

THE AMBER ADVOCATE

AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY TOOLKITS ON THE MOVE



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Your story ideas and pictures are welcome! Submit to ferenbac@fvtc.edu

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(Left) Hopi Police Department Lieutenant Jarvis Qumyintewa, left, and Hopi Police Chief Virgil Pinto (Center) Sandia Pueblo Tribal Police Department, New Mexico (Right) Comanche Nation Toolkit with Officer Mary Greniewicki.

AMBER Alert in Indian Country Technology Toolkits on the Move

Durable cases outfitted with high-tech equipment to aid tribal law enforcement during missing child cases are making their way throughout the U.S.

By Denise Gee Peacock

When a child goes missing, law enforcement response time is critical. So is having the right tools.

An endeavor to donate nearly every technological resource necessary for responding to missing and abducted children cases – a rugged laptop, webcam, digital camera, scanner, and more – is now underway thanks to the AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) initiative, a component of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP), funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Ashlynnne Mike **AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act** of 2018.

These technology toolkits are being provided to tribal communities that currently administer their own AMBER Alert program, or which participate in (or are in the process of adopting or joining) a regional or state AMBER Alert plan. So far, more than three dozen of the technology toolkits have been distributed to tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in 19 states, from Alabama to Washington. The goal is to double that number by the end of September 2022, and ultimately provide a total of 150 toolkits

to agencies that have requested them, said AIIIC Program Manager Tyesha Wood.

“The toolkit doesn’t give tribes the capacity to initiate an AMBER Alert on their own. It’s a source of supplemental equipment to help agencies expedite their work in finding missing and endangered children,” said Wood, a member of the Navajo Nation and former law enforcement detective.

Getting the 41-pound packages to their destinations – often in remote areas – is not always easy. Many tribes use post office boxes for mailing addresses, so the toolkits sometimes need to be re-routed to locations that can pose a challenge for delivery drivers.

Where Toolkits Have Landed

As of the publication of this story, AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) Technology Toolkits have made their way to:

Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Nevada, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington

Continued on next page

AMBER Alert in Indian Country Technology Toolkits on the Move

"It's a special privilege to deliver the toolkits in person," said Wood, who is assisted by AICC Project Specialist Chelsa Seciwa and AICC Liaison Valerie Briebecas. "As we meet the community's leadership, there's a bond that forms, which is nice, and we plan future collaborative work, including training initiatives."

"It's also been rewarding to see each tribe's environment and experience any challenges they may have," such as a lack of cellphone coverage or knowledge about state or regional AMBER Alert plans. "Understanding each tribe's needs gives us insight into their way of life, their community. And that's important, because every tribe is unique," Wood said.

The AICC team kicked off the technology toolkit initiative on March 22, 2022, with a **visit** to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation in Cary, North Carolina.

Cherokee Nation Police Chief Josh Taylor was happy to receive both the toolkit and the AICC visitors. "This toolkit provides us with the equipment to be successful in

Indian Country," he said at an event to honor the occasion. "And with the opportunity for additional training, we will benefit from staying connected with the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program."

"Often there are barriers and divisions between Native American lands and the states. I want to tear those down."

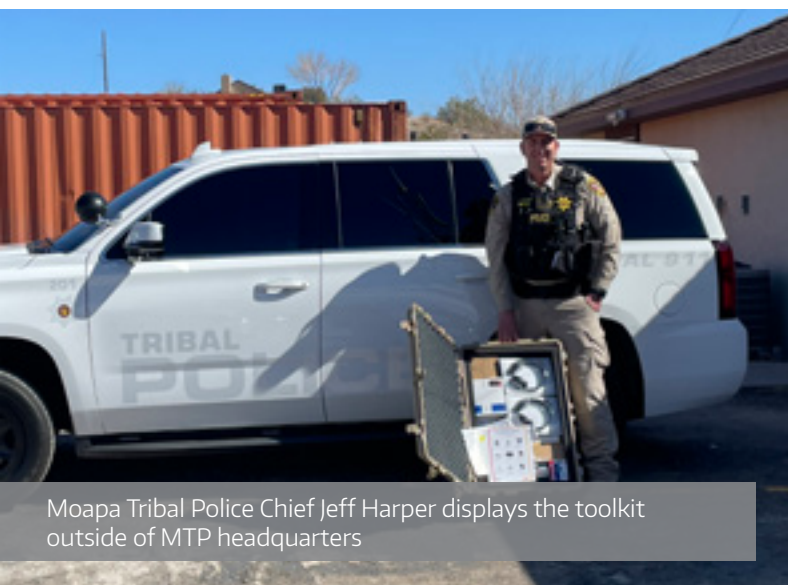
Cherokee Nation Police Chief Josh Taylor

AMBER Alert Coordinator Nona Best, Director of the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, agreed. "This toolkit will ensure that if a child goes missing, the most effective, efficient, and quickest response time will be in the hands of the Cherokee Nation Police Department."

