Program Fact Sheet

The mission of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) is to safely recover missing, endangered, or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation, and other partners by leveraging training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities to increase public participation. As of January 2019, 941 abducted children have been recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert Program.

About the National AMBER Alert Network

• AATTAP supports training, information sharing and a community practice of collaboration with over 300 AMBER Alert state, local, regional, Tribal, Mexican and Canadian Coordinators, Clearinghouse Managers, CART Coordinators and law enforcement representatives.
• The AMBER Advocate newsletter reaches more than 50,000 child protection professionals four times each year through both print and web-based reading options.
• Regional and Tribal AMBER Alert Liaisons work with designated geographical regions including all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Tribal communities, Canada, and Mexico to provide technical assistance, training, and policy development.

Reach of AMBER Alert Training Programs (October 2013 – December 2018)

• 374 training sessions have been delivered, extending to every state in the U.S. and numerous Tribal communities, Canada and Mexico; representatives from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Guam, Greece, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Portugal and Belgium have attended training sessions as well.
• In total, all onsite training and technical assistance (TTA) events, have impacted over 29,200 participants.
• Additionally, more than 24,700 participants have completed training through online learning and technology.
• 42 webinars have introduced a national audience to topics ranging from child abduction dynamics to managing sex offenders within the community.
• Currently 32 classroom courses and nine eLearning courses are available. In addition a unique blending of resources offer more than 180 modules of instruction that may be customized for training development through our ‘Build a Course’ option.
• Thirteen national roundtable meetings with parents and siblings of missing and abducted children have been conducted to identify response concerns and assist in improving services to families, investigations and prosecution.
• Four national roundtable meetings with survivors of child sex trafficking have been conducted to assist the development of training for first responders, service providers and court personnel dealing with cases involving the trafficking and exploitation of minors.

The Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Network

• The National CART Initiative began in 2006. As of December 2018, 6008 team members have been trained, representing 48 US states/territories, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and Canada;
• As of December 2018, CART programs exist in 48 US states and territories; along with two international teams.
• Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California and their Mexican counterparts are working toward cooperative AMBER Alert Plans and CART Programs to serve and protect border communities.
• To learn more about this initiative and locate CART specific program resources, please visit the AMBER Advocate Website’s CART Resource Collection: https://www.amberadvocate.org/cartresources/.
The CART Certification Program

• To establish a verification of response capability, a CART Certification process was established in 2007.

• There are 23 Certified CART programs as of December 2018; these teams have successfully met all 47 standards and have completed a required mock child abduction exercise; a complete listing of certified CART programs can be found on the AMBER Advocate Website’s CART Resources collection.

The AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative

• The Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018 amends the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act (Public Law 108-21), to reauthorize the AMBER Alert grant program. Since passage of the law, the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) provides guidance and coordination between tribes and states to access and integrate with state AMBER Alert plans as part of the 2018 Act.

• Ongoing activities toward implementation of AMBER Alert in Indian Country include:
  o Developing strategies for implementing AMBER Alert plans within Indian Country through targeted collaboration with designated representatives from Tribal communities and their respective state AMBER Alert programs prior to the occurrence of a child abduction;
  o National AMBER Alert in Indian Country Symposium Events bringing together designated Tribal leaders, public safety and emergency management personnel, and AMBER Alert Coordinators to improve the process of integration between state/regional AMBER Alert communication plans with federally recognized tribes from across the nation; and
  o AMBER Alert in Indian Country Regional Events, through which Tribal leaders and child protection partners are encouraged to participate in regional AMBER Alert meetings with state and local law enforcement agencies to collaborate and develop strategies for response to and investigation of endangered missing and abducted children in Tribal communities.

• The original AIIC initiative began in 2007, with more than 100 Tribal communities partnering with their regional/state AMBER Alert programs, and more than 1600 Tribal officials and community members participating in TTA programs; these efforts have contributed to successful child recoveries involving AMBER Alerts or CART activations in Tribal communities.

• Three national symposiums on Tribal child protection have been conducted, bringing together community leaders, child protection officials, and state, local and federal partners to address issues related to the protection of children in Tribal communities.

• Over 200 community child protection capabilities assessments have been conducted.

• The AMBER Alert in Indian Country Website (https://amber-ic.org) provides information, resources, videos and the latest developments from the Tribal child protection work of AATTAP and its partners; addressing a wide array of protection and prevention topics, including investigation, intervention, and prevention of victimization, exploitation and trafficking in Tribal communities.

