

THE FUTURE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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Your story ideas and pictures are welcome.

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THE FUTURE OF CHILD PROTECTION

AMBER ALERT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR SHARES VISION FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN



Jim Walters has accomplished a lot since becoming AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) Administrator in July 2014. Nearly 40 years in law enforcement and the military has helped prepare him for the critical task at hand, and he is still driven to learn and do more to help endangered, missing and abducted children.

Walters remembers working as an investigator on an abduction case involving three children taken by a known sexual predator. The case occurred before the creation of the AMBER Alert system and before training was available through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

“Mistakes were made in that case that allowed the perpetrator to slip through our fingers in

the early hours of the investigation,” said Walters. “It took 56 days to track down that man and recover the three children. Those were 56 of the longest days ever.”

“I want to make sure investigators today have the tools they need so they don’t make the mistakes we did back then. And so those children can be recovered and brought home safely.”

Under Jim Walters’ leadership, and through the efforts of his AATTAP team, many important accomplishments have been realized.

- The Program is reaching increased numbers of training participants at a lower cost by partnering with local law enforcement agencies to host and market training brought to their local areas by AATTAP.

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- A Tribal Database website provides both publicly-available and secure/credentialed information and resources to tribal communities and law enforcement to support development of comprehensive child protection and recovery strategies.
- The AMBER Advocate website provides a vast array of public information and resources, as well as a secure/credentialed Partners Portal for collaboration amongst state AMBER Alert Coordinators, Missing Person Clearinghouse Managers and Child Abduction Response Team (CART) members (AMBERAdvocate.org).
- More than 45 new families of missing, exploited and abducted children have joined with AATTAP to participate in a series of Family and Survivor Roundtable events, giving them a voice to share critically important information on their experiences, lessons learned and needed training for first responders, investigators and prosecutors about working with families in the aftermath of an abduction.
- New 1-2 day workshops have been developed, providing participants with the targeted and specific skills they need in an efficient yet thorough manner.

Never tiring in these pursuits, Walters is committed to continuing work in these areas, and has set new goals and priorities with his team for the future.



EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING

Walters plans to develop and deliver onsite evidence-based training to improve the speed and effectiveness of law enforcement's response in the following case types.

- Missing, abducted and endangered children
- Child trafficking
- Endangered high-risk youth
- Special populations of children at-risk, including at-risk children in tribal communities

"The key here is evidence-based training," said Walters. "We want to be sure that what we are teaching represents the best practices, best tactics and techniques for responding to these threats against children."

"We have over a decade of delivering training and technical assistance on these topics and work with some of the greatest investigators and service providers in the world."



Walters hopes to combine that past experience with the latest technology and input from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the FBI and other child protection partners. He is also committed to ensuring critical information from surviving family members of missing and abducted children and the investigators who worked those cases is carefully integrated into evidence-based training.

MORE TRAINING ACCESS

An important focus of AATTAP's work is to afford everyone equitable access to quality training; regardless of geographic location and work schedule. Walters and his team want to ensure all those working in child protection and everyone concerned with family and child safety can get the same level of information and resources. This is accomplished by offering eLearning –through both self-directed/anytime online training as well as scheduled live webinar events – and through onsite technical assistance that can be requested by agencies and/or jurisdic-

tions and brought to their areas through collaboration with AATTAP and the requestor's local/partner agencies.

"We specifically want to target those communities with at-risk populations and those who have a hard time getting to training or accessing resources, whether it is tribal communities, rural agencies or immigrant communities that need our training," said Walters.

This goal includes two major initiatives. The first is developing "Train the Trainer" programs for AATTAP's investigative courses. This involves partnering with agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Police Academy, state and regional Child Abduction Response Team (CART) programs and others, so that more certified instructors can be trained and thus available to deliver training at the local level.

The second initiative involves a comprehensive review of more than 300 CART programs trained since 2005. Each team will be evaluated to see if additional training is needed. Each team will also be encouraged to prepare for and complete the US-DOJ CART Certification process administered by AATTAP.

"I believe strongly we have the ability to make major improvements in how we prepare first responders, investigators and service providers for the critical call of an endangered missing or abducted child," said Walters. "These projects, along with our traditional training offerings, can make the difference when time is critical and training and skills are put to the test." ☺

FACES OF THE AMBER ALERT NETWORK

OHIO AMBER ALERT PARTNER SAYS TRAINING AND COOPERATION ARE THE KEYS TO FINDING ABDUCTED CHILDREN



Brent Currence is the Education Coordinator for the Ohio Missing Persons Unit and serves on the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee. He is also an Associate for the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. Currence retired as a Trooper and helped create the screen for dispatchers and local law enforcement officers to enter an AMBER Alert into the state's system.

HOW DOES YOUR LOCAL AMBER ALERT PROGRAM WORK?

Local law enforcement responds to investigate, and based on the circumstances of the investigation they determine if the case meets the AMBER Alert criteria. If they know right away it is going to meet the AMBER Alert criteria, they flag the NCIC entry using the AMBER Alert code, which notifies several different agencies of the requested AMBER Alert. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, who issues the alert in our state, would call the requesting agency and make sure the criteria are met; and if so would then issue the alert. Our agency is notified and our state Child Abduction Response Team offers support services and personnel to augment the investigation.