Speaking before a large crowd, AATTAP Administrator Janell Rasmussen noted, "It's unusual to see such a phenomenal partnership between a state agency and a tribe, and the great work being done here. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Tribe and the North Carolina AMBER Alert Coordinator should be commended for their collaborative efforts to bring missing children home."

Another technology toolkit **presentation** took place May 2, 2022, at the Navajo Nation Police Department in Window Rock, Arizona.

"Preparation and coordination are key to bringing a child home safely, and the toolkits will assist our law enforcement officers if a child should be reported missing. Responding officers can access the kit and have everything they need to send out an alert as quickly as possible



Moapa Tribal Police Chief Jeff Harper displays the toolkit outside of MTP headquarters

while still in the field, including in rural areas,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. His administration is now working to expand the AMBER Alert system and provide a comprehensive 911 system that can effectively cover the largest tribal nation in the U.S., spanning 27,000 square miles in three states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah).

In 2016, 11-year-old Navajo Nation member **Ashlynn Mike** was abducted and later found murdered. A lack of coordinated response and jurisdictional understanding led to a delay in the issuance of an AMBER Alert, prompting her mother, Pamela Foster, to lobby legislators to enact a law to ensure such a tragedy never happens again.

“Through the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018, many partnerships were established between tribal communities and external agencies to protect our children,” said Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez. “Many families know the personal heartbreak and trauma of missing loved ones on the Navajo Nation and throughout Indian Country. Multiple jurisdictional systems have historically failed the victims, their families, and survivors. Today we have to set a new tone of hope on this issue that impacts our homes and tribal communities.”

Navajo Nation Police Chief Daryl Noon added, “One of the things we recognize is we can’t do this alone. We will continue to welcome the support from our community partners, especially for AMBER Alert initiatives, and remain focused and committed to the protection of our children here in the Navajo Nation.”

In addition to receiving the toolkit, tribal AMBER Alert program personnel and law enforcement officers involved in AMBER Alerts and child protection in their communities are being invited to access the Partner Portal on the AMBER Advocate website <https://amberadvocate.org>.

With portal membership, they can connect with other AMBER Alert partners and find additional resources to assist in AMBER Alert program work, as well as first response and investigative efforts for endangered missing and abducted child cases.

These resources are provided to tribes at no charge thanks to efforts by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to facilitate implementation of the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act. Programs and action items within the Act are designed to provide tribes with access to state, regional, and tribal AMBER Alert plans and improve response to endangered missing and abducted children in Indian Country.

“The toolkit provides many technologies needed when responding to and investigating missing and abducted children. By creating a response plan when a child goes missing, and working with state and federal law enforcement agencies, tribes will be one step closer to bringing their missing children home,” Wood said, adding, “I just wish we could visit every tribe in the nation.”

For more information on AMBER Alert in Indian Country training, technical assistance and/or resources – including the technology toolkit – contact askamber@fvtc.edu, call 877/712-6237, or visit <https://amber-ic.org>.

Where Toolkits Have Landed

The AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) Technology Toolkit consists of the following equipment/items to assist during missing child investigations:

- Panasonic Toughbook laptop computer
- Pelican protector case
- Headset
- 4K webcam
- Document scanner
- Digital camera
- Flash memory card
- Camera battery
- Camera case
- HDMI cable

ON THE FRONT LINES: Road to Recovery



(Left) Canyon Creek trailhead, (Right) Idaho State Police Corporal Dave Wesche

Road to Recovery

A Georgia 11-year-old, abducted by his father, is found in the Idaho wilderness thanks to an Idaho State Trooper's instinct and the successful teamwork of two state law enforcement agencies challenged by distance and technology

By Denise Gee Peacock

The white Nissan Sentra with Georgia plates didn't strike Idaho State Police (ISP) Corporal David Wesche as suspicious. At least at first.

