



# Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Overview



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# Webinar Information

This webinar is supported under Cooperative Agreement number 2017-MC-FX-K003 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP or the U.S. Department of Justice.

# **AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program**

## **Mission**

To safely recover missing, endangered, or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation, and other partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities and increase public participation.

# During the Webinar

- All attendees will be muted.
- If you desire to ask a question, please use the questions section of the GoToWebinar dialogue box, typically on the right side of your screen.
- Questions will either be answered directly by a panelist or asked to the presenter who will answer during the Q & A portion of the presentation.

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- We offer a Certificate of Attendance on our live AMBER Alert TTA Program webinars.
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# Poll Questions

- Poll questions may be asked during the webinar.
  - They are asked so we can better understand the audience and provide the most useful information to you.
- As they will only be open a short period of time, please respond promptly.





## **POLL: Which of the following best describes your role?**

- Investigator (Law Enforcement, CPS)
- Prosecutor, Attorney
- CAC, Forensic Interviewer, Social Worker
- Medical, Mental Health
- Other (type your role in the question box)





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# What is a Child Abduction Response Team?

**Poll: To get a sense of what the audience today knows about CART, please respond to the following:**

Have you attended any type of CART training in the past?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



# Law Enforcement Response to Major Incidents

## Homicide cases

- Secure the crime scene
- Secure witnesses
- Immediate deployment of resources
- Command and control interviews, interrogation, leads management, and debriefing



# Law Enforcement Response to Major Incidents

## Natural Disasters

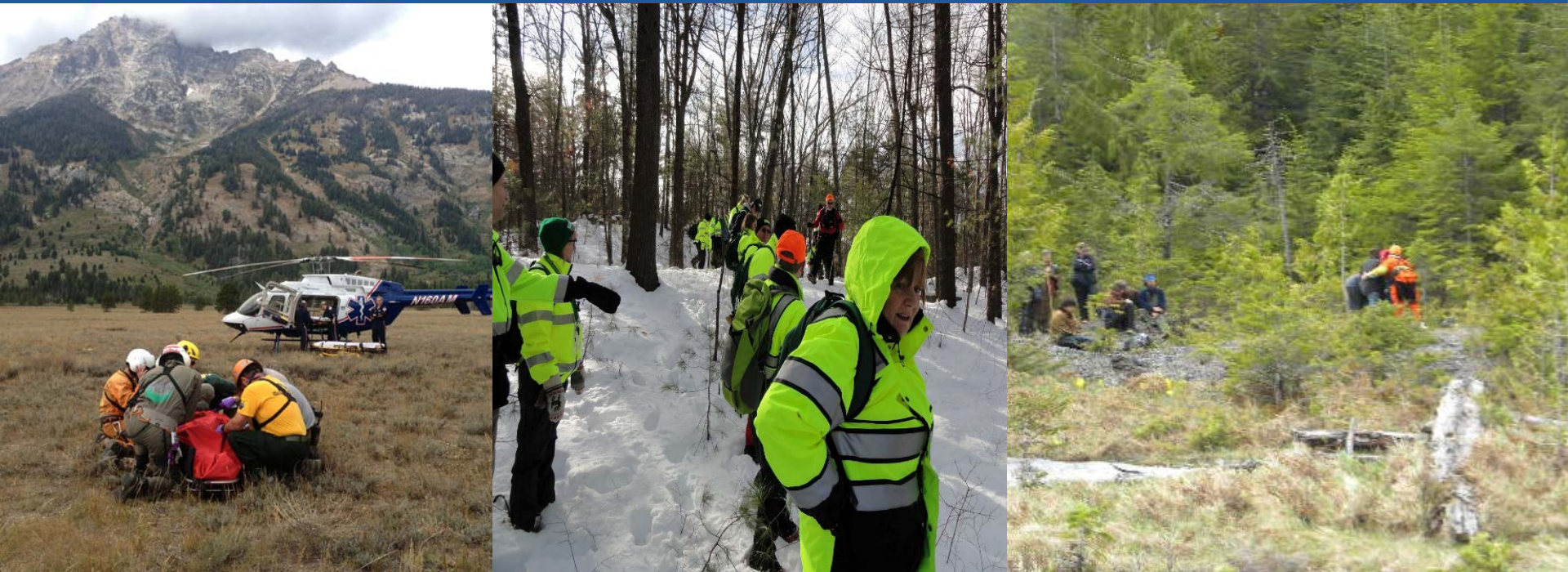
- Life saving measures
- Search and rescue
- Command structure and resources
- Team approach





