

# Ohio Amber Alert Newsletter

www.ohioamberplan.org



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## NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

The Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee recently approved the creation of this newsletter to improve communication among the state, regional, and local partners involved in the AMBER Alert Program. The newsletter will be published to the Ohio AMBER Alert Website, [www.ohioamberplan.org](http://www.ohioamberplan.org), and distributed electronically to those agencies and individuals that choose to receive it by e-mail. In this issue, submission information will be printed so AMBER Alert partners can use this communication forum to alert others about events, programs, training opportunities, or other issues you would like to share.

Updates from the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee and National level programs will also be shared through the newsletter. Please share this information with your co-workers and contacts throughout the state to help us help everyone with this new communication tool.

## STATES WORKING TOGETHER DURING AN AMBER ALERT

During a recent AMBER Alert in Illinois, Ohio was contacted to issue an alert for the Dayton area due to information about the suspect and victim. Ultimately, the suspect and victim were located in the Dayton area, successfully resolving the incident. This is a good example of how the system works and how the National AMBER Alert Symposiums have assisted in multi-state coordination.

Another example is a recent Ohio AMBER Alert involving Indiana. Local and State officials in both states coordinated the Alert in the area where the suspect was reported to be traveling and a successful recovery resulted.

Did You Know?.....The Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee meets four times each year and has hosted three State AMBER Alert Conferences? The Committee also offers local and regionalized training in a custom format to meet your needs. Contact any of the Steering Committee members to inquire (contacts on reverse side).

## AMBER Alert Guidebook & DVD

Several years ago, the Ohio AMBER Alert Guidebook and Training DVD were distributed to all law enforcement agencies statewide. Some agencies are not aware of these tools and the guidebook and DVD may have been misplaced or lost. If you are in charge of AMBER Alert Operations for your department, please verify these tools are accessible. If not, a PDF version of the guidebook is available on the Ohio AMBER Alert website ([www.ohioamberplan.org](http://www.ohioamberplan.org)). A DVD can be obtained by sending an e-mail request to: [rjackson@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:rjackson@dps.state.oh.us).

## Missing Child Alerts & Missing Adult Alerts

In addition to AMBER Alerts, the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee also coordinates the Missing Child Alert (sometimes referred to as the Endangered Missing Child Alert) and the Missing Adult Alert. These alerts were developed in response to a variety of needs and a brief description of each is listed below:

**MISSING CHILD ALERT:** This alert was developed to package all efforts and systems used when an AMBER Alert is not appropriate. As you know, the AMBER Alert is restricted to CONFIRMED ABDUCTIONS where the child is in DANGER. Although equally as important to a family, when a child is discovered to be missing due to unknown circumstances, an AMBER Alert is not justified because there is no specific information to broadcast such as suspect or vehicle information. Situations such as these may include a child that has wandered off, a runaway, a child hiding, or even a non-witnessed abduction where the family has no idea how the child became missing.

The Missing Child Alert still involves the media, e-mail and cell phone alerts, billboards and law enforcement broadcasts. It does not include the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or AMBER Alert hotline. The Alert Action Sheet can be found in the "Press Room" area of the website under "Brochures". This sheet can help officers on the scene work with the family and determine the correct alert that fits the incident at hand.

Ohio Amber Alert Steering Committee  
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**MISSING ADULT ALERT:** This alert was the result of legislation mandating the creation of an alert with the following criteria:

- Local investigating law enforcement agency confirms individual is missing.
- The individual is 65 years of age or older, or has a mental impairment.
- The disappearance of the individual poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the individual.
- There is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the individual's disappearance to indicate that activation of the alert will help locate the individual.

The AMBER Alert Steering Committee coordinates this alert through our members and their respective staff.

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### **AMBER Alert Steering Committee**

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The committee members welcome feedback, questions, or comments concerning the Ohio AMBER Alert Plan and the committee activities.

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### **National AMBER Alert Symposium**

The National AMBERAlert Symposium will be held November 15-18, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. AMBER Alert Coordinators, Missing Children's Clearinghouse Directors, CART Team Leaders, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Media representatives will meet to discuss trends, technology changes, plan updates, and new programs during the two and a half day symposium. Presentation from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Programs and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will be conducted, as well as recent abduction case studies.

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### **Twitter?**

Twitter users can follow alerts by searching for OhioMissing / OhioAmberAlert.