# AMBER ALERT TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE











Training and Technical Assistance Opportunities







# **About AMBER Alert**



The AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) brings you a wide variety of NO FEE training opportunities to improve the investigative response of local, regional, state, and tribal law enforcement to high risk victims, children in crisis, and the commercial sexual exploitation of youth. Through this program, you will increase collaboration, improve skills, and develop effective policies and best practices to protect and safely recover missing, endangered, and abducted children.

AMBER Alert training courses can be hosted by local, regional, state, and tribal law enforcement training academies, agencies, or organizations. In addition to training courses, we offer technical assistance to help you address community concerns. We encourage you to collaborate with your law enforcement, public safety, and non-profit partners to identify your training needs and bring training to your community. There are no registration fees to attend AMBER Alert training. AATTAP will cover all direct costs of training (instructor expenses, training material, and logistics support). Host agencies or organizations may assist in marketing and outreach, providing an appropriate venue, and onsite coordination responsibilities.



# AMBER Alert in Indian Country

#### Ashlynne's Story

On May 2, 2016, 11-year-old Ashlynne Mike and her 9-year-old brother, Ian, were abducted after school on the Navajo Reservation near their home in Shiprock, New Mexico. Hours after the abduction, Ian was able to escape his abductor and subsequently would be found wandering in the desert, looking for help. Although her parents began frantic outreach efforts to find Ashlynne, a series of misunderstandings about the AMBER Alert process and jurisdictional hurdles delayed the issuance of an AMBER Alert until the following day, when Ashlynne was discovered brutally murdered in a remote area of the Navajo Reservation.

#### The National Response

Immediately following the abduction, the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children partnered with the Navajo Nation to support the full development of an AMBER Alert Plan for the Navajo Nation. This plan included agreements between New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, with all of the states committing their assistance to the Navajo Nation in issuing and managing AMBER Alerts.

Congress passed the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018, which amends the PROTECT Act, to allow for grants to states and federally recognized Indian tribes to:

- Develop or enhance programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans.
- Integrate tribal AMBER Alert systems into state AMBER Alert systems.
- Integrate state or regional AMBER Alert communication plans with an Indian tribe.
- Allow the waiver of the matching funds requirement for grants awarded to Indian tribes.

### **Contact Us**

We're Here to Help! If you do not find what you are looking for or need a customized solution to a unique community challenge, please contact us. Our staff and subject matter experts are here and ready to serve your training needs.

Website: ncjtc.org/amberalert | Email: askamber@fvtc.edu | Phone: (877) 71-AMBER

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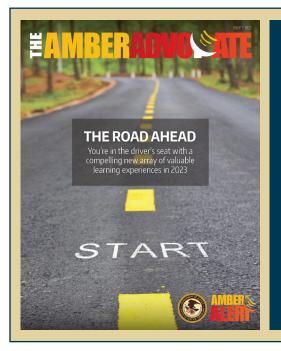
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# THE AMBER ADVOCATE

AMBERAdvocate.org



# Stronger together.

Tribal resources, training and news about missing child preparedness is just a click away.

AMBER-IC.org







# **Classroom Trainings**

NCJTC is proud to offer two formats for classroom training: Live Online Instructor Led and Onsite (In person). Both formats are real time and offer participant interaction with live instructors and other participants. Some of our most popular classes are offered in both an online and onsite format, while other classes are strictly onsite due to the nature of the training. We want you to get the most out of your training with the utmost flexibility.



Visit ncjtc.org/AMBERAlerttraining for upcoming training dates and formats.

#### **AMBER Alert Activation Best Practices**

Enhance your agency's AMBER Alert activations by utilizing new strategies. Examine training requirements and procedures for activating an AMBER Alert and gain an in-depth review of current best practices, trends and analytics, and industry leaders. Explore current abduction trends, laws related to mandatory notifications, yearly statistics, and resources available during an activation.

#### Child Abduction Response Team Training (CART)

Take steps toward implementing a successful CART by bringing together a team of experts whose knowledge, skills, and abilities will be beneficial in a child abduction case. Join us to learn how to develop a multidisciplinary CART for responding to endangered, missing, or abducted children. Hear about the impact a child abduction has on the family and learn the fundamentals of developing an effective responsive CART team. Examine incident command considerations, search and canvassing operations, CART activation, and resources to improve the response, investigation, search, and canvass activities associated with missing children investigations.

#### Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise - 4 Hr

Test the organization's response in conducting an initial investigation into searching for a missing or abducted child using the Incident Command System. Employ strategies and responses in mitigating and resolving the emergency. Participate in a multidisciplinary tabletop exercise to build cohesiveness within the investigative team when responding to an emergency.

#### Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (CATE) in Indian Country - 4 Hr

Test your community's response in conducting an initial investigation, search and canvass activities for a missing or abducted child scenario occurring on tribal lands. Employ strategies and responses in mitigating and resolving the emergency. Participate in a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional tabletop exercise, to build cohesiveness with tribal, state, local and federal partners when responding to an emergency.

# Child Sex Trafficking Investigations: Strategies to Increase Prosecutions of Traffickers of Missing Children

Child sex trafficking (CST) is like no other crime. Victimization may happen hundreds of times and can be difficult to identify due to the victims being missing children coupled with the trafficker's hold on victims. Dissect the crime of CST, its complex nature, and discover how to investigate this crime fully. Develop trauma-informed approaches to ensure your victim interview does not retraumatize and you gain critical information to identify corroborative evidence. Examine the trafficker's

profile and motivation, how they impact your suspect interview, and proven suspect interview strategies. Recognize common evidence available, legal hurdles, and common defenses of traffickers.

#### **Child Sex Trafficking for First Responders**

Child Sex Trafficking (CST) is a crime that is hidden yet in plain sight. First responders are often the first system members to make contact with a CST victim. A CST victim has been heavily groomed for system contact, is fearful of their trafficker, and often not forthcoming about their exploitive situation. Deconstruct the crime of CST and identify common scenarios in which you may come in contact with a CST victim. Discover victim-centered contact practices you can implement which are specific to CST victims. Recognize how to secure vital evidence which may only be available during your initial contact with the victim. Practice group exercises and develop contact and response plans to common scenarios you may encounter.

# Community Response to Missing and Exploited Children in Indian Country

Examine the AMBER Alert program, efforts to identify and prevent child exploitation, and best practices for planning and executing the initial response when a child goes missing. Explore resources and tools currently available to assist law enforcement officers in missing child investigations. Discuss strategies that will improve the community's response to missing and exploited children.

#### Crime Scene Response in Child Abduction Cases (CSR CAC)

Discover methods and techniques for processing the crime scene of a child abduction. Identify procedures to properly document, collect, and process vital evidence when time is of the essence. Recognize the impact of the environment, proper scene acquisition and etiquette, proper supervision, and courtroom testimony on your case. Develop skill sets which can lead to the recovery of an abducted child and the criminal conviction of the abductor.

# Initial Response Strategies and Tactics When Responding to Missing Children Incidents

In the initial response to endangered missing or child abduction incidents, accurate and timely situational assessments and immediate resource deployment are critical. During this training, first responders will gain knowledge of the investigative activities that occur during an endangered missing or child abduction investigation, and how their actions influence the short- and long-term response of law enforcement. Learn the impact the missing and or abducted child incident has on the family and how this can impact your response. Examine the critical and necessary first steps for first responders, initial supervisory, and



investigative response. Gain best practices and strategies for search and canvass implementation.

#### Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction Cases

Understand, recognize, and investigate cases involving missing and abducted children. Determine scope and scale issues and how to manage a missing or abducted child case. Explore crime scene evidence collection and processing, profiling suspects, and legal issues, including search warrants and interrogation related to a missing or abducted child.

#### Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

Learn how to effectively perform missing child investigations occurring on tribal lands. Examine the AMBER Alert program, best practices for planning and executing the initial response when a child goes missing, effective investigative case management strategies, timely introduction of resources in missing child investigations, best practices in search and canvass operations, and how to incorporate culturally appropriate victim support services into your investigation. Explore resources and tools currently available to assist law enforcement officers in missing child investigations.

#### PIO Communication During a Missing Child Incident

The responsibilities of the Modern PIO cover a breadth like never before. Communication and transparency in person, online, and in print are expectations today. Identify the responsibilities of the PIO during a missing child incident and examine why a partnership with the media is vital to quickly recover missing children and solve the cases. Garner preparation tips and employ a checklist to complete the steps of a successful PIO briefing. Examine pitfalls in the police/media relationship and explore ways to overcome them. Roleplay a missing child incident and learn hands-on how to apply what you have learned.

#### Prosecutor's Strategies for Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Cases

Gain the tools and skills necessary to successfully prosecute cases involving child sex trafficking and exploitation. Examine topics including charging strategies, courtroom tactics, corroborating victims, developing witness testimony, plea bargains, and motion hearings. Learn how to effectively develop a trial strategy and discuss various pre-trial and trial issues including identifying and working with witnesses and experts, preserving testimony, and responding to unexpected issues during trial.

#### **SBI Cross Border Child Abduction Training**

Learn current trends and collaborate with participants representing child protection and public safety officials from border communities and state, federal, and tribal public safety in Mexico and the USA. Address issues in your community related to cross border abductions, child exploitation, and human trafficking.