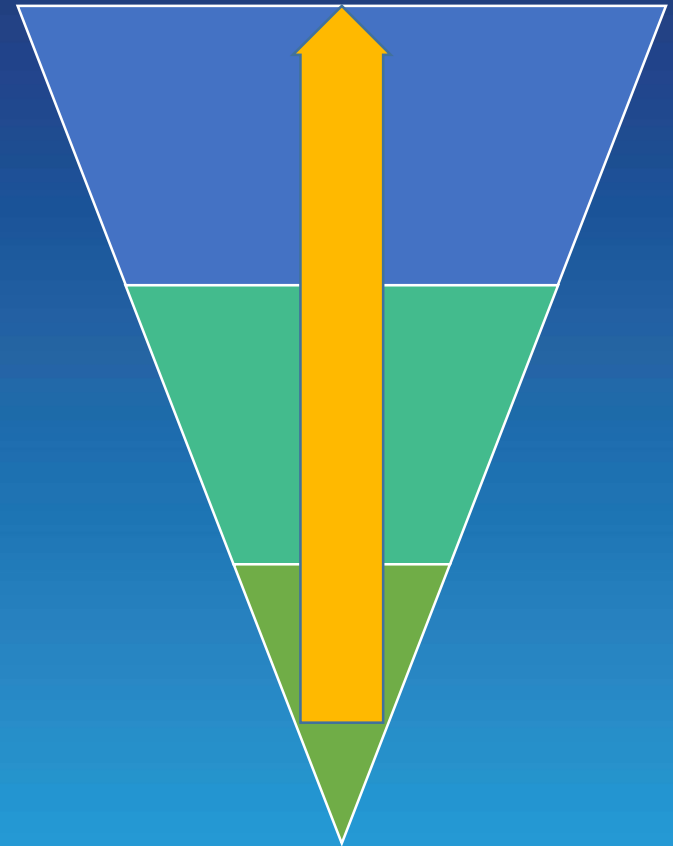
# Management of the Incident

- In many incidents, the success or failure of the response can depend on how the incident is managed



# Management of the Incident – Bottom Up

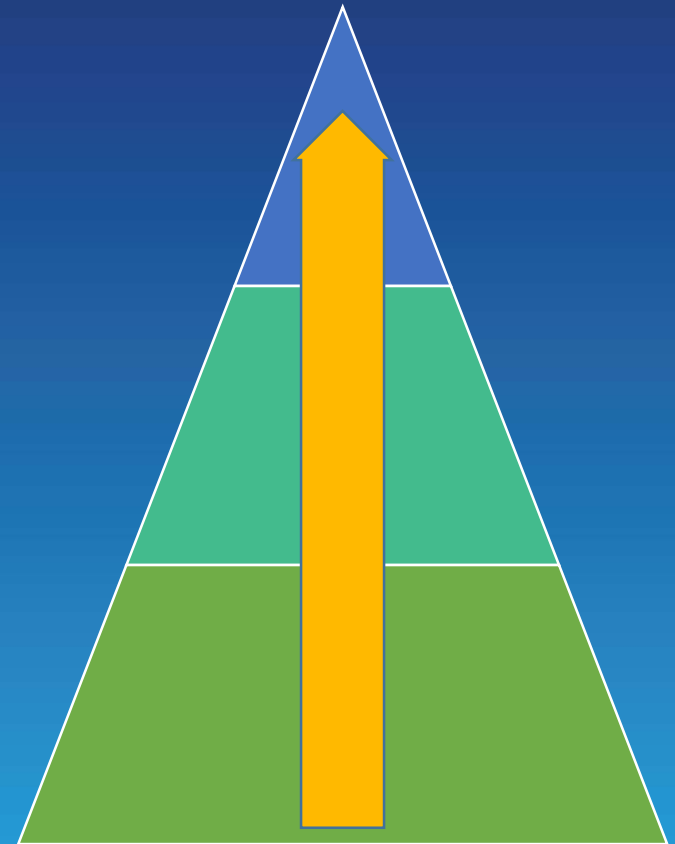
- Allows for expertise and insights of responders to be utilized
- “Boots on the ground”





