

On **October 23, 2002**, the **Maple Heights Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert after a suspect took a five-year-old girl as she was sleeping at home. Her aunt was approached by the suspect, who allegedly told her that his car had broken down. The suspect asked the aunt for a ride to his home. When they arrived at the home, the suspect and another man demanded money from her. When she told them she didn't have any, the men allegedly locked her in the basement and said they were going to ransom her. The aunt broke out a basement window and went to a neighbor's house to seek help. Police arrived and apprehended one of the suspects; however, the other took off. Police said the remaining suspect had the aunt's keys and purse and went to her sister's home. He then used the keys to get into the house and abduct the girl. The suspect was thought to be armed and dangerous. There was a 3-year-old and an 8-year-old, also in the house. Ironically, the children's mother was at the police station picking up the aunt. Both suspects were arrested and charged with kidnapping, aggravated burglary and extortion.

On **November 5, 2002**, an AMBER Alert was issued by the **Mt. Vernon Police Department** after the two boys, 7-years-old and 5-years-old, were not returned to their mother following a supervised visitation with their non-custodial father. Due to earlier mental problems from which the father was determined to be possibly suicidal, an AMBER Alert was issued. Upon a nationwide search, the **New Mexico State Police** found the boys healthy and unharmed with their father at a woman's home in Moriarty, New Mexico on January 3, 2003.

On **November 27, 2002**, an AMBER Alert was issued by the **Stark County Sheriff's Office** when an 18-month-old boy was abducted while sleeping in his parents' car. The car was left running and unlocked with the boy sleeping in an infant seat. The parents, stopped at about 11:45 p.m. to get some clothes from their home. The parents said they were gone only a few minutes when they returned to find the car stolen. Just before 3 a.m. the next morning, a woman walked into a fire station and gave the unharmed boy to firefighter, telling them someone gave the boy to her on the street.