#### **Search and Canvass Operations in Child Abductions**

Seconds count when a child is missing. Gain the critical skills needed to construct and manage effective search and canvass operations to recover the child. Recognize crucial cell phone and technology-related evidence which can help locate the child and track the abductor. Explore relevant legal issues associated with criminal cases against those who abduct and harm children. Participate in hands-on exercises designed to test your knowledge and application of the material and prepare you for your next missing child case.

#### Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children

Gather the tools and resources you need to promote swift and decisive responses to reports of missing, abducted and sexually exploited children. Learn how public safety telecommunications centers can develop, train, and prepare for immediate and comprehensive response during the critical, early stages of an incident.

#### Unsolved Child Abduction Cases: When All Leads have been Exhausted

Child abduction cases all too often become unsolved child abductions. One of the most frightening crimes a community and law enforcement will encounter, circumstances can vary widely from a witnessed child abduction to a belief an abduction occurred, but it was not witnessed. A reported abduction which is in fact a parental murder or negligence related death may also have occurred, rather than an abduction. These cases are complex to investigate when they occur and even more so when months or years have passed, and the cases have been essentially closed. Develop a process for identifying viable cases to reopen. Recognize likely hurdles you will encounter and develop the skill to navigate valuable resources to access when reopening a case. Utilize an investigative checklist to manage the renewed investigation of a child abduction and become informed about evidentiary advances which may impact your investigation. Experience a case study which brings home the practical application of all you have learned.

#### **Unresolved Missing Person Cases in Indian Country**

Discover proven investigative strategies and acquire the requisite skills to investigate and manage unresolved homicides and long-term missing children and adult cases in Indian Country. Explore the roles and responsibilities of an unresolved case team when working these investigations. Gain insight into the dynamics of violent crime investigations, missing persons, homicides, and no-body homicide investigations. This course is consistent with Best Practice recommendations published by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.





# Virtual Trainings

#### **Webinars**

Do you have 60-90 minutes for a live or recorded webinar? Each month, we offer live webinars on the trending public safety topics that are important to you and your community. If you miss the live webinar, most webinars are recorded for future replay.



Learn more at ncjtc.org/AMBERAlertwebinars



#### **Videos**



For quick tips on trending public safety topics, we offer the Critical 3 Video Series. All Critical 3 videos are less than 10 minutes long and feature 3 key points about topics such as death investigations, sex offender management, wellness, missing children cases, leadership, and more.

Learn more at ncjtc.org/critical3



#### **Self-Paced Courses**

Are you looking for full virtual courses that offer you the flexibility to learn from anywhere, on your own time? We have them! AMBER Alert self-paced courses are taught by subject matter experts actively working in their field of expertise and vary in length.

Visit ncjtc.org/AMBERAlertselfpaced for a current listing.



#### **CART Commander Online Training**

This course covers important considerations regarding: protocol development and management; development and use of Memoranda of Understanding; CART composition; training, including the development and use of tabletop exercises and field scenarios; CART certification standards; and a case study which integrates all topics covered in consideration of effective CART leadership.

#### **Checklist Training for Investigative Officers**

Gain an overview of the Investigative Officer Checklist resource, which can be found in the Resources tab on this webpage. The course will guide you through a case-scenario review of important checklist elements and considerations for effective use. You will be provided with information to support accurate and effective response to reports of endangered missing or abducted children, and effective transition from patrol first response to ongoing investigation of the case.

#### Child Abduction Response Team Training (CART) for New Members

Consider the scope and scale of the problem of missing and abducted children including CART structure, function and command considerations, investigative considerations, canvass operations, search operations, volunteer management, digital forensics, logistics, recovery, and reunification. Examine a case study in which all concepts taught are integrated and considered for an effective overall response.

#### Investigative Checklist Training for Patrol First Responders

Gain an overview of the Patrol First Response investigative checklist resource. This training provides a guided case-scenario review of

important checklist elements and considerations for effective use. Patrol officers can use this information to support accurate and effective response to reports of endangered missing or abducted children, and assist with steps essential to communicate information to arriving investigators.

#### **Investigative Checklist Training for Supervisory Officers**

The course will guide you through a case-scenario review of important checklist elements and considerations for effective use. You will be provided with information to support accurate and effective supervisory response to reports of endangered missing or abducted children, and effective coordination of case roles and responsibilities across patrol, investigations, and outside resources.

#### Patrol First Response for Missing and Abducted Children (PATMAC)

Provides law enforcement patrol officers with information and resources to promote swift and effective initial field response to incidents of endangered missing and abducted children. Learn about the scope, scale and nature of the problem. Examine best practices for initial on-scene response, important considerations for transitioning the investigation, and resources for law enforcement.

