

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
) EB Docket No. 04-296
Review of the Emergency Alert System)

To: The Commission.

Comments of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (hereinafter “NCMEC”) hereby comments to the Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking examining the *Emergency Alert System*. Specifically, NCMEC supports efforts to modernize the current Emergency Alert System (hereinafter “EAS”) into a 21st century high-tech communications warning system that empowers Americans with faster, more reliable, and widely accessible emergency information. NCMEC supports enhancing the EAS to deliver urgent messages to all possible information pathways during crises so that damage to property is limited and lives are saved. NCMEC encourages the development of a uniform all-hazard warning communications protocol so the dissemination of critical information to first responders and the public is seamless and consistent when time is of the essence.¹ To accomplish these goals, NCMEC strongly supports the recommendation that the Department of Homeland Security (hereinafter “DHS”) assume a leadership role in EAS so that adequate funding and proper attention and oversight are given to

¹ In regards to child abductions, 74 percent of the children who were kidnapped and later found murdered were killed within the first 3 hours after being taken. Kenneth A. Hanfland, Robert D. Keppel and Joseph G. Weis. *Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation*. Olympia, Washington: Office of the Attorney General, State of Washington and U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 1997, page 23.

such an important element of our country's emergency infrastructure. In support of its position, NCMEC shows the following:

NCMEC Is An Interested Party

NCMEC is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1984 as a national resource center for child protection.² NCMEC operates under a Congressional mandate and works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. NCMEC is a vital resource for families, teachers, the media, federal agencies, and the more than 18,000 local law enforcement agencies located throughout the United States in their search for missing children and for child protection. NCMEC's mission is carried out by creating, and promoting successful programs, such as the AMBER Plan³ - **A**merica's **M**issing: **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse - which uses the EAS, to protect children against victimization.

In 2001 NCMEC officially launched the AMBER Plan nationwide and assisted states, counties, and towns with implementing their own emergency alert plans to help save abducted children. This national initiative was in partnership with the National Association of Broadcasters, the Association of Radio Managers in Dallas/Fort Worth who developed the concept of the AMBER Plan, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

That same year, NCMEC advocated that the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter "FCC") approve a new *Child Abduction Emergency* ("CAE") event code for use

² NCMEC's web site is www.missingkids.com.

³ The AMBER Plan was created in 1996 as a powerful legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and murdered in Arlington, Texas. Police say Amber was dragged from her bicycle while riding in a nearby shopping center. Her body was found four days later. The news of Amber's murder outraged the entire community. It also mobilized them to take action. Following her murder, several concerned citizens contacted local radio stations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and suggested they broadcast special "alerts" over the airwaves to help find abducted children as they do for severe weather emergencies. In response to this recommendation and the community's concern for the safety of their children, the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Radio Managers, with the assistance of law enforcement agencies across the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas, established the AMBER Plan.

when activating an AMBER Alert through the EAS. NCMEC felt a specific code for child abductions was essential when activating the EAS so communities would not be confused over which type of emergency was present. The specific code was also recommended to better inform the public on how best to respond. The FCC approved the new event code in February 2002.

The AMBER Plan

Each AMBER Plan is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and the broadcast media to send out an emergency alert to the public in abduction cases in which the life of the child is in danger. Under each current AMBER Plan, area radio and television stations initially interrupt programming to broadcast information via the EAS about the abduction.

The purpose of an AMBER Plan is to provide a rapid response to child abduction cases. When an alert is activated, law enforcement agencies immediately gain the assistance of thousands of broadcast listeners and viewers throughout the area. The AMBER Plan's goal is to galvanize the community in the search for the abducted child and the capture of the suspect. The synergism of the AMBER Plan and the EAS provides law enforcement, broadcasters, and private citizens, with a powerful weapon in the war against child predators.

AMBER Alert's Success Proves EAS Potential

Currently, there are ninety-nine active AMBER Alert Plans nationwide on the local, regional and state level with 49 of these programs statewide. That's an increase of seventy-seven AMBER Alert Systems since NCMEC launched its national campaign in the fall of 2001. To date, NCMEC is proud to report that 169 children have been safely returned to their families thanks to the AMBER Alert system and its innovative use of the EAS. *See Exhibit A.* Activating this early warning system for child abductions has revolutionized the way we search for kidnapped children and has given new value to the EAS.

The AMBER Plan works because it brings people together for one common goal – to save a child’s life and apprehend the predator. The success of the program depends on teamwork. AMBER is teaching us about the power of partnerships between law enforcement agencies, radio and TV stations, cable systems, government and non-governmental entities, and the community. NCMEC believes these AMBER partnerships serve as a shining example of how local officials can work together on all matters of emergency preparedness. Where there are dedicated AMBER teams - which include active state broadcast associations, local broadcasters, emergency managers, police and sheriffs’ departments, and government officials - there are strong AMBER Alert systems.

NCMEC supports efforts to build on these established AMBER Plan working groups to create emergency preparedness teams that will take ownership of developing their state and local emergency communications procedures and plans. However, for these teams to be successful they need national support both structurally and financially for emergency plan development, equipment, training, and testing.

AMBER’s National Influence

The AMBER Alert system has been so successful that it inspired President George W. Bush to endorse the pioneering program in 2002 and name a national AMBER Alert coordinator, Assistant Attorney General Deborah Daniels, to oversee it. Legislation was enacted, in April 2003, which strengthened the program under the PROTECT Act,⁴ more commonly known as the AMBER Bill. And many states have enacted legislation requiring state police agencies to develop coordinated statewide AMBER Alert systems with provisions granting civil immunity

⁴ Prosecutorial Remedies And Other Tools To End The Exploitation Of Children Today Act of 2003, 42 U.S.C. § 5791.

for broadcasters if they broadcast a false or inaccurate AMBER Alert. *See* Exhibit B. Similar legislation could be encouraged to protect emergency managers from the same liability concerns.

AMBER Alerts have rapidly become an important part of our nation's all-hazard warning and alert infrastructure. The program has not only saved children's lives but it has engaged states to take a serious look at the effectiveness, or lack thereof, of their EAS. Because of these evaluations, some states have upgraded their EAS with a satellite delivery system to increase the quality and reach of EAS alerts. Unfortunately, due to inadequate funding, all states have not been able to implement such advanced systems. The only way the U.S can have a fully operational and effective national warning system is to make sure all states are armed with the proper resources so emergency delivery systems are consistent across the country.

State and Local EAS Plans

After the AMBER Plan won industry acceptance, many jurisdictions updated their local and state emergency plans to include the use of EAS for AMBER Alerts. NCMEC believes state and local EAS plans should be required and periodically reviewed and revised for effectiveness. A well thought out and updated plan is essential for responding to emergency situations quickly. NCMEC suggests DHS develop and distribute templates of model state and local plans so the task of drafting these plans is not so daunting for emergency managers.

When NCMEC assisted communities with incorporating the AMBER Plan into their local and state plans it distributed model samples on request. This proactive approach proved successful and was praised by emergency planners. DHS could link funding opportunities for EAS equipment and additional resources to the development of these critical plans. NCMEC also suggests quarterly meetings to review and evaluate current plans and EAS activations for optimum success. This procedure proved so effective that it is an integral part of each AMBER Alert plan.

State and Local Warnings

Radio and television stations' participation in the AMBER Alert system is voluntary and is done so as a public service. This pioneering system continues to be effective because broadcasters have embraced it and know they have a stake in its success. NCMEC does not believe that placing mandates on broadcasters to issue such alerts is enough to improve the EAS system. Alerts cannot be effective unless state and local officials, along with broadcasters, are committed to the process.

Oversight of EAS

NCMEC endorses the recommendation by the Partnership for Public Warning (hereinafter "PPW") that DHS should take the lead in developing an effective national public warning system, especially since the Federal Emergency Management Agency (hereinafter "FEMA") is a component of DHS. For the past three years, NCMEC has heard time and again how there is no national oversight of EAS aside from the enforcement actions conducted by the FCC.

To give EAS a home within a federal agency that has adequate funding capability is the first step toward giving EAS the attention it deserves and requires. It would also be a tremendous morale booster among engineers, emergency managers, broadcasters, and those associated with the AMBER Alert system.

Since NCMEC's involvement in the AMBER Alert Plan, it has continuously advised state and local officials and broadcasters that the AMBER Alert system is a constant work in progress and must be kept current. Jurisdictions must be proactive in educating all personnel responsible for EAS and its emergency procedures. Having one federal entity responsible for EAS, such as DHS, could afford all relevant emergency personnel at the local and state levels opportunities for training in how to access and execute public warnings.

While it is fresh in the minds of so many people, now is the time to capitalize on the successful use of the EAS during the natural disasters that afflicted Florida. NCMEC recommends that DHS develop a public education campaign in order to strengthen the integrity of the EAS and empower communities with knowledge of how they will receive emergency information during a crisis and what they can do when time matters most. For areas where hurricanes and tornadoes are not a common occurrence, complacency can set in. DHS needs to change the mindset of Americans so they will understand the importance of emergency preparedness. This should be done in a way that promotes knowledge not fear. The ongoing deployment of the AMBER Alert system throughout the country serves as an integral tool in educating the public about the EAS. An educated public will feel confident about the EAS.

EAS Equipment

AMBER Alerts were the driving force that encouraged stations and cable systems to adopt the new EAS event codes, including the *Child Abduction Emergency* code. Saving abducted children has given new meaning to the EAS. Today two-thirds of broadcasters have upgraded their EAS equipment.⁵

NCMEC supports mandating the adoption of the 2002 revised EAS codes by a date certain so that the program continues to be successful. Upgrading the new codes is often free or of minimal cost to broadcasters. And standardizing text transmission in an EAS alert would be a beneficial improvement to the current system.

EAS equipment should also have the capability to automatically translate alerts into more than one language used by the broadcast station or cable system for their listeners. This is an essential asset to our local communities. Currently, EAS messages are translated into Spanish.

⁵ Statistic from TFT, Inc.- the largest manufacturer of FCC Certified EAS Encoder/Decoders and Decoders

The significance of language conversion was recently highlighted when the mother of an abducted child in Texas heard a Spanish AMBER Alert for her daughter and was comforted in knowing the message was being disseminated throughout the Spanish-speaking community.