"We get a lot of tourists up here," he said of the vast Canyon Creek wilderness area in Idaho's panhandle. "I thought it might be a group of bear hunters."

Little did he know the supposed big game hunters would soon become big news.

In a Bad Spot

Trooper Wesche first noticed the vehicle as he was heading home the night of May 4, 2022. It was parked along U.S. Highway 12 by mile marker 10, east of Lowell, Idaho. The car was close to a trailhead leading to a formidably dense forest, where steep bluffs tower over a winding canyon creek. With "civilization" being 40 miles away, Wesche said only die-hard hunters camped in the area.

After being away from work for a week, Wesche traversed the same stretch of road the evening of May 10. The car was still there. Using his flashlight to peer inside its windows, he saw buckets often used by hunters. But one thing bothered him. "Only the most experienced hunters, primarily locals, visit that part of Canyon Creek," Wesche said, "and only during daylight hours," since bears, wolves, and mountain lions often roam there at night.

Wesche radioed ISP Regional Communications Officer Keila Wyndham to request a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) trace. The car was linked to an Enterprise Rent-A-Car company in LaGrange, Georgia. Wesche then asked Wyndham to find out when the car was due to be returned. She soon contacted him with the answer: May 11 – the next day.

With the vehicle 2,400 miles from Georgia,

the renter would obviously not be returning it on time. That itself was not unusual; tourists often return rental cars late. But, if the car were to still be in Idaho after its due-date, Wesche had two options. He could follow the standard protocol of tagging the abandoned vehicle and requesting the rental agency tow it away. Or he could take another route – one driven by a hunch that something wasn't right.

Amusement Park By-Pass

The ordeal of 11-year-old Gabriel Daugherty – known for a bright smile, spirited T shirts, and smart black glasses – had begun 12 days earlier in LaGrange. On Thursday, April 28, Gabriel's non-custodial father, Addam Daugherty, picked up his son for a pre-approved trip to Six Flags near Atlanta, about an hour's drive north. The plan was for Gabriel to return home Sunday, May 1.

The next day (April 29), Addam, a long-haul trucker, called Gabriel's mother to say Six Flags was unexpectedly closed. (Unbeknownst to her, it wasn't). His backup plan was to take Gabriel to a Missouri theme park. She gave him permission to do so, and he agreed to have their son home by Friday, May 6.

On May 3, Addam once again called Gabriel's mother – this time saying his truck had broken down and he would need an extra day to have it repaired. Gabriel, he assured her, would now be home by Saturday, May 7.

But May 7 came and went, with Gabriel's mother unable to reach Addam via the new cell phone number he had provided. She contacted the LaGrange Police Department (LPD) to report her son missing.

Seeking advice from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the LPD discussed whether the case met the criteria for an AMBER Alert (also known as a "Levi's Call" in the state). The mother, LPD detectives said, was emphatic that Addam would never do anything to hurt their son, but he nonetheless did not have her permission to be with Gabriel.

"On the face of it, the situation appeared to be a custody issue, so a Levi's Call was not issued," said Emily Butler, GBI AMBER Alert/Levi's Call Coordinator.

The LPD did, however, begin trying to locate Mr. Daugherty. Within hours, his truck was found abandoned in LaGrange – not in Missouri, as his wife was led to believe. Detectives also discovered that

Mr. Daugherty had resigned from his trucking job a few days before picking up Gabriel, and told his employer where to find his truck.

On May 9, the LPD issued a felony warrant for Mr. Daugherty's arrest, alerting Georgia law enforcement agencies, the media, and the

public to be on the lookout for Addam and his son. The last thing LPD detectives expected was for the duo to be in the wilds of Idaho.

“As the father of an 11-year-old, this case really got to me. I wanted to have my boots on the ground with the Idaho team. But it's a relief to know that there are men and women who refuse to give up, who think, 'Just up ahead – we may find them'.”

Detective Jason Duncan, LaGrange (Georgia) Police Department

Continued on next page

ON THE FRONT LINES: Road to Recovery



Gabriel Daugherty

Research Pays Off

ISP Trooper Wesche was off duty May 10, but prepared for his work the next day by again contacting ISP Dispatcher Wyndham. He asked her to provide him with the name of the car's renter, and a photo of the driver license used when renting it. Wyndham responded within minutes: "His name is Addam Daugherty - Addam with two 'd's." A photo of him would be forthcoming.

