

**84 Percent**

Percent of recoveries successful since 2002

**50**

Number of states with statewide AMBER plans

**213**

Number of children recovered successfully

**797,500**

Number of children reported missing according to a 1999 study

**About 100**

Estimated number of abducted children found deceased each year

**58,200**

Number of children that were abducted by nonfamily members according to a 1999 study

**203,900**

Number of children that were the victims of family abductions according to a 1999 study

From The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)  
and [www.amberalert.gov](http://www.amberalert.gov)

# Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

## Background

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. The name was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Other states and communities began setting up their own AMBER plans as the idea was adopted across the nation.

At the end of 2001, only four states had statewide AMBER plans, now there are 50. To date, the number of successful recoveries has risen to 213 children. A remarkable 84 percent of all successful recoveries have occurred since October of 2002, when AMBER Alert became a coordinated national effort.

## What is an AMBER Alert?

AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alerts are emergency messages broadcast when a law enforcement agency determines that a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger. The broadcasts include information about the child and the abductor, including physical descriptions as well as information about the abductor's vehicle - which could lead to the child's recovery.

## What should I do when an AMBER Alert is issued?

The AMBER Alert message encourages the public to look for the missing child or suspect. You become the eyes and ears of local law enforcement. In the event you spot a child, adult, or vehicle fitting the AMBER Alert description, immediately call the telephone number given in the AMBER Alert and provide authorities with as much information as you know.

January 13th is  
AMBER Alert Awareness Day



The U.S. Department of Justice has declared January 13, 2006, AMBER Alert Awareness Day in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the abduction and murder of 9-year old Amber Hagerman in Arlington, TX. The purpose of AMBER Alert Awareness Day is to bring public participation in safely recovering missing children. Across the nation, state and regional AMBER alert coordinators will be holding public awareness activities, press conferences and other events to commemorate this day.

## What can Schools do?

As part of AMBER Alert Awareness day, state AMBER Alert coordinators are working with schools across the country to kick-off a missing children poster contest to raise students' awareness about keeping safe. A toolkit containing materials to help your state or community participate in AMBER Alert Awareness Day and is available from [www.amberalert.gov](http://www.amberalert.gov).

From  
[www.codeamber.org](http://www.codeamber.org)  
[www.amberalert.gov](http://www.amberalert.gov)  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)