# Management of the Incident – Top Down

- Helps ensure accountability



# What is a CART?

- CART (Child Abduction Response Team) is a multi-disciplinary team comprised of investigators and support personnel that can respond to a missing or abducted event
- Team members are trained in all aspects of responding to a missing or abducted child case
- CART can be comprised of several agencies
  - Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)

# Time is the Enemy



# Washington State Study

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/child-abduction-murder-research>

- 74-76 % murdered in the first 3 hours
- 58% mistakenly reported as “missing” not abducted
- 56% waited more than 2 hours to report “missing” child
- Unknown initial contact site solvability rate = 23.9%
- Known initial contact site solvability rate = 79.7%



## **POLL:**

### **Are you familiar with or ever been involved with ICS (Incident Command Systems)?**

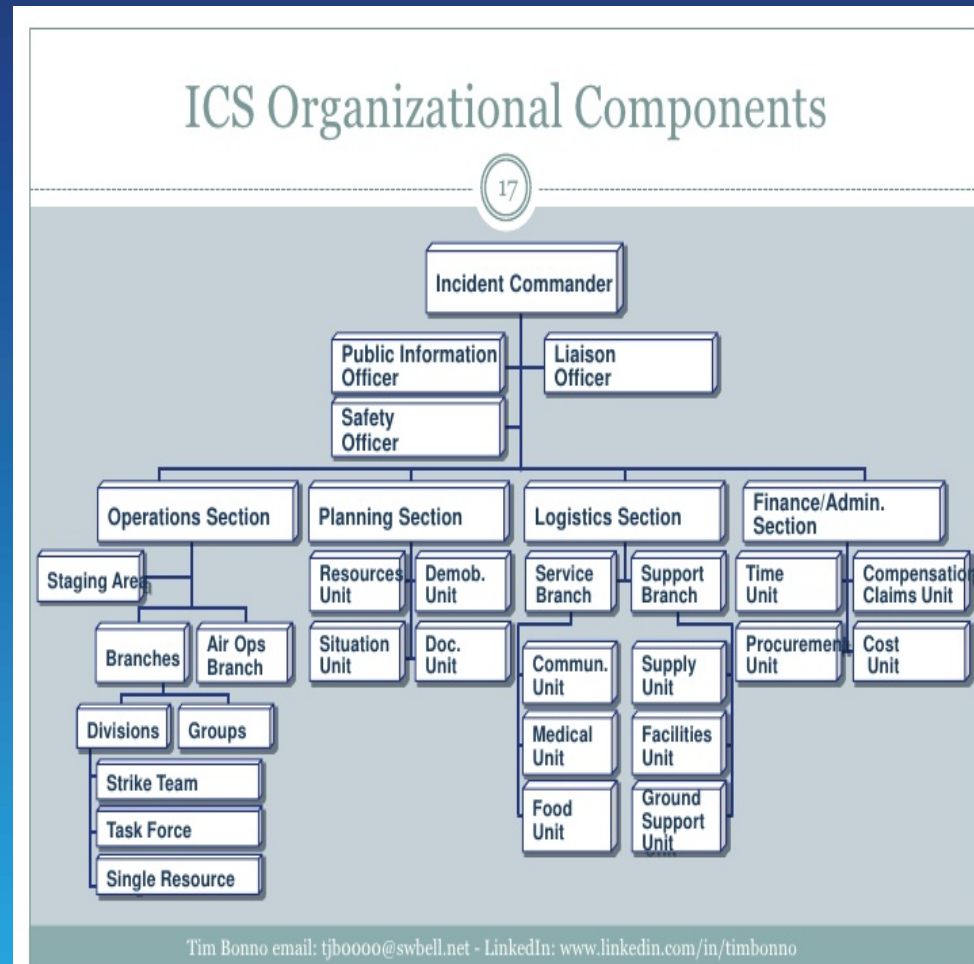
- I have been involved with a situation that utilized ICS
- I am aware of what ICS is but have never been involved
- I am not familiar with ICS