The benefits of ensuring that all persons receive adequate public warning information far outweigh the burdens. The government along with industry representatives should continue to work with manufacturers to develop the products necessary for distributing this information for the multilingual and special needs populations.

NCMEC recommends that funds be allocated so that all emergency managers throughout the country have EAS equipment. When NCMEC assisted states with implementing statewide AMBER Alert Plans, NCMEC learned that some state divisions of emergency management were not operational 24/7 nor did they have the equipment to trigger the EAS.

For example when Oklahoma was creating the first statewide AMBER Plan, the Oklahoma Broadcast Association bought the EAS equipment for the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (hereinafter “ODPS”) so they could activate AMBER Alerts. The ODPS activates the state’s alerts because the Highway Patrol Division of ODPS offers 24-hour resources through their dispatchers. No other state agency had this service. Additionally, the association installed a telephone line to the Clear Channel News Network for dissemination over the statewide EAS system. Emergency managers must have access to EAS encoding equipment to generate emergency messages. State emergency communications operations should be consistent across the country.

EAS Security

When NCMEC advocated for a special EAS code for the AMBER Plan, our mission, aside from saving abducted children, was to protect the integrity and public confidence of the EAS.

Therefore, it believes measures should be set into motion that will ensure the protection of our public warning systems. Government and industry officials must continue to work with private companies to develop solutions for greater protection against unauthorized users.

Emerging Technology

While NCMEC is always mindful of and continues to promote that radio and TV stations are the core of the AMBER Alert system, NCMEC recommends that new communications technologies be explored for use with the EAS. Such innovations will maximize emergency notifications to the public.

Currently, many AMBER Alert systems are distributing AMBER Alerts through other supplemental notification systems such as pagers, Blackberrys, cell phones, Internet service providers, interactive highways signs, reverse 911 systems, web portals, state lottery machines, and radios of service technicians working in the field. In fact, NCMEC has been inundated by private companies that want to help in the dissemination of AMBER Alerts.

As NCMEC rolled out its nationwide AMBER Alert campaign in 2001, it advised every community to develop its own web site that would serve as an information tool for its EAS-relevant personnel as well as the community. Many of these web sites are used by law enforcement to notify their local LP-1 stations about a child abduction so that broadcasters will activate the EAS.

NCMEC believes in redundant and supplemental systems and procedures that work in concert with EAS. Furthermore, NCMEC has found that listeners and viewers would rather have an opt-in mechanism to receive alert information in order to avoid being inundated by alerts. NCMEC believes the broadcast industry and the government should work hand-in-hand with product manufacturers to develop ways to alert passive listeners in a manner that provides balance and is not intrusive.

Shortly, NCMEC will launch its own notification system that will re-distribute AMBER Alerts received through a satellite-based messaging and warning system that works in tandem with EAS. Once NCMEC receives the urgent message it will distribute the message to other secondary sources such as Internet service providers, organizations, businesses, or other entities that want to aid in the search of an abducted child. Before NCMEC re-distributes this information a memorandum of understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) must be submitted and approved by NCMEC before the entity can receive this information. This MOU is vital to protect the integrity of the AMBER Alert system.

NCMEC supports digital broadcast media’s participation in the EAS. Extending EAS to digital television and radio stations would enable broadcasters to continue their public service obligation to their communities. However, NCMEC does not believe force-tuning or cable-override requirements are an effective option for receiving emergency information. Our work with the AMBER Alert system has made us well aware of the challenges with cable-override, whereby viewers’ TV screens have been interrupted with a blue slate and a crawl that states the existence of an emergency but fails to describe the type of emergency or where to go for further details. This has confused and distressed many viewers as to what to do in these situations. Lack of information has been a problem with cable-overrides. Moreover, overrides frighten people. In light of these concerns, this provision should be eliminated, or alternatively, broadcasters should retain the right to selective override for both digital and analog transmissions.

In a time of crisis, every viable means of communication should be used to distribute information. NCMEC supports measures to create a public/private partnership so that the best technology is developed and utilized. With advances in technology, the EAS will be able to deliver urgent information to a much wider audience than it already does. This will prompt more

citizens to take action. In NCMEC's case, law enforcement will receive an increased number of leads because the saturation capability will be enhanced through multiple distribution methods.

Conclusion

Based on the remarkable success of the AMBER Alert system's utilization of the EAS, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children respectfully recommends that DHS build on the current EAS infrastructure by exploring emerging technologies. This will increase its reach and effectiveness and ensure maximum public response. The goal should be for emergency alerts to flow rapidly and simultaneously through all available information conduits to first responders and the public. NCMEC also encourages the development and implementation of an education campaign for EAS users and the public. Increased funding for EAS will help accomplish these goals. To date, the use of the EAS as an integral part of the AMBER Alert system has saved ONE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE children. NCMEC sincerely believes that the adoption of its recommendations will result in our nation's emergency preparedness being improved and additional lives being saved.

Respectfully Submitted,
National Center For Missing
& Exploited Children

/s/

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EXHIBIT A

AMBER Alert Success Stories: 169

October 29, 2004

Arizona (3)

August 20, 2004

Phoenix, Arizona

A 4-year-old boy and his 6-week-old brother were in the back seat of a vehicle when it was stolen from the children's mother. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. A citizen wrote down the vehicle information when he heard the AMBER Alert on the radio. Shortly after the Alert was issued, the citizen spotted the vehicle and contacted authorities. Police were quickly at the scene. The suspect was apprehended and the children were safely recovered.

November 2002

Bridgeport

38-year-old James Housley Jr. forced his way into the home of his estranged wife and grabbed and forcibly removed his 6-year-old daughter Emily Housley. As the suspect was running to his vehicle he told his estranged wife, "you will never see her again!" Based on the violent circumstances and the father's criminal history, the Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan (ACAAP) was activated. A truck driver in the area spotted the suspect's vehicle, which he had heard described in an alert message over the radio, and immediately called authorities. The suspect was apprehended and Emily was safely returned to her mother.

California (17)

August 9, 2004

Antioch, California

3-year-old Mikayla Viana was abducted by her non-custodial mother. Because the mother was believed to be unstable, an AMBER Alert was issued. A citizen on his way to work noticed the vehicle in the AMBER Alert description was in front of him and immediately notified authorities. When police arrived at the scene, the suspect led authorities on a four-hour chase. When the suspect finally surrendered, she was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

April 23, 2004

Orange County, California

Three-year-old Kelly Hessenauer was abducted by her father, who had threatened to kill himself and the child. The child's mother reported the incident to authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. About 90 minutes later an off-duty firefighter recognized the man's car after seeing its description and license number on an electronic highway sign. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered and reunited with her mother.

November 24, 2003

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.

August 30, 2003

Pleasanton, CA

Zameer Azam, 24, asked his estranged girlfriend and their 2-year-old daughter Alina to meet him at a local convenience store for a discussion about legal charges against him. Relatives became suspicious after the mother and child did not return home and notified authorities. Because of the man's history of domestic abuse and threats, an AMBER Alert was issued for the child. After hearing the AMBER Alert on the radio and seeing it on an electronic message sign, the man became nervous and dropped the woman and child off at a hospital. Authorities were immediately notified of Alina's recovery.

July 18, 2003

Fairfield, CA

26-year-old Adalberto Patino forced himself into the home of his ex-girlfriend Melida Castro, 21, and their 3-month-old baby Jasmine, and immediately confronted Castro, demanding that she go with him. He grabbed the baby and Castro's 13-year-old sister and insisted she go with them as well. Patino drove the victims around for a couple of hours before he ordered the 13-year-old out of the car. The girl ran to her mother's workplace and was able to call police. Police were informed that Patino had assaulted Castro and that she had an emergency protective against him, and an AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist called the California Highway Patrol to report that he had spotted a vehicle that matched a description he heard on an AMBER Alert. He provided authorities with a location and police quickly apprehended the suspect. The mother and her infant were safely recovered.

April 20, 2003

San Bernardino

When Manuel Castillo refused to give his friends Valeri Delara and Jesse Munoz a ride to the local casino, they stole his vehicle with his 13-month-old son Edward inside. The abduction was reported and an AMBER Alert was issued. A local law enforcement agent heard the alert, spotted the vehicle in a hotel parking lot, and found the suspects and child inside. The suspects were apprehended and the child was recovered unharmed.

March 24, 2003

Standish

14-year-old Lindsey Ryan left her home in Michigan with convicted murderer Terry Drake, 56. The two had met at a church they both attended and conversed via online instant messaging. An AMBER Alert was issued in Michigan, and then in Indiana and California after the two were sighted numerous times crossing the country. 23 days after Lindsey was taken, a Frito-Lays truck driver spotted the suspected truck at a gas station in Standish, California. Once he noticed the rough the paint job, the girl's dyed hair, and remembered the information from the AMBER Alert, he notified authorities. Police arrested Drake and safely reunited Lindsey with her family.

March 11, 2003

Los Angeles

A Los Angeles tow truck driver took in a stranded motorist and 12-year-old Mariela Garcia with him after he noticed the two inside a stalled car. He told them they could stay with him until the car was fixed. The next night he saw an AMBER Alert and called police after he recognized the description of the car. The girl was reported missing after she failed to show up for school. The girl was rescued and the suspect apprehended.

January 31, 2003

Los Angeles

A 5-year-old boy was safely reunited with his mother after his father kidnapped him at gunpoint. Randell Nelson, Jr. was violently taken from a house by his father one morning after shooting the boy's uncle. Police were notified and an AMBER Alert was immediately issued. An acquaintance of the suspect saw the AMBER Alert on her television and persuaded the suspect to release the child. The child was dropped off at the nearest police station and safely returned to his mother.

November 12, 2002

Manteca

7-year-old Ryan Schmitt was found unharmed when John Brocksmith, 44, who kidnapped him overnight, heard his name broadcast on the statewide AMBER Alert system and promptly turned himself in. Brocksmith came to the family's apartment and asked if he could take Ryan to dinner at McDonald's. He promised them he would return the boy by 9 p.m. When they failed to return, Ryan's family called the police. A quick investigation showed that Brocksmith had lied about his home address, the address of the McDonald's, and the claim that he would be taking his girlfriend's son as well. And after it was learned that Brocksmith has had prior arrests for drug offences, an AMBER Alert was issued. Brocksmith heard the broadcast about him on the radio, pulled over into a storage facility, and asked that the manager call authorities because he was the subject of an AMBER Alert. Police arrested Brocksmith and Ryan and safely returned to his family.

