

Ohio Amber Alert Steering Committee

www.ohioamberplan.org

Attorney General's Office – Missing Children Clearinghouse
Ohio Department of Transportation
State Emergency Communications Committee
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Local/Regional AMBER Plan Representative



Ted Strickland, Governor

Victim's Advocate

Dear Chief, Sheriff, Law Enforcement Executive:

The Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee is constantly looking at ways to improve Ohio's AMBER Alert system. When a child goes missing, your responding officers will be confronted with a high level emergency situation, frantic parents, and a high stress environment where people are demanding action even before facts can be obtained. Often times, this type of situation can lead to confusion or ill-advised decisions.

In an effort to assist law enforcement in these high stress situations, the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee has developed a Missing Child Alert Program. The Missing Child Alert provides a program for use by law enforcement in missing child cases not meeting the AMBER criteria. The attached "Alert Action Sheet" was designed for the responding officer use in determining what type of alert to initiate.

The criteria for issuing an AMBER Alert is specific and ensures the system is not overused for a variety of reasons that may desensitize the public to their emergency nature. Programs such as the Ohio Trucker's Alert, "A Child is Missing", media blast e-mail/fax, and others have always been available to law enforcement to use when confronted with a missing child case that does not meet AMBER Alert criteria. Unfortunately, due to confusion and erroneous information about AMBER Alerts, many frantic parents, government officials and law enforcement officers may feel that all is not being done if an AMBER Alert is not activated. To aid in alleviating this concern, the other programs mentioned have been packaged into the "Missing Child Alert".

The attached Alert Action Sheet indicates both Alert types and their criteria, and gives the officer a tool to use in the field when responding to a missing child case. The information is also available in a two-sided card format. Both formats can be found at www.ohioamberplan.org. By applying the facts surrounding a case in the field, the officer and others can quickly determine what path to take to ensure the proper alert is activated, which will notify the media, public, and others to help bring the missing child home.

The Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee thanks you for your continued support of the Ohio AMBER Alert Program. Should you have any questions concerning AMBER, the Missing Child Program or require information on the development of an AMBER Alert plan for your area, please contact S/Lt. Rob Jackson at 614-728-1355 or me at 614-889-7155.

Sincerely,

MARK A. PATCHEN, Chairman
Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee

Ohio Amber Alert Steering Committee
2855 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2206