

Louisiana's Amber Alert System – a Partnership

Business and Industry, as well as elected officials, across Louisiana, have expressed strong support and a desire to partner with Louisiana's Amber Alert Plan. Service Providers, Utility Companies, Healthcare Agencies, Retailers, Electronic Billboard Companies, State Agencies – all with the potential to assist law enforcement in their investigation and recovery of an abducted child – have offered their services.

Businesses and individuals interested in becoming a Partner of Louisiana's Amber Alert Plan, whether volunteering services or through financial contributions should contact the Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana (225-267-1000)

The AMBER PLAN Works!

According to a study conducted by the United States Department of Justice, 74% of the children who are kidnapped and later found murdered were killed within the first three hours after being taken.

The Amber Alert Plan, now operating in most states across the nation, works because it INSTANTLY galvanizes the community to assist in the search for a child and his or her abductor before it's too late! These Amber Alert Plans have been extremely successful in the recovery of abducted children. Since its inception in 1996 through 2002, the Amber Alert Plan has been credited with being directly responsible for saving the lives of 43 children, nationwide.

The Amber Alert Plan is not only successful in the recovery of abducted children, but also acts as a deterrent to this type of crime. It sends a strong message that crimes against children are intolerable and that law enforcement, broadcasters and the public, working together, have the power to rescue abducted children and apprehend their predators.



Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana

In October of 2002, the Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana, a non-profit organization, was formed. The organization's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives of Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Sheriffs, Local Police, the Broadcast Industry, Cable Television Operators and Child Advocacy groups and is charged with the oversight, development, enhancement, and promotion of Louisiana's Amber Alert System.

In January, 2003, the Internal Revenue Service issued a determination letter granting the Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

The Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana is headquartered in Baton Rouge in donated office space with a full-time staff.

Persons or businesses interested in obtaining additional information, making fully tax-deductible contributions, or Partnering with the Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana should contact:

The Amber Alert Foundation of Louisiana
660 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801
225-267-1000
info@LouisianaAmberAlert.com
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WHAT IS THE AMBER PLAN?

History

In 1996, 9-year old Amber Hagerman was kidnapped and brutally murdered in Arlington, Texas. Amber's tragic death had such a profound impact on her community and throughout northern Texas that it prompted regional law enforcement agencies and the Dallas/Fort Worth

Association of Radio Managers to develop this innovative emergency alert plan to help recover abducted children. They named it the "Amber Plan", and it has since been embraced by communities across the country.







On June 4, 2002, a news conference was held at the Louisiana State Capitol to announce the implementation of Louisiana's Amber Alert System. Since that time, there has been an outpouring of support from local law enforcement agencies, state police, radio stations, television stations, cable operators, as well as individuals and organizations from both the public and private sector – all of whom want to become partners in this effort to protect Louisiana's most precious resource – its children!

On October 11, 2002, Governor Mike Foster declared the Louisiana Amber Alert System the official Amber Alert Plan for the State of Louisiana and authorized it be incorporated into the State's Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan and submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C., as such.

What is the Amber Alert System?



Through Louisiana's Amber Alert System, Louisiana State Police, utilizing the state's Emergency Alert System (typically used to advise the public of severe weather conditions), will notify Louisiana's radio and television stations and participating cable operators that a child has been abducted. The broadcast stations and cable systems will immediately interrupt programming to provide the public with all pertinent and available information regarding the abduction.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA MUST BE MET!

-  Louisiana's Amber Alert System will be activated **ONLY** when the designated Louisiana State Police Officer or Command Post, charged with authorizing activation of the system, determines **ALL** criteria has been met:
-  A child, 17 years of age or younger, has been abducted
-  Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death
-  Enough descriptive information about the child, the abductor, and/or the suspect's vehicle is available to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help law enforcement in their rescue efforts
-  Louisiana's Amber Alert System will be used **ONLY** for serious child abduction cases
-  It will **NOT** be used for runaway children or most parental abduction cases unless the circumstance is life-threatening to the child

How Can You Help?

Louisiana's Amber Alert Plan relies on the public to help locate abducted children before it's too late! **YOU** are essential to its success!

-  If you hear an Amber Alert, be on the lookout for the child and suspect described in the message that accompanies the alert. The alert will include a telephone number for you to report any information which may assist law enforcement in their recovery efforts.
-  If you witness a child abduction, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately. Be sure to make note of important information such as physical characteristics of the child and the suspect, the make and model of any vehicle involved, including the license plate if possible, and the precise location of the abduction.