October 27, 2002

El Monte

Thanks to a statewide AMBER Alert, 4-year-old Rose Clarisse Wauczinski was safely returned home after being taken by family friend Christina Saldivar, 26. Saldivar borrowed a car belonging to the girl's father, saying she was taking Rose to the store. When Saldivar did not return home with Rose, her family grew suspicious and notified authorities. With no sign of Saldivar or Rose, police issued an AMBER Alert. Fifteen minutes later, a sheriff's deputy spotted the car and found Saldivar with Rose inside a trailer on that street. Saldivar was booked on suspicion of child endangerment and Rose was returned to her family unharmed.

August 31, 2002

Bakersfield

Nine-year-old Cierra Rose Walden was abducted by her non-custodial mother, Pamela Kay Walden, during a supervised visit. The mother and daughter had been separated since February, when Walden was arrested for psychological evaluation. Authorities decided to issue an AMBER Alert after they learned of Walden's mental status. Two off-duty prison guards spotted the mother and child at a rest area. They officers were on their way to a boating trip when they recognized the Hyundai described in the AMBER Alert. The officers used their vehicles to block the car in and prevent them from leaving. A few minutes later, California Highway Patrol officer arrived on the scene to take custody of the mother and daughter. Both were unharmed.

August 28, 2002

Palm Dessert

Two gunmen abducted 9-year-old Nicholas Farber from his father's home in the middle of the night. Authorities suspected the boy's non-custodial mother, Debra Rose, based on her history of run-ins with the law and after she refused to come forward with information. Police activated the California Child Safety AMBER Network describing her motor home. After a tip from a citizen in San Diego, authorities approached the recreational vehicle and, after ordering Rose and her male companion out, found Nicholas safe inside.

August 20, 2002

Riverside

Ten-year-old Nichole Timmons was reported missing by her mother early one morning. After police went door-to-door attempting to retrieve information regarding her disappearance, they came to the conclusion that a former babysitter of hers, Glen Park, had taken her and was capable of harming her. Officials immediately issued an AMBER Alert. Shortly thereafter, the California Highway Patrol requested that the Nevada Highway Patrol activate their Emergency Alert System as well in case the suspect might have taken Nichole across state lines. That afternoon, a motorist in Hawthorne, Nevada, saw the suspected vehicle, recognized it from the alert and notified authorities. Park was apprehended and Nichole was safely reunited with her mother.

August 11, 2002

Los Angeles

After 4-year-old Jessica Cortez was reported missing from a local park, authorities began searching the lake under the assumption that she had drowned. Shortly after, witnesses came forward claiming they had seen Jessica leaving the park with an adult other than her parents. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. Within hours authorities received a call from a local hospital claiming that a woman had brought Jessica in to be seen by a doctor. The hospital staff had recognized Jessica from the Alerts. Law enforcement agents were quickly at the scene, the suspect was taken into custody and Jessica was reunited with parents.

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 and the 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.

Colorado (5)

September 14, 2004

Littleton, Colorado

Four-month-old Ashlie Caldwell was left with her babysitter, who failed to return the child to her mother. Because of the suspect's serious criminal history, an AMBER Alert was issued. The suspect left the child with a friend, who saw the AMBER Alert on television. When the friend realized the subject of the AMBER Alert was the child left with her, she immediately notified authorities. The child was safely reunited with her mother.

September 28, 2003
Lafayette, CO

After authorities learned that Jacaub Dentler had beaten his former girlfriend and abducted their 14-month-old son, Jayton Dentler, an AMBER Alert was issued. When Dentler 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.

July 14, 2003
Colorado Springs, CO

Elizabeth Ruiz, 18, and her 8-month-old son Jonathan Marquez-Ruiz, left her house with the child's father, Jose Angel Marquez, and made a frantic phone call to her sister an hour later pleading for help. The call was disconnected and Ruiz's sister notified authorities. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued for the child broadcasting information about the father's vehicle. A motorist called police that evening and the three were located. The mother and child were safely recovered.

June 3, 2003
Denver, CO

Maria Soria-Hernandez met a woman who called herself "Rosa" shortly after she gave birth to her son Mauro Ramirez-Soria. The woman explained that she was a church employee and helped young mothers with baby supplies and support. Two weeks later, Soria-Hernandez took Mauro and went with "Rosa" to get the help she had offered. They walked to a park, where Soria-Hernandez put Mauro into a "Rosa's" minivan and went into a nearby store to buy sodas. When she returned, Rosa, the van and Mauro were gone. Soria-Hernandez notified authorities and a statewide AMBER Alert was issued. Authorities received more than 500 tips on the kidnapping. One of those tips – from the suspect's daughter – led police to the suspect's home where Mauro was safely recovered. The girl said her mom brought the boy over earlier in the day and asked her to baby-sit. She recognized the child from the AMBER Alert.

September 2002
Adams County

14-year-old Yesenia Burciaga-Rascon was found safe after the Colorado Bureau of Investigation issued an AMBER Alert for her early one morning. Yesenja had not been seen since after school and was reported abducted by her family after they received a discouraging phone call from her late that night. The family said they could hear her cousin Cesar Carmell-Mirada, who had recently been asked to leave the family's home, in the background threatening their daughter. Because the girl was in danger, the AMBER Plan was activated. About three hours later, the girl was found safe when the 29-year-old suspect turned himself in after hearing the AMBER Alert.

Florida (17)

September 22, 2004
Wakulla County, Florida

A 12-year-old child was lured from her home by a registered sex offender. An Amber Alert was activated in Florida. Georgia's Levi's Call was activated when it was determined they may be in Georgia. A tip was received by the FBI indicating that the child and suspect seen on television may be in a local hotel in Douglas County, GA. Subsequently, the child and suspect were located in the area of the hotel. The suspect was arrested and the child was returned to her family.

September 3, 2004

Columbia County, Florida

A 13-year-old child was abducted from her home in the early morning hours by a non-family member. An AMBER Alert was requested by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction. After seeing the AMBER Alert on television, the subject left the child with a relative. The relative turned the child over to law enforcement.

July 12, 2004

Lakeland, Florida

A 17-year-old female was lured away from a mall by 4 unknown males, while shopping with her mother. An AMBER Alert was requested by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction after viewing the mall security tapes showing the child had been led outside the department store. The AMBER Alert coverage produced an anonymous call stating that the victim had been dropped off in another county at a local store. The offenders released the victim upon hearing the AMBER Alert.

June 21, 2004

Hollywood, Florida

A 5-year-old child was abducted from her mother's home by an unknown armed male, who had impersonated himself as a law enforcement official. An AMBER Alert was requested by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction. Because of the extensive radio and television coverage, the abductor was pressured into releasing the child, who was then reunited with her mother.

March 22, 2004

Bradenton, Florida

18-month-old Deshaun Milner was abducted by a man demanding money from the child's family and an AMBER Alert was quickly issued. Within a few hours, a motorist who had heard the Alert on the radio and seen it posted on highway signs recognized the vehicle and immediately notified authorities. Police were quickly at the scene, and the suspects were apprehended. Deshaun was safely returned to his family.

November 7, 2003

Pompano Beach, FL

4-year-old Medjie Jean-Francois was abducted by her non-custodial father after he murdered her mother and tied up her 12-year-old sister. The man dropped off the child at a pastor's house and took off. The pastor saw the AMBER Alert on TV and notified authorities. The child was safely recovered.

November 2, 2003

Cape Coral, Florida

6-year-old Catherine Barnes and her mother were visiting from Georgia when Frank Smiley, a family friend, took Catherine with him on a cigarette run. When the two did not return after a while, Catherine's mother became worried and notified authorities. After the child did not turn up during a neighborhood search, an AMBER Alert was issued. Shortly before dawn the next morning, a truck driver listening to his radio heard the AMBER Alert and recognized the car at a convenience store. Catherine was safely recovered and reunited with her mother.

July 7, 2003

Lake City, FL

Katelyn Nicole Greer, 10, had been reported missing along with her mother, 42-year-old Melissa Jean Greer, by family members concerned for their safety. Family members told officials that Mrs. Greer has a history of mental illness, needed medication, and could become irrational without it. When Mrs. Greer's physician told authorities that Mrs. Greer had not been taking her medication, and could become a danger to herself and others, an AMBER Alert was issued. Two days later authorities received a call from a

motel housekeeper who had recognized the Greers and their vehicle from televised news broadcasts of the AMBER Alert as guests at the motel. Mrs. Greer was located and Katelyn was reunited with her family.

June 30, 2003

Miramar, FL

Jose and Nora Montano drove their car through the home of Nora's mother, who had legal custody of their two children, Lorena, 3, and Moises, 2, around 2:30 a.m. The parents assaulted the family and fled with the children. Because of the violent abduction and Nora's history of mental illness, and AMBER Alert was issued. Tips were called into police throughout the day reporting sightings of the suspects' vehicle. Authorities were also tracking the suspects' credit card. That evening, a hotel guest watching TV in the lobby overheard Montano's name as they were checking in, recognized it from a news crawl on the screen, and reported it to hotel employees. The suspects were apprehended and the children safely returned to their grandmother.

May 6, 2003

Jacksonville, FL

A 5-year-old child was abducted by his mother's boyfriend following a violent argument. The suspect left the child with family members in another county. A phone call was made to the Sheriff's Office informing them on the whereabouts of the child after hearing the AMBER alert.

October 2002

West Palm Beach

A 10-year old female was reported missing after she failed to return home from school. After assessing the situation, authorities decided to issue an AMBER Alert. She was found safe the next morning by workers at an animal rescue center and used furniture store. She had spent the night on a couch outside the store. The employees recognized her from the AMBER Alert and notified authorities. The child was returned unharmed to her parents. It turned out that she did not want to return home fearing that she would be in trouble because of her poor report card.

August 2002

Kissimmee

A child's grandmother noticed the back door to her home was open and could not find the child. When she was unable to locate them by herself, she notified police. The Amber Alert was activated. A friend of the family heard the alert and contacted the child's father. The father contacted the grandmother, letting her know the child was with him and in perfect health.