• Tribal instructors, support of the Indian Country Intelligence Network, trained search trackers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), bloodhound K9 donations, Cold Case reviews, and infrastructure assessments have been provided through the AIIC initiative.
The Southern Border Initiative

- AATTAP has worked closely with the US Embassy, Mexico City, the US DOJ Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), Procurador General de la República of Mexico (PGR), and state AMBER Alert Coordinators to develop protocols to create Protocolo Alerta AMBER, a federally administered comprehensive child recovery program which is consistent with programs in the U.S. and Canada.
- AATTAP has trained over 700 state, local and federal child protection officials in the U.S. and Mexico and has conducted joint training programs and table top exercises involving U.S. and Mexican officials working together to address issues related to cross border abductions, trafficking and exploitation.
- Since 2016, AATTAP has participated in six regional meetings in the U.S. and Mexico, including a tri-national AMBER Alert conference.

Program Evaluation Results: Making an Impact

- Past TTA evaluations have been exemplary; with more than 90% of respondents reporting they found AATTAP courses productive and satisfying, gained new insights and information and intended to change or improve both personal approach to their work and advocate for or effect changes and improvement to agency plans, policies and/or procedures.
- 2018 Program evaluation results from three of AATTAP’s most-attended courses offer an example of feedback received from participants in key areas of increased and applied knowledge and skills
  - **Child Abduction Response Team Training (CART)**
    - 95.45% of participants reported the course increased their knowledge in the subject area
    - 92.43% of participants reported they will be able to apply the information or skills obtained from the course in their profession
  - **Developing a Community Response to High Risk Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation**
    - 96.3% of participants reported the course increased their knowledge in the subject area
    - 95.2% of participants reported they will be able to apply the information or skills obtained from the course in their profession
  - **Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children (TELMAC)**
    - 96.6% of participants reported the course increased their knowledge in the subject area
    - 96.6% of participants reported they will be able to apply the information or skills obtained from the course in their profession
Courses for Onsite/Classroom Delivery

In addition to attending or requesting the onsite courses below, the Build-A-Course Customized Module Design option allows AATTAP to identify a unique combination of modules of instruction from our total menu of courses, so that specific training, policy and operational needs can be effectively met through training.

1. Advanced Cold Case Long-Term Missing Investigations
2. Advanced Interviewing and Case Management for High Risk Juveniles in Indian Country
3. Advanced Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction Cases
4. Call Taker Training for Tribal Communities
5. Canvassing, Search and Recovery Strategies for Abducted Children
6. Child Abduction Response Team Training
7. Child Abduction Response Team Certification
8. Child Abduction Training for Tribal Communities
9. Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise
10. Law Enforcement Investigative Response to Child Sex Trafficking
11. Child Sex Trafficking in Indian Country
12. Developing Community Communications to Protect Children
13. Digital Evidence Investigations
14. Effectively Working with Tribal Law Enforcement for Missing and Abducted Children
15. High Risk Victims in Indian Country
16. Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Tribal Communities
18. Initial Response Strategies and Tactics When Responding to Missing Children Incidents
19. Interrogation Techniques in Child Exploitation Cases
20. Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction Cases
21. Leadership for Missing and Abducted Children
22. Leadership for Missing and Abducted Children in Indian Country
23. Managing Child Sex Trafficking for System Managers / CEOs
24. Major Case Investigative Teams
25. Developing a Community Response to High Risk Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation
26. Prosecutors Strategies for Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Cases
27. Recognition and Response to Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in Tribal Casinos, Hotel and Travel Plazas
28. Response to Missing and Abducted College Students
29. Shielding our Community for Endangered, Missing and Abducted Children
30. Tactics for Immediate Response and Rescue
31. Technology Facilitated Crimes Against Children in Indian Country
32. The Role of Technology: Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Online, On Demand Courses and Modules

ON DEMAND eLearning provides child protection professionals accessibility to an entire catalog of online training (courses, modules, resources and webinars) 24/7 to work on and identify training that best fits their schedule.

1. Building AMBER Alert in Indian Country
2. Child Abduction Response Team Training for New Members
3. Child Sex Trafficking: Law Enforcement Response Introductory Module
4. Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction Cases
5. (Spanish Language) Investigative Strategies for Missing and Abducted Children
6. Law Enforcement and Community Response to Child Sex Trafficking in Indian Country
7. Patrol First Response for Missing and Abducted Children
8. Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children