Wesche next contacted his sister, an Idaho Fish and Game (IFG) officer. He asked her if an Addam Daugherty from Georgia had applied for a hunting or fishing license. After checking IFG records, she said he had not. "Maybe he's been hunting without a license," Wesche recalls thinking. "Again, that's not legal, but it's also not unusual." Wesche also knew from experience that vehicles abandoned near forests often led to the discovery of suicide victims. "So that was in my mind too." His sister then called back. She found a news article about Mr. Daugherty and his son.

"That's when we realized we had a bigger issue than an overdue rental car or a hunter without a license," he said.

On May 11, Wesche relayed his findings to ISP leadership, which worked with ISP Regional Communications Supervisor Ray Shute to coordinate an "information relay" between the ISP and LPD. Otherwise, timely, back-and-forth communications would pose a challenge: Wesche lived and worked in a remote area without cell phone access. He could only communicate using his ISP radio, home landline, and the hard-wired internet on his computer.

Tapping into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, the ISP team saw that Georgia had issued an in-state warrant for Mr. Daugherty's arrest. They immediately contacted detectives in LaGrange, sharing information about the abandoned rental car in Idaho. In turn, they learned about Mr. Daugherty's abandoned truck in Georgia, and the misinformation he had provided to Gabriel's mother. The LPD changed the case involving Mr. Daugherty to a felony warrant with full extradition, and a missing person case was opened for Gabriel.

Collaborating with LPD Detective/Crime Analyst Jason Duncan, Shute wrote a warrant to obtain Google records of Mr. Daugherty's cell phone activity. The Idaho-Georgia team learned the last time he had used the phone was in Riggins, Idaho, May 3 - the day he told Gabriel's mother his truck had broken down in Missouri. They also realized pinging Mr. Daugherty's cell phone would be impossible, given his location in Canyon Creek, and the fact that he had a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone, which only works when connected to Wi-Fi.

ISP Police Sergeant Aaron Bingham briefed the Idaho County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) on the situation. With daylight fading, they scheduled a search and rescue operation for the next day at dawn.

Successful Recovery

On the day of the search (May 12), an ISP-ICSO briefing was held in Kooskia, Idaho. Wesche worked to obtain a warrant to access the rental car, which would be towed for inspection at the ISP District Office in Lewiston. Meanwhile, ICSO deputies trained in search and rescue tactics were deployed to the trailhead near where Mr. Daugherty had parked. A short time later, using a drone, they located Mr. Daugherty and his son at a partially camouflaged camp site several miles up the trail.

“Going a few miles into the Canyon isn’t a typical hiker’s experience,” Wesche explained. “It’s a treacherous physical undertaking.”

Sheriff’s deputies reported that Mr. Daugherty appeared shocked when confronted. “He thought he was in the middle of the wilderness and would never be found,” Idaho County Chief Deputy Brian Hewson told local media. “They were really unprepared with [inadequate] food, clothing, and sleeping arrangements.” Due to a lot of rain and cold temperatures the region had recently experienced, “the area was too damp to start a fire, and their clothes and tent were wet when officers found them,” Hewson said. “They were starting to eat local plant life, snails, and insects.”

Gabriel “was very weak and sick,” he noted. “He was glad we found him when we did,” especially since his father told

him they would not be returning home to Georgia.

Gabriel was transported to a local hospital for treatment and observation before being reunited with his mother in Georgia. His father was taken to the Idaho County Jail and extradited back to LaGrange to face the charge of interstate interference with custody.

Sheriff’s investigators believe that Mr. Daugherty’s trucking job had once given him the opportunity to traverse the long east-west Highway 12 route through Idaho, and that he had selected the area for its remoteness. “It was clear he had this planned,” Hewson said.

“At every turn the father made poor decisions,” Wesche explained. “He thought he and his son could live like survivalists, but the father had no outdoor skills whatsoever.”

After the case was resolved, LPD Detective Duncan commended Idaho law enforcement for their excellent work. “It’s still hard to believe [the Daughertys] were found alive that far

“This case had some amazing teamwork between dispatch, patrol, outside agencies, and law enforcement in Georgia. An open line of communication with the lead detectives in Georgia allowed for a quick and thorough sharing of information that helped bring this case to a close.”

Ray Shute, Communications Center Supervisor, Idaho State Police

“Our dispatchers went above and beyond to provide background, research specialized support, and connect Georgia law enforcement with Idaho officers working in a technologically inhospitable area.”