July 2002

Lake Worth

Thanks to Florida's statewide AMBER Plan, the Florida Emergency Missing Child Alert, a 10-year-old girl was safely reunited with her parents. The Massachusetts family was vacationing in Florida and had spent the day at Lake Worth beach. Without her parents noticing, a local man enticed the young girl to return to his apartment with him. After realizing their daughter was missing, the parents called local authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. The man saw the alerts on television and immediately let the girl go. She walked to the nearest gas station where the attendant dialed 911. The girl was returned to her parents, and the abductor was arrested later that night.

July 2002

Opa Locka

A 4-month old child was taken from her mother's arms at gunpoint by her ex-boyfriend. The Amber Alert aided in involving media quickly that provided a substantial lead to investigators. The child was being passed between friends of the abductor while the abductor fled. The child was recovered safely.

February 2002

Lake County

A father forcibly abducted his two children from Lake County (attempting to get back at the mother) and threatened to do harm to the children. He was tracked by cell phone usage to Okaloosa County the next day. A tone alert was issued for the Okaloosa area, and it is believed that alert forced the father to go back to Lake County, where he was arrested. Leads came in from the alert that the father and children were seen at a car wash painting the stolen red truck to black.

December 2000

Melbourne

A 9-year-old female disappeared from a facility. She was new to the area. After a 2-hour search by law enforcement, an AMBER alert was requested. Approximately 30 minutes after Alert, a motorist listening to his radio sighted the missing child walking down the street and notified a police officer on a traffic detail.

Georgia (7)

August 13, 2004

Cumming, GA

Three-year-old Jack Gooding was left with a babysitter for the day. The child's father and babysitter arranged a meeting point to return the child. When the babysitter did not arrive, the child's father contacted authorities. Based on investigation, law enforcement believed the child could be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist recognized the vehicle from the AMBER Alert and contacted authorities. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely reunited with his family.

April 4, 2004

Marietta, Georgia

A 15-month-old boy was allegedly abducted by his father after the man beat his wife several times before forcing her out of the car in which they were driving. The mother told police that her husband had considered suicide and might harm the child. An AMBER Alert was quickly issued. The father heard the Alert and contacted authorities. Police were able to negotiate his surrender and the child was safely reunited with his mother.

January 8, 2004

Calhoun, Georgia

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

May 30, 2003

Covington, GA

Bonnie Allen contacted her local authorities after her boyfriend, Steven Thomas Mares, failed to return home with her 16-month-old son after picking him up from a day care center. When authorities learned that Mares had a history of drug abuse, they issued a Levi's Call – Georgia's AMBER Alert system. A man who heard the alert on the radio relayed the information to his wife before she left home. When the woman drove out of her neighborhood, she spotted the vehicle and called police. Police were immediately at the scene and the suspect was apprehended. The child was safely returned to his mother.

May 4, 2003
Forest Park, GA

Matilda Tames left her 6-year-old son Elias with her 13-year-old daughter Alyssa Gutierrez while she went to out to dinner. When she returned home that night, the children were missing, along with her car. Tames notified the police and they send out a statewide alert on the Levi's Call notification system – Georgia's AMBER Alert. The police received a tip early the next morning from a driver who heard the alert and spotted the vehicle in a hotel parking lot. Police found the teen and the little boy was returned to his mother unharmed.

Illinois (8)

September 1, 2004
Normal, Illinois

A 1-year-old child was abducted from a Boy's and Girl's Club by her non-custodial parents. Because authorities believed the child was in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued. Several sightings of the vehicle were reported. One motorist who heard the Alert spotted the vehicle near a park and notified authorities. Police quickly arrived at the scene, apprehended the suspects, and safely recovered the child.

August 17, 2004
East Moline, Illinois

A 23-month-old child was abducted by his non-custodial father after the man and child's mother had an argument. Because of the man's history of violence and threats, an AMBER Alert was issued. The man left the child with his sister and fled. When the child's aunt saw the AMBER Alert, she immediately drove the child to the police station. The child was safely reunited with his mother.

January 3, 2004
Sandwich, Illinois

The mother of an 11-year-old girl sent a male friend to stay with her daughter. When the mother returned home, the child and the person were missing. This person was unknown to the child and authorities were concerned for her safety. Relatives of the friend saw the Alert on television and notified authorities of the girl's whereabouts. The child was safely recovered.

November 12, 2003
Peoria, Illinois

13-year-old Yesenia Jonett Olivares was abducted by her 35-year-old uncle in the early morning. After her parents reported the abduction, police believed the circumstances warranted an AMBER Alert. Indiana also issued an AMBER Alert when it was thought that the suspect might travel to Lafayette, IN. That afternoon Lafayette police began receiving calls from citizens reporting sightings of the vehicle described in the AMBER Alert. One cell phone caller notified police that a vehicle similar to the abductor's pickup was parked at a county courthouse. Authorities were quickly at the scene, arrested the suspect, and safely recovered the child.

October 11, 2003
Wheeling, Illinois

While a 4-year-old boy was visiting his father police were informed that the man might seriously harm the child and an AMBER Alert was issued. In a nearby town, police received a call from a woman concerned about her nephew, who had just come into her house with his 4-year-old boy and was acting very strange. Because authorities had heard the AMBER Alert, they made the connection and the child was safely recovered.

October 9, 2003

Chicago, Illinois

3-year-old Marilyn Ali was abducted by a young woman the child's mother had allowed to use her phone. When the girl's mother stepped away, the woman took the child intending to keep her. The child's mother reported the abduction to police and an AMBER Alert was immediately issued. A citizen spotted the child and abductor, recognized them from the AMBER Alert, and used her cell phone to call 911. Police converged on the scene, rescued the child, and took the abductor into custody. The child was safely returned to her mother.

October 1, 2003

Hanover Park, Illinois

A woman left her 3-year-old son, Lonnie Harger, in the care of the child's babysitter. When the babysitter and child did not come home that evening, authorities were notified. Because law enforcement believed that the two were missing under suspicious circumstances, an AMBER Alert was activated for the boy. The next morning, after hearing the AMBER Alert, a police officer spotted the car and stopped it. The child was safely returned to his mother.

August 15, 2003

Girard, Illinois

While at the local library playing with friends, a 14-year-old boy got into a car with a man telling friends he was leaving with his uncle. The boy's mother later checked with the child's uncle; he had not had contact with the boy. Police were notified and suspected the boy had gone with a man whom he'd had an on-going Internet relationship with. Concerned for the boy's safety, an AMBER Alert was issued. A call soon came in from a citizen who was following the suspected vehicle. Police apprehended the suspect and the child was safely recovered.

Indiana (2)

August 29, 2003

Demotte, Indiana

Taylor Evans, 2, was kidnapped by his non-custodial mother from his grandparents' house. Because of the mother's drug use, an AMBER Alert was issued. The woman heard the Alert on her radio and saw it on road signs. Fearing there was no escape, she called authorities to turn herself in. She was arrested and Taylor was returned to his custodial grandparents.

May 20, 2003

Lake Station, IN

15-year-old Jessica Ottomanelli and a girlfriend got into a man's car when he offered them money to help him find an address. He later forced Jessica's friend out of the car, but kept Jessica with him. An AMBER Alert was quickly issued. Early the next morning, a police officer pulled over a speeding car, also noticing that it fit the description in the AMBER Alert. The officer confirmed that the girl in the car was Jessica, and the suspect was arrested. Jessica was safely returned to her family.

Kansas (1)

September 15, 2003

Topeka, Kansas

Five-year-old Stormy Shirk was taken by her father after he murdered the child's mother. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. Because the suspect was believed to be heading northwest, Kansas authorities requested that Nebraska activate its AMBER Alert program. A truck driver in Nebraska heard the Alert, spotted the vehicle, and notified authorities. Just across the border in southeast Wyoming, police caught up with the vehicle and safely recovered the child.

Kentucky (7)

October 18, 2004

Louisville, Kentucky

While attempted to serve an arrest warrant to a man for indecencies with a child, law enforcement entered the man's home to find his 5-year-old daughter dead. Fearing for the lives of the man's two other young daughters, an AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist traveling through Kentucky on her way to Michigan noticed the AMBER Alert message on several electronic highway signs. While in Ohio, she spotted the vehicle and dialed 9-1-1. Local authorities were quickly at the scene, and after a brief high-speed chase, the suspect was apprehended and the two girls were safely recovered.

April 2, 2004

Stanford, KY

One-day-old Grayci Barrows was allegedly abducted from a hospital by a nurse's aide. An AMBER Alert was quickly issued. The suspected abductor turned herself in to authorities after learning about Alert; however, the infant was not in the suspect's custody. A few hours later, a citizen who had seen and heard the AMBER Alert came across an abandoned infant while walking her dog. She immediately thought this was the infant being sought and notified authorities. The child was safely reunited with her family.

March 12, 2004

Richmond, Kentucky

Seven-year-old Deandre Terrel Campbell was abducted by his mentally unstable mother at knifepoint. Because the child was believed to be in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued. Less than an hour later, a local motel clerk contacted authorities to report that the woman and her son had just checked in. He had recognized their faces and names from the AMBER Alert. The child was recovered safely.

August 25, 2003

Louisville, Kentucky

Rashea Wilson, 7, and Lolanda Wilson, 6 months, were abducted at knifepoint by their non-custodial mother, Rashan Wilson, 26, during a scheduled visit. After an AMBER Alert was issued, sightings of the mother and children began to pour into the police department. One citizen reported that the suspect and children were seen sitting in front of a local radio station. Police arrived at the scene and the suspect was apprehended. The children were safely returned to their custodial guardian.

July 31, 2003

Abducted from Shelbyville, Kentucky

Recovered in Louisville, Kentucky

16-year-old Shaurik Allen was abducted from a hotel room after a night of partying. The gun-toting suspects attempted to rob the young party guests, but the teens had no money. The suspects assaulted the young women and abducted the victim. The suspects brought the child to an apartment where they saw an AMBER Alert had been issued for the girl. Scared because their victim's picture was on television, the suspects released the girl. She ran to the nearest home and requesting to use the telephone. The homeowner, recognizing her from the AMBER Alert took her in and called authorities. The girl was safely reunited with her family.

Massachusetts (6)

August 9, 2004

Malden, Massachusetts

Michael Rauda, 19 days old, was snatched from his mother's arms by his non-custodial father as she was walked to court to file a restraining order against him. Because of the nature of the abduction and the suspect was believed to be armed, an AMBER Alert was immediately issued. A few hours later, two separate citizens spotted the suspect's vehicle outside a restaurant. Police were quickly at the scene and apprehended the suspect. The infant was safely reunited with his mother.