# CART and Incident Command System (ICS)

- ICS quickly establishes organization of the incident
- Uses a command structure to oversee operations
- Provides for accountability during the operation



# Structure of the CART

- Can be diverse group
- May consist of a “Core Team”
- Brainstorm resources
- Members should be dedicated and team players
- Teams will need revitalized





# Step One

## Establishing the “core group” or steering committee

- Group members must have agency commitment
- Experience in police investigations and procedure
- Leadership responsibilities
- Knowledge and experience in child abductions, and/or child homicide investigations
- Knowledge of community resources

# Core Group Skills

- Search and rescue
- Analyzing data
- Ability to develop and implement protocols, policies and procedures
- Experience in Incident Command System (ICS) and/or command structure
- Experience in high impact, large scale events
- Liaison from each participating agency
- Ability to make things happen

# Core Group Responsibilities

- Divide resources to fit within the ICS model
- Identify resources needed for search, rescue, investigation and prosecution
- Create the team composition
- Identify individual assignments



# Explore Resources



- Lack of experience should not equate to lack of preparation
- Practice utilizing scenario activities and mock call outs

# Policy / Procedures / MOU's

- Must remain up-to-date and ready to go
- Guide for incoming and new members
- Keeps things uniform and consistent
- MOU's with all participating agencies







# CART in Action

- Murray, Utah
  - 11 year old, chronic runaway in need of medication
  - Gone for 1 day
  - Witness stated that the child was in the company of a homeless woman, who was also known to be a prostitute
- Utah CART intel and logistics activated
- Missing/endangered alert activated
- Child was located and recovered safely

# Certification Process

## *Why pursue certification?*

- Evidence-based standards
- Enhance critical and specific capacities and competencies
- Ensure updates and improvements to policies
- Provide stakeholders with assurance of high standards in child recovery initiatives
- Allow CART to evolve and continuously improve



# Certification Process

- Establish certification team
- Ensure policies, procedures and MOU's are established
- Submit an application for certification with documentation

# Certification Process

- Two-day onsite assessment is scheduled
- *Day 1*- Review policies, procedures and MOUs
- *Day 2*- Conduct extensive, mock field exercise
- Field report is completed by the assessors
- Report is submitted to AMBER Alert Administrator for consideration



# Certification Process

## *What will be reviewed?*

- Response Criteria
- Team Composition
- Notification Protocol
- Communications
- Command and Control
- Search, Canvass and Rescue Operations
- Training
- Legal Issues
- Equipment Inventory
- CART Protocols
- Victim Assistance and Reunification
- Community Education

# Online CART Resources

www.amberadvocate.org



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# Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Resources

Publications, sample forms, templates and other resources for CART programs and those agencies thinking about building a CART

Questions?

Email us at [askamber@fvtc.edu](mailto:askamber@fvtc.edu), or contact your AATTAP Regional Liaison.



CART Reference  
Publications

CART Personnel  
Management

Sample CART  
Protocols

CART  
Certification

Volunteer  
Management

Sample CART  
Forms



# CART Certification Resources

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## CART Certification Manual and Agency Guide

Process, capacity and capability standards as established by the US Department of Justice for CART programs pursuing formal certification by the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program.

✕ CART Certification  
Manual and Agency Guide

## Online Application for CART Certification

Complete this online application to submit a formal request for CART Certification.

✕ Online Application for  
CART Certification

## CART Certification Sample After Action Report

A sample form providing examples of important information to be included in a CART after action report. Nothing in this form should supersede or prohibit agency, department and/or jurisdictional policy, procedure or statutory requirements. CART programs are encouraged to develop their own forms with all required information, using this sample form as a starting point.

✕ CART Certification  
Sample After Action  
Report

## CART Certification Standard Compliance Form

This compliance form is to be included in each folder created to hold proofs and related documentation of compliance with each CART certification standard.

✕ CART Certification  
Standard Compliance  
Document





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# Thank you for your participation!

For assistance, please contact us:



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