Tanea Parmenter, AMBER Alert Coordinator/ Missing Person Clearinghouse Program Manager, Idaho State Police

Continued on next page

ON THE FRONT LINES: Road to Recovery

from their vehicle in those conditions," he said. "I've been on search parties in good weather and know how hard it is to keep the faith and push forward. Those involved are truly heroes – and 100 percent responsible for saving Gabriel's life."

ISP Communications Center Supervisor Shute returned the compliment. "Jason, your teamwork, coordination, sharing of information, and communication assisted our team greatly in the apprehension of

Addam Daugherty and the safe recovery of Gabriel."

Shute then praised Wesche. "He followed his intuition, did research on his own time, and was able to piece together this entire case," he said. "Medical opinion was that if Gabriel had not been located within one to two days, he most likely would not have survived."

Key Takeaways

- **Documentation is vital.** Quickly entering a case into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database helps law enforcement connect the dots during an investigation. So does having a well-documented case file. "Since we don't have jurisdiction over a regional investigation, sometimes there isn't a lot of information for us to review when revisiting a case," said GBI AMBER Alert/Levi's Call Coordinator Emily Butler. "The fact that the LaGrange PD documented the case so well – even after the Levi's Call [AMBER Alert] had been denied early on – is testament to regional law enforcement working well with state law enforcement as a team."
- **"Pay attention to anything unusual,"** advised ISP Corporal Dave Wesche, a 10-year veteran of law enforcement. "I take things seriously until I can say it's nothing."
- **"Cases are fluid,"** Butler emphasized. "While the information we had at the time didn't qualify the case for an AMBER Alert, the situation changed dramatically, and the officers responded accordingly."
- **Teamwork is essential.** "If we get a call from another state, I'm always open to helping them in any way possible," Butler said. "That's the case with most states, but it helps to get to know your counterparts during national conferences such as the one the AATTAP recently held."
- **Thank everyone on the team.** "That goes a long way in this line of work," said ISP Communications Center Supervisor Ray Shute.

AMBER ALERT INTERNATIONAL

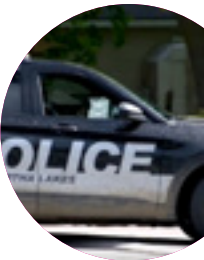
3D posters add new dimension to finding missing children in England

After the AMBER Alert became widespread, pictures of missing children no longer appeared on milk cartons. Now a London-based charity, Missing People, is taking the effort a step forward by using digital billboards with 3D portraits of missing children. The pictures look “live” with blinking eyes and tilting heads. The billboards have a QR code to help spread the image and information on social media. The signs also use the words “help find” instead of “missing” because behavioral scientists say this will give the public a call to action.



Petitions seeks alert system for autistic children in Ontario

Several online petitions are seeking an AMBER Alert-like system for missing autistic children after the body of an 11-year-old Lindsay, Ontario, boy was recovered in a river. Draven Graham had a sensory irritation to touch and would not answer to his name. The petitions are asking for a “Draven Alert” for missing autistic and vulnerable/special needs children. Some suggest expanding the alert for autistic adults.



AMBER Alert Europe global campaign warns against sharing nude pictures

AMBER Alert Europe has launched a worldwide campaign to urge people to stop sharing naked images. The campaign addresses the dangers minors face when sharing self-generated naked images, otherwise known as “nudes.” The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) found a dramatic 77% rise in self-generated naked teen pictures shared online since 2019, and that one in three teenagers have admitted to seeing non-consensually shared nudes. “These kinds of self-generated images can have far-reaching consequences on (a teen’s) health and wellbeing; and once shared, could also lead to sexual extortion and coercion – even criminal charges,” said AMBER Alert Europe Chairman Frank Hoe. The campaign’s video and posters are being shared in 27 countries.



Quebec to launch Silver Alert for missing seniors

Quebec’s provincial police force, the Sûreté du Québec, plans to launch a Silver Alert pilot program to help find missing seniors. The police agency estimates that 800 missing seniors would qualify for the alert every year. The Silver Alert would send the public essential information when a senior with neurocognitive challenges, such as Alzheimer’s disease, goes missing. Police were originally opposed to the alert, fearing it would desensitize the public’s response to AMBER Alerts.