July 30, 2004

15-year-old Victoria Beatris Massina and 17-year-old Esther Jean-Baptiste was abducted from a residence by a man with a violent history. The suspect contacted the one of the children's family members and demanded a ransom. Minutes after an AMBER Alert was issued, a motorist spotted the vehicle and notified authorities. Police were immediately at the scene, and, following a brief chase, the children were safely recovered. The suspect fled on foot but was captured shortly thereafter.

August 7, 2003

Dudley, MA

Christopher Mannila had an argument with his estranged wife Tracy when she came to his house to pick up their three children -- ages 9, 7, and 5 -- for a visit. He notified authorities when she failed to return their children as scheduled that evening. After Tracy called Christopher later that night threatening to harm herself and the children, an AMBER Alert was issued. Just over an hour later, a friend of Tracy heard the Alert. She knew where Tracy and children were hiding, and convinced the Tracy to turn the children over to her. The friend then met with authorities, and the children were safely returned to their father.

Maryland (1)

April 19, 2003

Calvert County, MD

6-year-old Asia Louis Hampton left with her mother's boyfriend, Jeremiah Leonard, to feed dogs he kept in the next county. When Leonard failed to return after two days, the girl's mother, Toni Lee Hapton, notified police, who issued an AMBER Alert. A few hours later, Leonard heard the alerts and drove the girl home, where police arrested and charged him with the abduction of a child under age 12. The girl was returned to her mother unharmed.

Michigan (5)

May 3, 2003

Madison Heights, MI

3-year-old Jenna Hart and her grandmother were shopping in a toy store when a stranger approached them. He explained that he was working in the parking lot, noticed the tire on their car was flat, and offered to help. Jenna's grandmother allowed the polite man to change her tire. When the man was finished, Jenna was put in her car seat. The man offered to make sure everything was fine and started the car. Then, he drove away with Jenna in it. Police were immediately notified and the Michigan State Police activated the AMBER Alert system. Television and radio stations began broadcasting bulletins about the abduction. Electronic signs on the highway also posted the information. After the alert went out, an anonymous 9-1-1 caller reported seeing the vehicle described in the AMBER Alert. The car was found and Jenna was still in the back seat. She was safely returned to her family.

April 2003

Detroit

Tara Truitt was at a gas station when her car was stolen with her 4-month-old daughter, Rahkieah, inside. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. Yeager Shekerdemian was on his way home from work when he noticed a car stranded on the side of the road similar to the vehicle described in the alert. Shekerdemian drove the man and the child back to the plant where he works and told him he would go inside to get the man some gas. He returned with several other employees who helped to hold the suspect until police arrived. The suspect was taken into custody and Rahkieah was safely returned to her mother.

March 2003

Allegan County

James Richard Warner, Jr. convinced the mother of his two teen-aged children to allow them to accompany him to dinner, even though he had no provision for custody. His son, 13-year-old Anthony, called home that night to request permission for he and his 15-year-old sister Tabitha to spend the night with their father and promised to return the next morning. When they did not, authorities were notified and an AMBER Alert was issued. The children said they were driving in the car with their father when he heard the Alert on the radio. After that, he dropped the children off at a store. They called police and were safely reunited with their mother.

December 2002

Battle Creek, MI

Two-year-old Tahveayr Boykins was dropped off at his grandmother's home to spend the night. The next day, she called the child's home to say she was on her way. When she didn't arrive at the child's home after a while, the police were notified. When the child's family told the officers about the woman's addiction to crack-cocaine, they decided to issue an AMBER Alert. Soon after, the grandmother returned Tahveayr to his mother after hearing the Alert.

Missouri (10)

February 11, 2004

Cole Camp, Missouri

One-month-old Jesse Peaster was abducted from his home by a woman who had posed as a nurse while the infant and his mother were in the hospital. The infant's 4-year-old older brother was witness to the

abduction while their mother was out of the room. After police received a description of the suspect from the child, an AMBER Alert was issued. An acquaintance of the suspect heard the Alert and became suspicious when the suspect came home that day with an infant she claimed was hers. She notified authorities, who were quickly at the scene to identify the infant. The suspect was apprehended and Jesse was safely returned to his family.

July 18, 2003

Dixon, MO

Kassy Hadley, 26, and her children went to Alabama to seek refuge from the father of her children Edgil Eugene Kimbler, 53. On July 14, 2003, Kimbler located the woman and children at a relatives home in Missouri, fired a gun into her vehicle, and abducted the three children – Madison, 5; Mackenzie, 3; and Corbin, 1. A statewide AMBER Alert was issued in Missouri and Illinois. The states of Ohio and Alabama were also advised to be on the lookout for the suspect. Because of the AMBER Alert, the case received a large quantity of media coverage, and on July 18 in Gardendale, Alabama, the suspect turned himself in. The three children were safely recovered and returned to their mother.

April 2003

Joplin

The mother of three children – 2, 1, and 2 months – called police to report that her boyfriend was attempting to break into her home. By the time officials arrived at the scene, the man had forced her and her children into a car, but the mother managed to escape. Authorities issued an AMBER Alert, and a citizen called in to report a sighting of the vehicle. The children were recovered safely in the abandoned car, and the suspect was found nearby after committing suicide.

January 2003

St. Joseph

Her parents last saw 10-year-old Sara Verduzco when they tucked her in the bed the night before they found her missing from her bedroom. Upon realizing that she had taken nothing with her except for her purple coat, an AMBER Alert was issued. A description of her and her coat went out over airwaves across the entire region. Soon after, a woman called authorities to report that a girl matching Sara's description wearing a purple was sitting by her pond. Police arrived at the scene immediately and returned Sara to her parents unharmed. Sara had left her bedroom willing in an effort to become a missionary in California.

November 2002

Columbia

10-year-old Cheyenne Blackston was discovered missing from school by teachers when she didn't show up after a scheduled classroom change. Teachers searched the grounds for about 20 minutes before calling police. When the police learned that the child had Down syndrome, Operation Lookout – a program similar to the AMBER Plan – was immediately activated. The alerts went out to media outlets as well as city workers over their two-way radio system. A city employee, who had joined the search after hearing the alert, discovered the girl unharmed about a quarter-mile from the school.

March 2000

Kansas City

Chris Schlegel left his Jeep running with his 6-year-old son Colin inside while he ducked into a convenience store to buy gum. While Schlegel was inside, a man jumped into his car and sped off. As Schlegel began to run after the car, the store clerk quickly dialed 911. An officer arrived within two minutes, and police quickly determined it was a case warranting use of an AMBER Alert. Five blocks away, Brent and Bobbi Adams had just arrived home from a grocery store when they heard the alert on radio and television. They thought the vehicle parked on their block might be the one police were seeking.

They went back to check, saw the crying child in the back seat, got him out and comforted him until police arrived.

Minnesota (3)

August 15, 2003
Minneapolis, MN

The mother of 7-year-old Leroy Miles reported him abducted after she awoke in the morning to find him and her house guest, along with her car, missing. Because of the suspect's criminal history, an AMBER Alert was issued. Minutes later, a motorist heard the Alert and spotted the car. The suspect was taken into custody and the child was safely returned to his mother.

May 7, 2003
St. Cloud, MN

11-year-old Cindy Bruno was reported missing by her mother when she awoke to find her gone, along with 21-year-old Jose Jimenez Andrade, a man who had been staying with the family in search of work. Because of her age and the time and nature of her disappearance, Cindy was believed to be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. When authorities learned that Andrade 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, Minn., 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 Cindy was safely returned to her family.

March 2003
International Falls

The mother of a 2-year-old boy reported her son abducted when she awoke and could not find him. After police investigated and weighed criteria, an AMBER Alert was issued. The individual who had taken the boy heard the alert and quickly brought the child to the International Falls police department. The suspect was a friend of the mothers who had stopped over and found the mother passed out from intoxication.

Nebraska (3)

January 30, 2004
Bellevue, Nebraska

17-year-old Kristen Benavides was abducted at knifepoint by her ex-boyfriend. When the child's little brother attempted to protect her, the abductor threatened their lives. The incident was reported and an AMBER Alert was issued. A citizen recognized the vehicle from the AMBER Alert and reported its location to authorities. Police were quickly at the scene. After a high speed pursuit, the suspected was apprehended and the child safely reunited with her family.

April 19, 2003
Scottsbluff, NE

8-year-old Kyrsten Ciara Buckman accompanied her neighbor Henry "Rick" Delagdo, 38, on an afternoon trip to run errands. When they did not return later that night, Kyrsten's mother contacted authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued early the next morning. An Airlink helicopter was in the air at the time, heard the alert, and quickly began to search for the child. The vehicle was spotted and police were quickly at the scene. The suspect was arrested and the children was safely returned to her family.

December 2002

Omaha, NE

At a gas station in Council Bluffs, Iowa, just across the state border from Omaha, Nebraska, 40-year-old Kimberly Lewis left her 9-month-old granddaughter, Brodgunique Dunn, in the vehicle while she ran inside to pay for her gas. After being inside for only minutes, she went outside to find her car and granddaughter gone. Local authorities immediately notified the Nebraska State Police, who quickly determined the abduction met the necessary criteria to issue an AMBER Alert. The alert was broadcast over hundreds of Nebraska radio and television stations, and the signal also carried across state lines into Iowa. Within minutes of the alert being activated, calls streamed into the tip line. One anonymous phone call to police told officers where in east-central Omaha they could find the child and abandoned vehicle. Officers were quickly on the scene, where they found the child unharmed in the back seat of her grandmother's vehicle. Brodgunique was safely returned to her family.

