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Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Operation Lady Justice

EMERGENCY ALERTS AVAILABLE FOR MISSING PERSONS

AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert System began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. AMBER stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response and was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnaped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, TX, and then brutally murdered.

AMBER Alerts are activated in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of a missing child. These alerts are broadcast through radio, TV, road signs, cellphones, and other data-enabled devices.

The AMBER Alert system is being used in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Indian country, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 30 other countries. As of August 1, 2020, 1000 children have been safely recovered as a direct result of issuance of an AMBER Alert in the case, and in 75 of those 1000 cases, directly due to the use of the Wireless Emergency Alerts program (WEA).

Most people will see AMBER Alerts directly from primary distribution and secondary distributors and do not require any additional steps. You may also choose to be notified of an AMBER Alert in the following ways: On Facebook: Visit www.facebook.com/AMBERAlert and "Like" the page to receive AMBER Alerts in your newsfeed. Facebook also automatically notifies users near the location of an AMBER Alert; and on Twitter: Follow @AMBERAlert to receive rapid AMBER Alert notifications on your Twitter feed and share the alert with your followers.

Every successful AMBER Alert plan contains clearly defined activation criteria. These activation criteria, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice (<https://amberalert.gov/guidelines.htm>) are designed to promote a uniform, interoperable network of plans across the country and facilitated coordinated communication and sharing/dissemination of information.

More information about AMBER Alerts, including the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act and the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative, can be found at <https://amberalert.ojp.gov/>.



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ASHANTI ALERTS

On December 31, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Pub L. 115-401). The Ashanti Alert Act, named in honor of Ashanti Billie who was abducted and killed in 2017, establishes a voluntary nationwide communication network to aid in the search and recovery of missing persons between the ages of 18 and 64.

The Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has established the National Ashanti Alert Network to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States.

Ashanti Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media and the public about adults who have been reported missing along with suspect information in cases of suspected abduction. Ashanti Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Ashanti Alerts may be issued when an adult between the ages of 18 and 64 has been identified as a missing individual; and,

- suffers from a proven mental or physical disability; or
- missing under circumstances that indicate that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered; or
- that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.

Thus far, only a few states have adopted Ashanti Alerts, or a similar alert for missing adults, however, many states are in the process of developing and implementing these types of alerts. More information on the National Ashanti Alert Network can be found at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/national-ashanti-alert-network/overview>.

SILVER ALERTS

SILVER Alerts are activated in missing person cases where the missing person is elderly, and in some states for other vulnerable adults. There is not a national criteria or standard for SILVER alerts – these types of alerts vary from state to state, however, approximately 36 states have adopted these types of elderly or vulnerable adult alerts. The vulnerable adult alerts may also go by another name in each state (i.e., Missing Senior, Golden Alert, Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert, etc.). These alerts may broadcast through radio, TV, road signs, cellphones, and other data-enabled devices, depending on the state. For more information on SILVER alerts please contact your specific tribal or state alerting authority.



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