FACES OF THE AMBER ALERT

Lieutenant Stacie Lick, who created and leads her state's first Child Abduction Response Team (CART), sheds light on what makes her program a model for the nation

By Denise Gee Peacock



Gloucester County, New Jersey, Prosecutor and Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Coordinator Stacie Lick

Lieutenant Stacie Lick, with the Gloucester County Prosecutors Office in New Jersey, has served as her county's Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Coordinator since 2008. That year she helped create her state's first CART – assembling its specialized resources and personnel while devising its policies and procedures that, 14 years later, have become a model for CARTs across the country.

In the spring of 2022, the Gloucester County CART met another milestone: It became the first CART in New Jersey to be certified by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Gloucester County CART has 120 resources that can be activated in response to a child abduction. The team also relies on a 100-page manual of protocols that Lick helped develop for missing child investigations (which the AATTAP has incorporated into its CART training materials).

Currently, Lick oversees the Gloucester County Special Victims and High-Tech Crimes Units, specializing in cases involving crimes against children and human trafficking. From 2017–2020, she helped acquire funding to build and equip the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Gloucester County. The CAC serves as a safe place for children to share their stories of abuse to professionals trained in forensic

interviewing, and houses a Special Victims Unit that Lick also helped create.

After earning a B.A. in criminal justice from Temple University, Lick entered law enforcement in her home state in 2000, and now raises her family close to where she grew up. The AATTAP recently connected with Lick for an interview about her time in law enforcement and child protection work, what she has learned along the way, and her vision and goals for the future.

What drew you to your field of work?

When I first started work at the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office in 2003, there wasn't a big focus on missing and endangered children. No one specialized in it. So as a newer, younger detective, I thought I would do that, and work to help kids in our community. I wanted them to get them the attention they deserved.

What motivates you when it comes to missing and endangered children?

The work is extremely rewarding. Especially helping high-risk, endangered kids who have left home because they're not happy with what's happening there. I'm grateful to be able to listen to their stories. To be their voice when no one believes them. To get them the services they need to move forward.

What provided you the opportunity to create the Gloucester County CART?

In the fall of 2008, Sean Dalton, then the Gloucester County Prosecutor – the county's chief law enforcement officer – called me in and said, "I'm tasking you with creating and managing a Child Abduction Response

WEB EXCLUSIVE: Read about a pivotal missing child case that sparked Lieutenant Lick's first CART deployment – and the lessons it provides.

Click to Read



Team (CART). You can choose someone to work with you, and I want you to go to training.” So my partner, Bryn Wilden, and I attended a NCJTC pre-CART training, and were astounded to hear our State Attorney General, Anne Milgram, thank our very own prosecutor [Dalton] for his innovative CART work. She then announced that our state would be required to have a CART in all 21 of its counties. Knowing our county’s prosecutor had spearheaded the plan for the entire state really motivated us. We knew we had to represent the plan well. And thankfully we have the continued support of Acting Prosecutor Christine Hoffman.

What were the greatest challenges during the process?

Finding the right personnel for the team. We approached it by going to all the team chiefs in the municipality and asking, “If your child were missing, who would you want working the case?”

What traits do you look for in a CART member?

I look for people with a passion for the work and a dedication to their agency; people who make safely recovering a missing child the priority during an investigation. Such passion and dedication are an indication of how that person will respond during training and deployment.

What are your thoughts on CART training?

We train twice a year to stay updated on resources, policies, and procedures. We also review case studies to learn what went right and what didn’t. And we have mock activations to help build muscle memory. We don’t even have to think about what we’re doing; we just do it.

How do you sustain your CART?

I have a list I’m pretty proud of: It has about 120 resources from all 19 municipalities

in our county — from K9 handlers to trash stops. I update it once a year. I also invite CART liaisons to suggest people they think should be involved and open our training to first responders interested in helping.

What goals do you have for your CART?

I’d like to improve our volunteer program. I created an application and waiver form for them, which is helpful, but I’d like to recruit more of them. We recently had about a dozen volunteers show up to help for our recent certification process. Even my daughter volunteered! I could tell she enjoyed the process.

What would you say to a law enforcement agency that is ‘on the fence’ about developing a CART program?

Having specialized resources and trained personnel is a tremendous asset to the victims and their families. Personally, I don’t understand how agencies can operate without them. A CART is everything but the AMBER Alert. You have a search and canvass team, legal expertise, victim and family advocates, a volunteer coordinator, someone handling the media, and more. This lets the community see you’re doing everything you can – and not wasting time trying to find resources. Also, administration liability is huge in missing child investigations. It’s not what you do, it’s what you don’t do. Having a CART protects you when you have established policies and procedures that you follow to a ‘T.’