Nevada (1)

March 17, 2004

Taken from Walla Walla County, Washington

Recovered in Fallon, Nevada

2-year-old Crystal Cuanas was taken by her father in violation of a protective court order. As the father was fleeing with the child, they were involved in a car accident and the child was seen being thrown from the vehicle's seat. Fearing for the child's safety, authorities issued an AMBER Alert. After authorities traced a call that the father made that day, they requested that Nevada activate its AMBER Alert system. A Nevada woman who had heard the Alert on the radio spotted the vehicle and notified authorities. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

New Jersey (2)

August 22, 2003

Lakewood, NJ

4-year-old Eric David Hernandez was reported missing after his babysitter and her husband failed to return him home. The pair was supposedly going to visit a friend who had given birth, but when authorities later learned there was no record of the friend at any area hospital, an AMBER Alert was issued. A driver soon called authorities to report a sighting of the vehicle described in the Alert. The suspects were quickly apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

March 2003

Saddle Brook

Angel Rivera, 26, abducted his 2-year-old daughter Angela from a hotel in Saddle Brook, New Jersey. As he attempted to speed off with his daughter, he drove into a snow bank and disabled his car. When a concerned citizen pulled over to help, Rivera carjacked him at gun point and began driving toward New York. Angela's mother reported the abduction to authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued for New Jersey and surrounding states. Rivera was caught 26 hours later at the residence of a friend, and Angela was safely reunited with her mother. It was later discovered that Rivera had seen the AMBER Alert on the highway signs driving into New York, at which point he decided to turn around and stay in New Jersey, making it much easier to track him down.

New York (3)

September 18, 2004

Westchester, New York

A man murdered his estranged wife and wounded his sister-in-law before fleeing with his three children, ages 11, 9, and 7. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. The next day the man dropped the children off with a relative. While the vehicle was in front of the relative's house, a neighbor recognized it from the AMBER Alert. The neighbor immediately notified authorities. Police were quickly at the scene and safely recovered the three children.

North Carolina (1)

June 2002

Wake County

An 18-month-old girl reported missing by her parents was found safe thanks to the North Carolina Child Alert Network (NC CAN). Hours after Jade Creech was reported missing and her picture distributed across the Child Alert Network onto television screens, the suspect, 35-year-old Teresa Odell, the child's babysitter, called authorities to turn herself and the child in. A friend of Odell's had seen the alerts and convinced her to return the child.

Ohio (11)

October 15, 2004 (

Columbus, Ohio

A 10-month-old child was taken at gunpoint by this mother's ex-boyfriend following an argument over money. Because the man threatened the child's life, an AMBER Alert was quickly issued. The suspect left the child with an acquaintance, who saw the Alert immediately turned the child over to authorities. The child was safely recovered.

July 26, 2004

Columbus, Ohio

Four children, ages 10, 6, 4, and 2, were taken from Miamisburg, Ohio, by their step-grandfather. 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 when it was discovered that the suspect was a convicted child molester and could possibly harm the children. A motorist saw a sign posting the AMBER Alert information and noticed that the vehicle in front of him was the car being sought by police. The driver called 911 and the police soon caught up with the vehicle. The suspect was apprehended and the children were safely recovered.

July 14, 2004

Cleveland, Ohio

Five-month-old Shania McDade was under the care of her babysitter, but was not returned home at the prearranged time. Law enforcement had reason to believe the child might be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. A citizen who knew the suspect saw the Alert and alerted authorities to the suspect's true identity. The information provided by the tipster led to the location of the suspect and child. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely reunited with her family.

January 7, 2004
Trotwood, Ohio

14-year old Clara Saunders was abducted by her non-custodial father after he was mistakenly released from prison. Because the child was believed to be in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued. A local motel clerk saw the Alert and reported that the suspect and child attempted to rent a room. Police quickly patrolled the area and located the suspected vehicle. The child was safely recovered.

November 17, 2003
Dayton, Ohio

Stephen M. Ashely took his 4-year-old son and the 5-year-old son of a friend out for haircuts. When they did not return home before Midnight and calls to the suspect's mobile phone were repeatedly unanswered, the 5-year-old's mother notified authorities. After it was learned that the children might be in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued. A school bus driver spotted the vehicle in question the next morning and notified police. The suspect was apprehended and the children were safely recovered.

March 2003
Lakewood

David Brownlee's girlfriend, Mary Ellen Gillespie, allowed him to take their daughter, 3-year-old Hayley for the weekend. At 4 a.m. the next morning, he broke into his girlfriend's home, beat her, and told her that she would never see her daughter again unless she went with him. After several stops in the Cleveland area, Gillespie still had not seen her daughter, so she escaped from his car and notified authorities. Gillespie told police that Brownlee had a loaded gun and was violent, so an AMBER Alert was issued. A relative of Brownlee's, who was with him and the girl, noticed the AMBER Alert on television and convinced him to turn himself in. Hayley was safely returned to her mother.

October 2002
Maple Heights

Northeast Ohio's first AMBER Alert was successful in helping authorities find 5-year-old Imari Brooks who had been taken from her house. James Bennett, 21, and another man had abducted the child's aunt after they heard that she and her sister had come into money. She managed to escape; however, Bennett then used the aunt's keys to get into the house and take Imari from her bedroom. Authorities were notified and an AMBER Alert was issued. Within an hour after the AMBER Plan was activated, the police department was inundated with phone calls. Through those calls, authorities were able to confirm that the suspect was observed in a taxi. After many calls and with help from the taxi company, authorities were able to find Bennett with the girl. Bennett was taken into custody and Imari was returned to her family unharmed.

Oklahoma (4)

August 27, 2004
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

A woman left her 4-month-old boy in the back seat of her running vehicle while she ran inside a school to pick up her other child. When she returned minutes later her vehicle was gone. She reported the incident to authorities and the AMBER Alert was immediately activated. A citizen spotted the vehicle after hearing the Alert and called 911. Police quickly caught up with the vehicle and a short chase ensued. The suspect then attempted to escape on foot, but was quickly apprehended. The suspect led authorities to where he had left the infant, still in his car seat. The child was safely returned to his mother.

December 21, 2003

Broken Bow, Oklahoma

A person left a vehicle running in the driveway with a 6-month-old child inside. When the car was stolen with the infant still inside, police were immediately notified and an AMBER Alert was issued. Later, a local citizen was talking to a relative on the phone and mentioned to her that a strange vehicle was parked next door and was running. The relative had heard the alert and asked what the car looked like. The car matched the description so the citizen called the police. The child was safely recovered.

September 2000

Tulsa

Six-month-old Demetri Collette and his 19-month-old sister Monique were recovered unharmed after an AMBER Alert caught the attention of a concerned motorist. Twelve hours earlier the family's bright pink Geo Tracker was carjacked from a gas station with the children in the back seat. While their mother ran into the station's store, 19-year-old Bonnie Grubs and her friend Joe Phelps took off with the car and children. Law enforcement quickly activated the AMBER Plan and alert bulletins flooded the airwaves. The children were recovered the next day when an attentive motorist, who had heard the alerts, recognized the family's abandoned car on a dirt road about 75 miles northeast of Tulsa. Demetri and Monique were happily reunited with their mother. Grubbs and Phelps were later arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Oregon (4)

October 14, 2004

Sweet Home, Oregon

11-year-old Taylor Kahn was taken by his mother's boyfriend. Because the man was known to be armed, an AMBER Alert was issued. That afternoon a young boy out hunting with friends noticed a man and boy about his age in the area, sitting in a truck. When the boy returned home he heard the AMBER Alert and immediately recognized the people he had seen as the subjects in the Alert. He notified authorities and directed them to their location. The child was safely reunited with his mother.

December 1, 2003

Grants Pass, Oregon

A man loaded his 2-year-old daughter into their car then went back into the house. When he came out the truck and his daughter were gone. The man contacted authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. An hour later, a woman spotted the truck and used her mobile phone to dial 911. Police were quickly at the scene and the child was safely recovered.

April 2003

Salem

As Lisa Turner, 22, was putting her 10-month-old son Ryder into his car seat, a man pushed her to the ground, jumped into the car, and drove away. Authorities were immediately notified and an AMBER Alert was issued. About two hours later a citizen called 9-1-1 to report seeing the vehicle. After a high-speed car chase, the suspect was apprehended and Ryder was safely reunited with his parents.

March 2003

Redmond

10-year-old Jessica Preciado was on her way to California with her family and 52-year-old Patricia Cortez, a family friend. Jessica was riding in Cortez's car when it drifted out of her parents' sight and could no longer be found. They were sure Cortez intentionally took off with Jessica. Authorities were notified and statewide an AMBER Alert was issued. A law enforcement agent who heard the alert spotted

the truck described, pulled it over and retrieved the missing child. Jessica was safely returned to her parents.

Pennsylvania (9)

August 8, 2004

Chester County, Pennsylvania

On 8/8/04 the father of a 4-year-old boy arrived at the child's house and abducted the child while he was in the custody of a babysitter. The offender had a Protection from Abuse Order filed against him for assaulting the child and the child's mother. Additionally, it was believed that the offender would attempt to flee the county with the child. An Amber Alert was issued and almost immediately 911 centers began receiving tips from motorists who had spotted the vehicle of the offender. The child was subsequently recovered unharmed and the offender was taken into custody without incident.

June 24, 2004

West Deer, Pennsylvania

A man abducted his 10-year-old daughter after he allegedly murdered his estranged wife. An AMBER Alert was quickly issued. A motorist on the highway recognized the vehicle in front of him after hearing the AMBER Alert on the radio. He immediately called the police. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

October 16, 2003

Donora Borough, Pennsylvania

While at a gas station, a woman left her 7-month-old child in the car and went inside to pay. She notified authorities when a male stole the vehicle with the child inside. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. The mother then told police that it was the child's father that took the child and vehicle. The AMBER Alert resulted in several tips that led to the location of the child and father. The child was safely recovered.

August 19, 2003

Tamaqua, Pennsylvania

David Valentine, 39, abducted his four young children after threatening to harm them and assaulting his wife. Police quickly issued an AMBER Alert. When the Alert went out police got calls from all over the county reporting sighting of the suspect and children. The father himself called 9-1-1 after seeing the Alert on television. He was arrested a short time after and the four children were safely recovered.

July 26, 2003

Ridley Park, PA

When a husband and wife were having domestic problems, they decided to separate. The wife obtained a Protection from Abuse Order (PFA) against the husband. Upon learning of the PFA, the husband abducted the 5-year-old boy and told his wife he is going to kill the child and himself. The husband had in his possession a handgun and several rifles at the time he fled with the child in his vehicle. A request for an Amber Alert was received by the Pennsylvania State Police and activated based upon the exigent circumstances. Within minutes of the broadcast, the husband called Ridley Park Police Department and turned himself in. Recovery directly related to the Alert!!

