APPLY:***

- 1. Reasonable belief that an abduction has occurred; and**
- 2. The child is 17 years or younger; and**
- 3. Law enforcement officials believe that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death; and**
- 4. There is adequate descriptive information available to believe that its dissemination to the public could help locate the child, suspect, and/or suspect vehicle; and**
- 5. The child’s name and other critical data elements-including the child abduction (CA) and AMBER Alert (AA) flags must be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.**

*Do not use Amber Alert for runaways or parental/custodial abductions unless the child is in danger of imminent bodily harm or death. Consideration should be given not to activate the plan if there is no immediate specific information for the public to use to assist in the recovery, or there has been an extended period of time since the disappearance.*

- Obtain information to complete the AMBER ALERT EAS Message Form. The alert must contain a description of the child and suspect, or suspect vehicle, as well as details of the abduction.**
- Obtain sworn supervisor approval for initiation request, Supervisor to contact OSP NCC @ (503) 375-3555.**
- Notify agency PIO, or establish immediate media contact person.**
- Obtain recent photo of child/suspect for media and law enforcement broadcast.**
- Send LEDS Administrative BOLO Message titled “AMBER ALERT”.**
- Enter Victim/Suspect into LEDS/NCIC.**

Reporting Officer	DPSST.#
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## Amber Alert Activation Form

### Agency Information

Date:

Agency:

Officer's Name:

Telephone Number:

### Case Information

Is this a child abduction?

Yes      NO\*

Was the child 17 years of age or younger?

Is there reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger or serious bodily injury or death?

Is there information to disseminate to the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the victim and/or the apprehension of a suspect?

**\*ANSWERING ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS "NO" MEANS THE AMBER ALERT WILL NOT BE USED.**

### Victim #1

First Name:

Last Name:

Race/Gender:

Hair/Eyes:

Height/Weight:

Clothing Description:

Last Known Location:

### Victim #2 (if applicable)

First Name:

Last Name:

Race/Gender:

Hair/Eyes:

Height/Weight:

Clothing Description:

Last Known Location:

## Required Information for AMBER Alert

### ABDUCTION INFORMATION

Date Abducted:

Time Abducted:

Location of Abduction:

Direction of Travel/Destination:

Vehicle Description:

### CHILD INFORMATION

Name:

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Height:

Weight:

Hair:

Eyes:

Race:

Clothing:

Additional Identifiers:

### ABDUCTOR INFORMATION

Name:

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Height:

Weight:

Hair:

Eyes:

Race:

Clothing:

Additional Identifiers:

### DETAILS OF THE ABDUCTION

## OREGON AMBER ALERT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Oregon AMBER Alert review Committee consists of representatives from the following agencies/entities:

Oregon State Police (OSP)

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM)

Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA)

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)

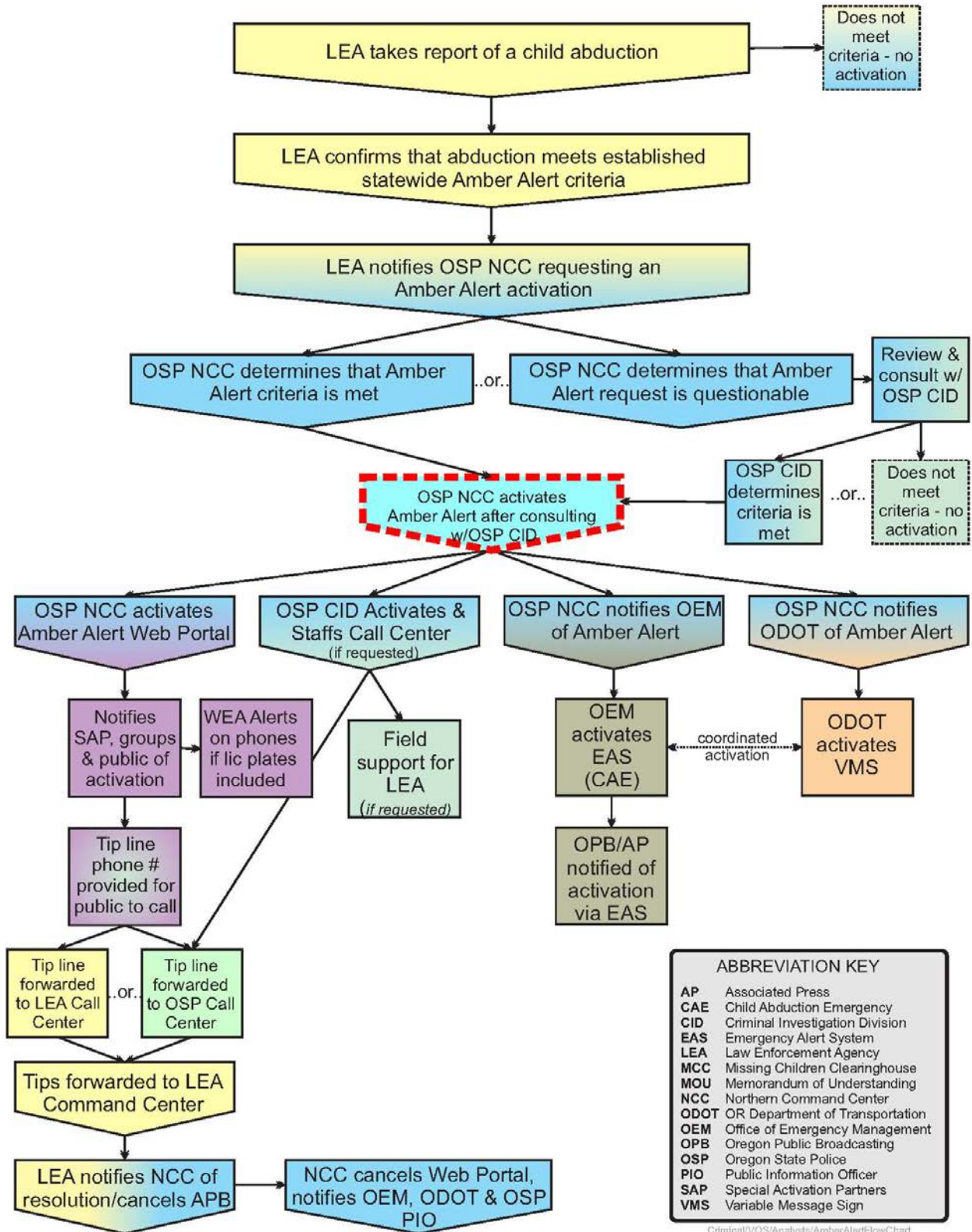
Oregon APCO-NENA (Association of Public-Safety Communications/National Emergency Number Association)

Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB)

DA's Victims Assistant

The Committee is tasked with the oversight of the Oregon Amber Alert Program, and reviewing Oregon AMBER Alert initiations to determine further enhancements to the program.

# AMBER ALERT PROCESS



ABBREVIATION KEY	
AP	Associated Press
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
CID	Criminal Investigation Division
EAS	Emergency Alert System
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
MCC	Missing Children Clearinghouse
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCC	Northern Command Center
ODOT	OR Department of Transportation
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
OPB	Oregon Public Broadcasting
OSP	Oregon State Police
PIO	Public Information Officer
SAP	Special Activation Partners
VMS	Variable Message Sign

Criminal/VOS/Analysts/AmberAlertFlowChart Updated 5/29/08

## **MISSING PERSON ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS**

Enter the missing child into LEDS/NCIC by using the Missing Person mask “**EM**”. Fill in as much information as possible about the missing child. The missing person type (**MNP**) should be coded with “**AA**” for Amber Alert. Once this code is utilized, the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children are notified of the AMBER Alert.

It is important to enter as much information as possible – including vehicle information.

You may enter the abductor information into the missing person report by using a supplemental entry. That can be done through LEDS using the “**EN**” code. This supplemental entry allows the originating agency to enter the abductor information – including name, date of birth, physical descriptors, and driver license information.

By entering the abductor/suspect information and vehicle information, law enforcement is able to cross reference that information with the missing person information of the victim child. This suspect information can be utilized until a warrant is issued.

Once the child is located, the entry must be canceled. Use the message key **CM** to clear the entry.

Persons->>2 - Enter->>2 - Enter Missing/Unidentified->>3 - Enter Missing Person (EM)

Rev. 3/24

TYPE	CAUTION	ORI	Name				SEX	RAC	POB
I	<input type="checkbox"/>	OROSPO003	AMBER TEST CHILD				M	W	OR
DOB	DOE	HGT	WGT	EYE	HAI	FBI	SKN	SMT	
03052003		204	033	GRN	BRO				
FPC	MNU Type		MNU Number		SOC				
					000000000				
OLN	OLS	OLY	MNP	DLC	OCA				
			AA	12042006	2006-XXXX				

Miscellaneous

AMBER TEST CHILD TAKEN BY BABYSITTER, JANE DOE, 06-09-1988. DOE LEFT RESIDENCE WITH AMBER CHILD TO MEET BOYFRIEND AT LOCAL MALL ON 12-03-2006 AND HAS NOT RETURNED. LEFT IN A RED JEEP CHEROKEE, ORE LICENSE ABC123. TOOK CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND IMMUNIZATION RECORDS. BABYSITTER HAS BEEN DEPRESSED LATELY AND CHILD MAY BE IN DANGER

LIC	LIS	LIY	LIT	VTY	VIN	VYR
ABC123	OR	2009	PC	AU	3U8F79DJ0898909	2000

VMA	VMA Description	VMO	VST	VCD	VCD	BLT	CRC	FPA	BXR
JEEP		CHE	4D	RED			Y	Y	N

VRX

Jewellery Types (list up to 17)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Jewellery Description (up to 100 characters)

LKI	LKA	NOA	MPC	CMC	DNA
					N



Persons->>2 - Enter->>9 - Enter Supplemental Person Informaton (EN)

ORI	Name	OCA	LNU
OROSP0003	AMBER TEST CHILD	2006-XXXX	M87938920

\*\*\* Enter up to a MAXIMUM of 9 fields \*\*\*

Alias (Also Known As)	CMC	Date of Birth	Miscellaneous Type	Number	SMT	SOC
DOE, JANE		06/09/88				543000000

Operators License Number	OLS OLY	LIC	LIS LIY	LIT	VTY Vehicle Identification Number	VYR	VMA
2645678	OR 2010				AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		
					AU		