



Successful AMBER Alert Recovery Stories

AMBER Alert Saves Lives

AMBER Alerts can prevent further tragedy from occurring when children are abducted by violent perpetrators.

January 8, 2004

Calhoun, GA

A man allegedly murdered his three former in-laws and his own 10-month-old daughter before abducting his two daughters, ages 3 and 4, and his stepdaughter, aged 10. He contacted his ex-wife, told her about the killings, and threatened the lives of the girls. An AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist heard the Alert on the radio, recognized the vehicle from the Alert and contacted police. Authorities were quickly at the scene, apprehended the suspect, and safely recovered the three children.

August 1, 2002

Lancaster, CA

Sixteen-year-old Tamara Brooks and Jacqueline Marris, 17, were parked in a quiet area frequented by local teens with their male friends late at night in two separate cars. A man came out of the bushes and held all four teens at gunpoint. He tied up both boys and put the two girls into a car and sped off into the night. As soon as authorities were alerted and confirmed that the girls were in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued across the region. A description of the girls, suspect, vehicle and license plate number were broadcast over local airwaves and displayed on electronic highway signs. Soon after, an animal control agent called in identifying the car in which the girls were abducted. She had matched up the vehicle's license plate number with the information provided on the highway signs. Police were soon at the scene and the girls were safely recovered.

The Power of the Microphone

Some perpetrators release the abducted child after hearing the AMBER Alert on the radio or seeing it on television.

September 28, 2003

Lafayette, CO

After authorities learned that a man had *allegedly* beaten his former girlfriend and abducted their 14-month-old son, an AMBER Alert was issued. Lafayette police reported that when the man heard the AMBER Alert on his radio, he dropped off the child at a family member's house the next day. The family member immediately contacted the child's mother. The child was safely returned to his mother.

States Working Together to Recover Abducted Children

49 states have statewide AMBER Alert plans, and are working together to develop interstate agreements. This means that if one state issues an AMBER Alert but the child is abducted across state lines, other states will agree to issue an AMBER Alert.

May 7, 2003

St. Cloud, MN

An 11-year-old girl was reported missing by her mother when she awoke to find her gone, along with a 21-year-old man who had been staying with the family in search of work. Because of her age and the time and nature of her disappearance, the girl was believed to be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. When authorities learned that the suspect had ties in Utah, an AMBER Alert was activated in Utah as well. A Utah Highway Patrol trooper heard the alert and began using his laptop to calculate the drive time from St. Cloud, Minnesota, to Utah when he saw a car matching the description in the AMBER Alert drive by. The trooper pulled the car over, arrested the suspect, and the girl was safely returned to her family.

November 24, 2004

Los Angeles, CA

A 4-year-old Hoffman Estates, Illinois, boy was abducted by his biological parents from his custodial grandmother. Because the parents had a history of child abuse, an AMBER Alert was issued. Sightings of the couple and child were reported over the next few days. A week after the abduction, authorities had reason to believe the suspects and child were in California. The California Highway Patrol issued a statewide AMBER Alert. The mother heard the Alert in California and turned herself in. The child was safely recovered.

AMBER Alerts on Highway Signs Help Recover Children

Astute motorists have helped law enforcement recover children when they have read AMBER Alerts posted on highway signs.

July 26, 2004

Columbus, Ohio

Four children, ages 10, 6, 4, and 2, were taken from Miamisburg, Ohio, by their step-grandfather, a convicted child molester who had served 9 ½ years for this crime in a Arizona prison. He had told the children's parents they were going to the local park. When they did not return at the prearranged time, authorities were notified. An AMBER Alert was issued because of his past history. A motorist saw a highway sign posting the AMBER Alert information and noticed that the vehicle in front of him was the car sought by police. The driver alerted law enforcement and the police stopped the vehicle. The suspect was apprehended and the children were safely recovered.