### Responding to Recovered High Risk and Endangered Missing Cases – An Introduction for Law Enforcement Officers

Gather important information to identify poly-exploitation which may have occurred while the child was missing, and the interview process. Learn about the scope, scale, and nature of problem, and how patrol and investigative officers can effectively respond.

### Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children

Provides law enforcement telecommunications personnel with information and resources to promote a swift and effective response to incidents of endangered missing and abducted children. Learn about the scope, scale, and nature of the problem, best practice policy, and protocols for telecommunications response. Review important NCIC record entry and data management considerations and resources for the communications center.

#### Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country Series (MCI-IC)

# Course 1: Introduction to Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

Learn about the six key challenges law enforcement officers and supporting agencies working in or with Indian Country communities often face when a child goes missing, including: not having a clearly defined starting point for the investigation, proper identification and utilization of resources, increasing risk with the passage of time, the emotionally charged nature of the case, addressing and managing the media, and jurisdictional, geographic, and cultural dynamics of investigative work in Indian Country.

# Course 2: Initial Assessment - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

Explore how to perform an initial assessment in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. Gain an understanding of the victim risk assessment and missing child categories that are crucial in missing child investigations. During the training, you will review various missing child categories and identify factors that aid in the formulation of the initial assessment, a process of elimination based on the specific incident fact pattern as it relates to the missing child categories. This assessment process creates the foundation for the formulation of a strategy in the missing child investigation.

# Course 3: Nonfamily and Stereotypical Abduction Assessments - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

Learn how to perform nonfamily and stereotypical abduction assessments in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. During the training, you will explore the behavioral tools to assess whether the reported abduction is a nonfamily abduction, stereotypical abduction or possibly, a false allegation of child abduction. The behavioral aspects used in this assessment process will primarily focus on the victim's age and location of disappearance as these relate to the offender's behavior and motivation. Understanding the common characteristics, motivations, and behaviors of offenders who abduct children can play a significant role in the successful investigation of missing or abducted children.

# Course 4: Initial Law Enforcement Response (Phase 1) - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The fourth course is designed to help law enforcement understand and apply processes in the first of four distinct phases in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. Phase 1 details the required actions of officers and supervisors who are first to arrive on scene.

# Course 5: Escalation of Resources (Phase 2) - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The fifth course is designed to help law enforcement understand and apply processes in the second of four distinct phases in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. Phase 2 details actions in the rapid escalation of resources and investigative activities required to simultaneously address multiple avenues of investigation in a timely manner once the basic facts regarding

the child's disappearance have been obtained, and the information confirms the child has been abducted or is in danger.

# Course 6: Organization of Resources (Phase 3) - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The sixth course is designed to help law enforcement understand and apply processes in the third of four distinct phases in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. Phase 3 addresses the expanding investigation, and details how investigative efficiency and effectiveness can be achieved through the organization of resources and processes, therefore increasing the probability of a successful case resolution.

# Course 7: Continued Investigations (Phase 4) - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The seventh course is designed to help law enforcement understand and apply processes in the final of four distinct phases in a missing child investigation in Indian Country. Phase 4 addresses missing child investigations which have not been resolved during the preliminary investigative phases and that progress to a long-term or continued investigative phase.

### Course 8: Victimology in Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The eighth course is designed to expose law enforcement to the significance of victimology for risk assessments. When investigations lack a crime scene or witnesses, the only commonly known factor is the victim's identify. An extensive victimology is therefore critical in assessing the child's risk of victimization. Victimology is a comprehensive collection of personal information of the missing child and their immediate family that addresses personality, lifestyle, and patterns that reveal specific risks, vulnerabilities, and stressors for the child. The victimology forms the basis for the missing child risk assessment.

# Course 9: Case Management in Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The ninth course is designed to expose law enforcement to the case management of an expanding missing child investigation in Indian Country. The mysterious disappearance of a child can quickly evolve into a major case resulting in the rapid depletion of police resources. Missing child investigations in Indian Country are complex and often require a task force of multiple tribal, state, and federal agencies. To manage the investigation effectively, resources are assigned to each process, which are broken down into smaller components based on investigative taskings or processes. Case management involves overseeing and coordinating the components and investigative processes. This course will provide an in-depth review of managing the components and coordinating the investigative processes.

# Course 10: Performing General Area Searches, Forensic Searches, and Roadblock Canvasses - Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country

The tenth course is designed to help law enforcement understand and apply proper methods and techniques in preforming general area searches, forensic searches, and roadblock canvasses in missing child investigations in Indian Country. The general area search - a physical search for the child, and the forensic search - a formal collection of physical evidence, are core investigative processes in missing child investigations, especially in child abduction cases. The roadblock canvass is frequently conducted in conjunction with the general area search. This course will focus on the procedures and coordination of each of these investigative processes.