AMBER ALERT BRIEFS



INSTAGRAM NOW SHARING AMBER ALERTS

Instagram is now posting AMBER Alerts to notify the public about abducted children. The alerts are being placed on the social media platform in the U.S. and 24 other countries. Meta, the parent group of Instagram and Facebook, said Instagram will share the alerts in a designated area based on the user's IP address and location. AMBER Alerts have been posted on Facebook since 2015. Google began issuing the alerts to users of its Search and Maps tools in 2012. "With this update, if an AMBER Alert is activated by law enforcement and you are in the designated search area, the alert will now appear in your Instagram feed," said Meta Director of Trust & Safety Emily Vacher. The Instagram posts are part of a partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.



TEXAS BOY SUFFERS HEARING LOSS AFTER AMBER ALERT BLARED THROUGH AIRPODS

Tech giant Apple is being sued after a 12-year-old boy said he suffered permanent hearing damage after getting a loud AMBER Alert while using his AirPods. The Texas boy said he was listening to a program at a low volume when a very loud AMBER Alert notification ruptured his eardrums. The boy's parents said Apple failed to warn AirPods users about the design flaw.



NORTH CAROLINA POLICE CONSIDER CHARGES AGAINST TEEN WHO FAKED ABDUCTION

The Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Police Department is investigating a 17-year-old boy who sparked an AMBER Alert after he claimed he was kidnapped. The teen sent pictures and text messages to family members saying he had been abducted and the kidnapers wanted money or he would be killed. Police are considering charges because of the waste of law enforcement resources.

COUPLE WANTED IN AN AMBER ALERT ATTEMPTS TO SUE TEXAS POLICE

Two women plan to sue the Harker Heights, Texas, Police Department for issuing an AMBER Alert and accusing the couple of kidnapping a 2-month-old girl. The women said the baby's mother left the child with them and was planning to give them legal guardianship. Police issued the alert after the baby's father claimed the couple would not give the child to him.



ALASKA UPDATES ITS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Alaska State Troopers launched a new statewide system to issue AMBER Alerts and other emergency notifications. The new tool allows Alaskans to subscribe to email and SMS alerts related to significant law enforcement activity in an area, evacuation information, missing persons bulletins, suspect information, and other timely alerts. Alaskans can sign up for alerts at alerts.dps.alaska.gov/subscribe.



PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE RECOMMENDS DISMISSING AMBER ALERT SUSPECT'S LAWSUIT

A federal judge has recommended terminating a lawsuit against the Northumberland County Children & Youth Department in Pennsylvania. Sawsan Hadidi filed a \$5 million suit against the agency after an AMBER Alert was issued when she left her home with her children. Hadidi was arrested in Chicago in September 2020 and later pleaded no contest to concealing her children.

AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY



New Washington State alert addresses high rate of missing indigenous people

A first-of-its-kind alert system for missing indigenous women and people was signed into law in Washington state in March 2022. The system helps distribute information about missing Native Americans much like an AMBER Alert. Washington has the second-highest number of missing indigenous people in the U.S.



U.S. and Canada tribes spotlight Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day

Tribal leaders and other U.S and Canadian public officials recognized National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness (MMIW) Day on May 5.

- Hundreds of Yakama Nation members gathered in Toppenish, Washington, to share stories and pray. They marched with signs reading “No more lost sisters.”
- The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe held a march in Kitsap, Washington, to bring awareness to the plight of missing and murdered indigenous women.
- In Madison, Wisconsin, members of state tribes gathered for MMIW Day at the state capitol and read the names of all missing indigenous women who have been found dead in the state. “This epidemic of missing and murdered Native women and girls must stop,” said Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge Munsee Community, one of the state’s 11 federally recognized tribal nations.
- South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem issued a proclamation for MMIW Day. Noem highlighted the actions she has taken to address the ongoing crisis, including establishing investigation procedures for missing Native women, creating a missing person clearinghouse, and developing and fully funding the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.
- In Saskatchewan, Canada, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) also declared May 5 as National Red Dress Day to encourage protections for tribal members from all forms of violence. “Our First Nations women and girls must be protected from the unacceptable levels of violence experienced in Canadian society and our communities,” said Chief Bobby Cameron.