April 19, 2003

Pocono Mountain, PA

Robert Lee Hixon entered his sister's home one evening, shot and killed her and her husband, and abducted his 13-year-old niece Hadley Bilger. Hadley's 5-year-old sister managed to escape the violent incident and ran next door for help. The authorities were notified and an AMBER Alert was immediately issued. By mid-morning the following day, a motorist who had heard the Alert and spotted the vehicle

dialed 911 from his mobile phone, providing the location. A trooper nearby responded to call and watched Hixon release Hadley unharmed in a parking lot. Hixon then held off police for four hours threatening suicide before he surrendered.

Tennessee (3)

July 24, 2004

Knoxville, Tennessee

A woman left her 1-year-old daughter (Cheyenne Byrd) and her car with a friend while she went to work. When the woman returned to pick the child up at the agreed time, the babysitter, child and vehicle were nowhere to be found. An AMBER Alert was issued. A teen-age boy and his parents saw the Alert on television as they were leaving the house. The boy noticed the vehicle sitting in front of a local bar as they drove by. The authorities were notified and the suspect apprehended. The child was safely recovered.

March 15, 2004

Robertson County, Tennessee

Brittany Edwards, 14, and Damian Shutt, 9, were abducted from their mother's house by 18-year-old Chris Howard. Because the man has a history of mental disease and threatening suicide, an AMBER Alert was issued. A woman recognized the vehicle from the AMBER Alert and quickly notified authorities. The suspect was apprehended and the children were safely recovered.

Texas (25)

June 21, 2004

Houston, Texas

2-year-old Jasmine Battle was abducted by her mother's boyfriend after a violent domestic dispute in which the child's mother and sibling were shot. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. The suspect dropped the child off at a friend's house. The man's friend saw the AMBER Alert on television and immediately notified authorities. Jasmine was safely recovered.

February 14, 2004

McAllen, Texas

12-year-old Kayla Kime was reported missing from New Albany, Indiana, with suspect 25-year-old Elisio Nunez. Through investigation it was discovered that the two were headed to Mexico and that Kayla was probably being held against her will. When authorities believed the two to be in Texas, the Texas AMBER Alert system was activated. A citizen in Reynosa, Mexico, heard the alert, spotted the two walking down the street, and contacted police. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

August 16, 2003

El Paso, Texas

16-year-old Lorena Palma was reported missing after she failed to meet her parents at a local mall as scheduled. Because the girl was speech and hearing impaired, a local AMBER Alert was issued. Three days later a young woman walked into a convenience store signaling for what looked like help to the clerk. The employee recognized the girl from the AMBER Alert and wrote her name on a piece of paper for her to see. She nodded her head to acknowledge that she was the girl from the Alerts and the clerk called authorities. The child was safely reunited with her family.

August 3, 2003

AMBER Alert issued from Houston, Texas

Recovered in Santa Barbara, California

Luis Conzalez, 21, allegedly killed his ex-wife and snatched his two children Michelle Villatoro, 3, and Ashley Villatoro, 18 months, after their mother picked them up from a daycare center. An AMBER Alert was issued after the violent abduction. Authorities received a tip from a citizen in Mesquite, Texas, who had seen the man and children board a bus bound for Santa Barbara, California, after recognizing the vehicle description he had heard in the AMBER Alert. Authorities in Santa Barbara were waiting to arrest the suspect at the bus station. The children were safely recovered.

July 22, 2003

Dickinson, Texas

5-year-old Christopher Devon Alen Byerly went on a fishing trip with family friend Darrell Ray Shaver, 29, at 8 a.m. When the two did not return by that evening as arranged, the child's family called the police and a request to locate Shaver's truck went out to regional law enforcement. Early the next morning, when police discovered Shaver had a history of substance abuse through their investigations, and he allegedly went to Pasadena, Texas, to meet with an unidentified person for money, an AMBER Alert was issued. Shaver's uncle saw the Alert on television and began to drive to locations that Shaver has been known to hang out at. When his uncle located Shaver's car, he notified authorities and Shaver was apprehended. The child was safely recovered and reunited with his family.

November 2002

Bryan

4-year-old Landon Bonner and his babysitter Krissy Brummer came to his mother's office to pick her up an hour early. To pass the time, his mother, Amanda Bonner, gave Brummer her paycheck to cash and feed the child. When the two did not return to pick up Bonner as planned, the police were notified. Upon finding out that Brummer had a history of drug abuse an AMBER Alert was issued. Police received an anonymous tip from a resident who had spotted the boy after seeing the Alert. Brummer was arrested and Landon was returned to his mother unharmed.

October 2002

San Antonio

Nicole Lightfoot Hellman, 14, was reported missing from Elko, Nevada, after she did not return home from a bike ride. She was believed to have been abducted by her non-custodial biological mother, Lois Renae Lightfoot, and her mother's boyfriend. After a criminal background check was performed on each suspect, it was discovered that the male companion, James Todd Westmoreland, had served time for assault and child endangerment. Because authorities believed Nicole would be taken into Texas, they requested that the Texas Department of Public Safety activate its AMBER Alert Network. Shortly thereafter a motorist called 911 to report a sighting of the vehicle described in the AMBER Alert. The suspects were quickly apprehended and Nicole was safely returned to her adoptive parents.

August 2002

Abilene

After an afternoon of shopping at the local Wal-Mart, Margarita Chavez placed her three children into their car and returned her shopping cart to the corral in the parking lot. When she turned around, she saw a woman reach into her car and snatch one-month-old Nancy. Chavez ran after the abductor, who quickly jumped into her car and sped off. Authorities were immediately notified, and Texas activated its statewide AMBER Alert system for the first time. A witness called police claiming a woman with a baby matching the Alert's description had come into her childcare facility bragging about her newborn. Law enforcement

agents immediately went to the area in which she was seen and quickly found the abductor driving down the street; Nancy was at her side. The abductor was taken into custody, and Nancy we returned to her mother and father unharmed.

August 2002

Fort Worth

The AMBER Alert is being credited for the safe return of 11-month-old Donavyn Andre Smith. After he was taken by a relative to the store and not returned, Police issued an AMBER Alert asking for help finding the family member's car. About an hour later, a school bus driver, who saw the Alert on an electronic highway traffic sign, spotted the car and called authorities. The suspect was arrested and the child was recovered unharmed.

July 2002

Arlington

Seven-year-old Aliya Marshall had come from Kansas to visit her aunt for the summer. While her aunt was out one day, Aliya's biological father, Randall Marshall, came to visit his daughter even though he was legally not to see her. Aliya's caretaker, unaware of his history, let her father in. He then left the house with Aliya, at which point the babysitter notified the aunt who immediately called the police. Once authorities learned of Marshall's history of mental disorders and suicidal ideations, an AMBER Alert was issued. Within approximately 30 minutes, a tow truck driver spotted the car, called police and maintained visual contact until patrol units could arrive. The victim was recovered unharmed and the suspect arrested.

April 2001

Houston

Just hours after 5-year-old Maria Cuellar was lured into a stolen ambulance and kidnapped in April 2001, she was recovered unharmed thanks to the AMBER Plan. Authorities with the Houston Police Department say a man in his 20s had enticed five children between the ages of 4 and 8 from their apartment complex into an ambulance saying it was a playroom. Before the suspect drove off, all the children managed to escape except Maria. Not long after Maria was abducted an AMBER Alert was broadcast throughout the Houston region describing Maria, her abductor and the ambulance. After the alert hit the airwaves, a man in the community came forward and told police that he had seen a child with a man matching broadcasters' description of the kidnapper in his neighborhood. After a rapid search of the area, Maria was successfully recovered and reunited with her family. Her abductor was arrested. This all happened within a matter of three hours.

February 2001

Dallas

A 6-year-old boy and his father were reunited seven hours after someone sped away in his car with the boy sleeping in the back seat. Tredaviun Benton's father was heading home after visiting friends and decided to stop by a grocery store. When he returned to his car about 10 minutes later, it was missing. Police issued an Amber Alert and officers saturated the neighborhood. A woman driving through the neighborhood noticed the boy inside a car, recognized him from the Alert and called police. The boy was found unharmed.

December 2000

Houston

Two-year-old Samantha Collazo was reported missing after her mother could not find her. An AMBER Alert was issued and leads began to come in. One witness spotted a child fitting Samantha's description walking with a woman about a block away from the scene. Shortly after that, an apartment complex tenant turned the child over to police officers who were recovering a stolen vehicle. The officers

recognized the child from the Alert and verified that it was Samantha. She was returned to her mother unharmed.

October 2000

Forth Worth

Early one morning, Alejandra Guzman gave her trusted duplex neighbor, Teresita Ibarra, permission to take 8-month-old Melanie to have recent pictures made. However, what should have been a two-hour outing turned into a two-day panic for Guzman when Ibarra and Melanie did not come home that night. Guzman notified the police and told them of her concerns. After talking with acquaintances of Ibarra, police found out that she had a strong fixation with Melanie – one that witnesses described as unhealthy and abnormal. Upon hearing this and assessing the situation, an AMBER Alert was issued first thing the next morning. After the Alert had run all day and evening on radio and television stations throughout the area, police officers finally received the call they had been holding their breath for. Ibarra had been waiting at a restaurant for her boyfriend when the manager on duty recognized her as the suspect on television and immediately called 911. Ibarra was taken into custody, and Melanie was returned to her mother unharmed.

July 2000

Dallas, Texas

Thanks to an attentive gas station attendant, the AMBER Plan and some observant citizens, Yousef Dibeh, 2, and Mahasen Dibeh, 1, were safely returned to their mother after a car ride with a thief. The children had been sitting in the back seat of a Nissan Altima while Beverly Dibeh ran inside a gas station to pay for her fuel. As she stood at the counter, the attendant glanced out the window and informed her that a man was getting into her car. She glanced over to see the car drive away with her children still inside. The attendant dialed 911 and an AMBER Alert was instantly sounded. Soon thereafter, some local citizens called in to report seeing the vehicle pull into a carwash. The police were immediately on the scene, and the children were recovered.

November 1999

Wylie

Police, alerted by a gas station attendant who had heard an AMBER Alert, arrested a man and returned a missing 2-year-old girl safely to her mother. The AMBER Alert was broadcast after the girl's mother told police that she believed her ex-boyfriend had taken her car and her child. A gas station attendant called police about an hour later claiming a man matching the suspect's description was buying gas at that moment. Within minutes, police had the abductor surrounded.

