



“AMBER”

America's **M**issing: **B**roadcast **E**mergency **A**lert

The **AMBER Alert** Plan was created in 1997 in honor of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped and murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas.

Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert was one of the first regional AMBER Alert programs in Ohio, and is now recognized as the regional **AMBER Alert Plan** for Franklin and surrounding counties.

29 Ohio AMBER Alerts issued
31 abducted children safely recovered
-statistics for 2003-04

A government study shows that 74% of children murdered by their abductors are killed *within three hours*. However, statistics indicate parents wait an average of *two hours* before notifying police their child is missing.

If you suspect your child is missing, call 9-1-1 immediately.

The success of the **AMBER Alert** program relies on it being used only in cases when a child is in imminent danger and authorities believe an AMBER Alert will help. *The AMBER Alert is not for runaways or lost children. It should not be used in custody or visitation disputes.*

When is an **AMBER Alert** activated?

-When police determine. . .

...a missing child is in imminent danger of death or serious injury

...the child is under 18 years of age.

...an abduction has taken place, based on the circumstances under which the child is missing.

...there is enough reliable descriptive information to believe an AMBER Alert will be effective.

...there is convincing circumstantial evidence of foul play.

...the investigating officer has determined that an AMBER Alert may enhance the recovery of the child.

ONLY when these criteria are met will authorities issue an AMBER Alert.

What happens during an **AMBER Alert**?

1. A child is reported missing to local law enforcement.
2. Authorities determine the case meets **Mid-Ohio Amber Alert** criteria.
3. Local law enforcement requests an **AMBER Alert**.
4. The County Sheriff or Ohio State Highway Patrol activates the Emergency Alert System (EAS), immediately notifying local broadcasters.
5. Radio and TV stations and cable systems rebroadcast the information to millions of listeners and viewers. Radio stations may interrupt programming to announce the alert. Television stations and cable systems may run a “crawl” on the screen or air a picture of the child.
6. Simultaneously, Alert information is sent to:
 - Ohio Missing Children's Clearinghouse
 - Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation,
 - National Crime Information Center
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.Information, including a photo if available, is posted on the **Ohio AMBER Plan** web site at www.ohioamberplan.org
7. Information is relayed to motorists on Ohio Department of Transportation freeway message boards throughout the Columbus area.

**To report information *during* an
AMBER Alert –
1-877-AMBER-OH**

Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert

Gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

Additional resources:

Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Inc.
Columbus, Ohio

Mike Rankin, Coordinator (614.361.1622)

Clark Donley, President (614.876.8303)

www.midohioamberalert.org

Ohio's Amber Plan

www.ohioamberplan.org

Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro's Office
Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse

Terri Peaks, Director (800.325.5604)

www.ag.state.oh.us

National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children

www.missingkids.com

Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Board:

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Ohio Dept. of Transportation

Leslie Cox

Farmers Insurance Agent

Clark Donley

WSNY-FM

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