August 1999

Carrollton

Four-year-old Daisy Romero was found unharmed after being abducted by a family friend thanks to the AMBER Alert. Josefa Paredez, who was staying with the Romero family, walked out to her car one evening followed by Daisy. When the two did not return 10 minutes later, the child's uncle looked outside to find his car gone and neither her nor Daisy in sight. Authorities were called and an AMBER Alert was issued. An anonymous tipster heard the alert and called police saying that she had just seen a car matching the description given on the Alerts. Police soon found the missing woman and child walking in a nearby parking lot. Daisy told police that Paredez turned off the car radio after hearing the Amber Alert on Monday night. The girl told Paredez, "Turn the music back on. I heard my name."

March 1999

Dallas

Dallas police credited the safe return of 9-year-old Fleisha Moore to the AMBER Plan. Fleisha was grabbed and thrown into a truck after a man had stopped her and a friend while they were walking home

from school. He enticed the girls with stories about a bunch of kittens in a nearby field. Luckily, her friend was able to give police a full description of the abductor and details about his vehicle. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. About five hours after the abduction, three motorists called in and reported a child wandering alone along the highway. It turns out that the abductor had ordered Fleisha to get out of the car after he heard the AMBER Alert with his description on the radio. Within hours after she was located, law enforcement arrested her abductor.

February 1999

Dallas

Five-month-old Olyssia Holmes was left sleeping in the car while her mother ran inside a Laundromat to retrieve her laundry. When she came outside a few minutes later, her vehicle was gone. She called the police and the AMBER Plan was activated. About 90 minutes later, an employee with a towing company heard a radio alert about the missing infant and checked the gray Toyota where Olyssia was found safe and sound in the back seat hidden behind tinted windows.

February 1999

Fort Worth

A woman and her two young children were released Sunday afternoon after the Amber Plan alerted radio listeners to their early-morning abduction. Prince Albert Hunt III, 32, is accused of breaking into the apartment of ex-girlfriend Vanessa Wilkerson, 29. He drove off with her and her children, ages 6 and 3. After the Amber alert was issued, relatives and friends warned Mr. Hunt that police were searching for them. He dropped his captives off at the Police Department and drove off. Authorities later arrested Mr. Hunt on charges of kidnapping.

January 1999

Grand Prairie

8-year-old Bianca Nino was sleeping in her bed when the man who used to date her aunt knocked on her window and offered her a cassette player. When Bianca opened the door he told her to ask her mother if she could go for a ride with him. When her mother said no, the man picked up Bianca, carried her to his car and took off. Her mother immediately notified authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. The suspect heard Bianca's name on the radio, as well as his and the description of his car. Fearful of being spotted because of the alert, he pulled into a hotel parking lot and ran inside. A friend of Bianca's mother saw her in the car, took her to a safe place and notified authorities. Bianca was returned home and the suspect was arrested.

November 1998

Arlington, Texas

Steve and Patricia Bradbury had always felt safe leaving their 2-month-old daughter, Rae-Leigh, in the care of their trusted babysitter, Sandra Fallis, until the evening she didn't come home. They were sure Rae-Leigh would be returned to them at 6:30 pm just as Fallis had promised; however, when night began to fall and neither the baby nor the sitter had returned, the Bradburys knew something was wrong and notified the police. Little did they know, Fallis had a history of illegal drug use. Police immediately considered the child to be endangered and triggered the AMBER Alert. Less than half an hour after the alert was issued, a motorist called in on his cellular telephone and reported that the vehicle described in the AMBER Alert was right in front of him on the highway. Within minutes a patrol car cornered Fallis and pulled her over. Rae-Leigh was safely returned to her parents, and Fallis was found guilty of kidnapping and received 10 years of probation.

Utah (3)

October 7, 2004

Salt Lake City, Utah

Three-year-old Chaseton Martinez was abducted by his father following a domestic dispute with the child's mother. Because the man threatened to harm himself and the child, and his history of suicide attempts, an AMBER Alert was issued. A few motorists recognized the suspect's car from the AMBER Alert and contacted authorities. Minutes later, law enforcement respond to the location and apprehend the suspect. The child was safely reunited with his mother.

January 21, 2004

Sandy, UT

A woman put her 6-week-old girl in her car and ran into her office for one minute to retrieve something. When she returned her car and child were gone. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. A citizen saw the Alert on television and actively began searching for the child. He found the vehicle within an hour of the Alert activation. The child was sleeping safely inside.

Salt Lake City

January 2003

Jennie Triplett left her 2½-month-old son, Nicholas Alan Triplett, in the care of her supposed friends while she went to smoke a cigarette. When she returned she found her friends and son gone. She called police, who began a quick investigation. Once it was determined that the alleged abductors did not intend to return the child, a Rachael Alert (AMBER) was issued. Calls and E-mails began to pour into the tip line. One caller spotted the three walking near a YWCA. The abductors went into the YWCA to obtain baby supplies; the employees recognized them from the AMBER Alert and notified the authorities. The abductors were taken into custody and Nicholas was safely returned to his mother.

Virginia (3)

November 10, 2003

Stafford, Virginia

A man assaulted and robbed his ex-girlfriend and abducted her 6-month-old son. When it was learned that the father had threatened suicide, an AMBER Alert was issued throughout Virginia and the Washington, DC area. Within minutes of activation, a citizen recognized the vehicle from the AMBER Alert driving in front of her. She called police and the car was found. The suspect was arrested and the child was safely recovered.

October 4, 2003

Christiansburg, VA

6-year-old Candice Leigh Parker disappeared after getting into a car with her step-mother, Barbara Joanne Scott Parker, 31. Police issued an AMBER Alert after learning that the girl's father, Parker's estranged husband, didn't know Parker had taken her and an investigation showed reason for concern. A friend of the abductor heard the AMBER Alert and convinced Parker to turn herself in. Parker took Candice to the police station, and she was safely reunited with her father.

April 2002

Roanoke, VA

4-year-old Taimiere "Tai" Robinson and his older brother were playing in a park when a man pulled up and began talking with Tai. When a neighbor noticed the man put Tai into his car, she asked whether Tai's mother knew where her son was going. The man told her he used to baby-sit for the child. The

neighbor told Tai's mother who immediately called authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. Meanwhile, a family at a nearby hospital had mistakenly made arraignments for their child to be picked up from the park by two different people. After seeing the AMBER Alerts from a hospital television, they realized their mistake and quickly alerted authorities. One of the persons in charge of picking up their son took Tai by mistake. Tai was taken home, apologies were made and everything turned out fine.

Washington (3)

February 6, 2004

Washington State

A 15-year-old girl was abducted from Paso Robles, California. The suspect contacted the victim's family from Washington State and told them he was taking the girl to Canada. An AMBER Alert was issued throughout the state of Washington. A citizen observed the truck and suspect in the Bow Hill rest stop and notified authorities. Washington State troopers quickly responded. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

May 7, 2003

Kent, Washington

Daisy Nunez, 12, and her friend Juanese Guevara, 13, were last seen getting into a car with two men who lived in Daisy's apartment complex. When the girls did not come home, Daisy's mother reported them missing. Because of the girls' ages and the fear that they could have been being held against their will, an AMBER Alert was issued. The break in the case came early the next morning when a gas station clerk reported suspicious activities in his parking lot. People were seen moving between two cars. Local authorities immediately recognized the vehicle from the AMBER Alert, and began to search for the new vehicle they were believed to be traveling in. It was soon located and the girls were safely recovered at the house of the suspects' friend.

Wisconsin (2)

October 3, 2004

Oxford, Wisconsin

A 16-year-old girl was abducted from a friend's car at gunpoint by a 42-year-old registered sex offender. An AMBER Alert was immediately issued. A citizen recognized the suspect and child after seeing the AMBER Alert and quickly notified authorities. Law enforcement began to pursue the vehicle, at which point the child threw herself from the moving vehicle. Authorities then followed the suspect to a parking lot where the man took his own life. The child was safely recovered.

June 30, 2004

Portage, Wisconsin

William Scott Hoffman, 3, was taken from his home in the middle of the night by a family acquaintance. When the child's parents noticed the child and suspect were missing, they notified authorities and an AMBER Alert was issued. Early the next morning a woman on her way to work spotted the suspect and child walking along the road not far from a vehicle in a ditch. When she arrived at work she became aware of the AMBER Alert and quickly called law enforcement. Authorities arrived at the scene, searched the area around the vehicle, and were able to find the suspect and child. The suspect was apprehended and the child was safely recovered.

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EXHIBIT B

AMBER Statute Cites

California	Cal. Gov. Code §8594 (2004)
Colorado	C.R.S.A. § 24-33.5-415.7
*Connecticut	Public Act No. 03-11
*Georgia	O.C.G.A. §51-1-50 (2004)
*Idaho	Idaho Code §5-340 (2004)
Illinois	20 ILCS 2605/2605-480 (2004)
*Indiana	Burns Ind. Code Ann. §§10-13-5-1, 10-13-5-8, 10-13-5-8.5 and 34-30—2-35.7 (2004)
Kentucky	KRS §16.175 (2004)
Louisiana	La.R.S. 14:403.3 (2004)
*Michigan	MCL §§28.751-753, 762, 765 (2004)
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. §299C.52 (2003)
Missouri	§§210.1012, 1014 R.S. Mo. (2004)
*Nevada	NRS §§432.300 – 380 (2004)
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. §§52:17B-194.1 – 194.3 (2004)
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. Ann. §§29-15A-1 – 15A-5 (2004)
New York	NY CLS Exec §837-f (2004)
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. §143B-499.7 (2004)
Ohio	ORC Ann. 5502.521, 5502.52 (2004)
Oregon	ORS §181.035 (2003)
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws §42-28-3.1, 3.2 (2004)
Texas	Tex. Gov't Code §§411.351 – 358; 466.026 (2004)
*Vermont	20 V.S.A. §1828 (2004)
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. §52-34.1 – 34.3 (2004)
West Virginia	W.Va. Code §§15-3A-1 – 6 (2004)

***States with AMBER Alert legislation that include provisions granting civil immunity for broadcasters if they broadcast a false or inaccurate alert.**