WHO ARE YOUR KEY AMBER ALERT PARTNERS AND WHO IS ON YOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

Our committee is made up of many different entities including local law enforcement, police chiefs, the sheriff's association, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio Broadcasters Association, Ohio Department of Transportation, emergency communications, the FBI and others.

We all work very well together. That is one of the nice things about our committee, we get along very well; nobody tries to dominate the conversation. We are all working towards the same goal and work well together in addressing issues.

WHAT ARE THE TWO BIGGEST LESSONS YOU HAVE LEARNED THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO PASS ON TO OTHER AMBER ALERT COORDINATORS?

The biggest thing is training. So many people change positions, especially in law enforcement; you have people coming in new, others being promoted or transferred, and this all affects knowledge and effective operations when time is of the essence in these missing child cases. It is important

that local agencies know how to activate the AMBER Alert; and if they do not, they know who to call to get the process started.

Too often time is wasted just trying to figure out who issues the alert or who has what responsibility in the process. Just knowing a simple thing like 'How do I get started?' or 'Who do I call to get assistance?' can make all the difference. Training, which should include making people aware of all the resources that are out there to help them, is the most important thing. AMBER Alerts are so time-sensitive, and there are people out there willing to help in a case with an abducted child. These resources can be at the handling agency's fingertips if they just know who to contact.

WHAT ROLE DOES SOCIAL MEDIA PLAY IN AMBER ALERTS IN OHIO?

Social media is awesome in reaching a tremendous amount of people very quickly. We obviously use Twitter and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children administers our Facebook page. I was recently looking at some of the people who follow us on Twitter and many of them are reporters for television and other media. One of the local reporters had 87,000 followers, so when he retweets something he is immediately reaching 87,000 people quickly. When I look at the system just around Central Ohio, with the number of reporters in that area who are retweeting an alert, they are reaching nearly 300,000 people very, very quickly.

In terms of concerns with social media, the main issue we have encountered is when an alert has been canceled yet is still being circulated on Facebook or Twitter. In those cases, we have been able to get them can-

celed, or to get others to stop sending the alerts fairly quickly.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION OR PRIMARY GOALS FOR YOUR AMBER ALERT PROGRAM? WHAT IS NEXT ON YOUR LIST?

Our primary focus of concern in issuing AMBER Alerts is technology and the software to issue them. It is expensive. It would be nice to be able to see the different systems talk to each other. When we do cross-state alerts, much of it is done by phone and we are taking time to email pictures, pass on information, etc. If there was a system that could be used by everybody that would be as simple as looking up and transferring information relating to the alert, it would save so much time, which is obviously essential in these types of cases.

The other issue is training and awareness. I worked in law enforcement for years and the agency I worked for was thankfully very big on training. I can see such huge differences in training when working with local law enforcement across the state, in terms of how agencies react to certain situations and how they do or do not prepare for these through training. Every year in Ohio our law enforcement officers are required to do various types of training, often twice a year - such as use of force training, firearms qualifications, and pursuit driving; yet AMBER Alert training is not required at least annually. I would like to see that happen.

IS THERE AN AMBER ALERT CASE THAT HAD A BIG IMPACT ON YOU AND YOUR OHIO AMBER ALERT PARTNERS?

We had an AMBER Alert occur while we were at a conference. The alert was in Northern Ohio in a very rural community. The suspect abducted a 14-year-old girl and

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AMBER ALERT ON THE FRONT LINES:



The suspect wandered onto the Baumann's ranch and was recognized from the AMBER Alert.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN IDAHO AND NEVADA HELP RESCUE TWO CHILDREN

A booby-trapped home, a burning truck and an armed, suicidal father high on methamphetamines sparked Idaho to issue an AMBER Alert and initiate a massive search in Idaho and Nevada. Joshua Dundon picked up his six- and seven-year-old daughters from school on the morning of May 10, 2017 and then disappeared.

The following day hikers saw a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado rushing up a hill in Eureka County, Nevada. When they hiked back they called 911 after hearing a gunshot, discovering the truck was on fire and witnessing a man talking to a child hidden in the trees.

Boise Police Department notified the public about the missing father and two endangered daughters, Jaylynn and Madison, on May 13. Officers later received information Dundon had been in a methamphetamine-fueled state of paranoia. They also found a house filled with holes in the walls and that

had been booby-trapped to start a fire by leaking natural gas.

That same day the Eureka Sheriff's Department determined the truck belonged to Dundon. Seeing news coverage of the missing girls, they contacted the Boise Police Department.

On May 15, Idaho AMBER Alert Coordinator Dawn Peck of the Idaho State Police received a request from the Boise Police Department to issue an AMBER Alert. Peck determined the case met the criteria for an AMBER Alert.

"The taking of the children without notice, the evidence at his home and the burnt-out truck caused the investigating agency to request the AMBER Alert and I agreed to do so," said Peck. "Although under the national guidelines the girls were missing for well over 12 hours, in Idaho we err on the side of

the children and issued the alert because of the evidence in the case.”

Peck authorized the AMBER Alert at 1:13 p.m. and it was issued at 1:43 p.m. The alert was sent to law enforcement, broadcasters, highway signs, Emergency Alert System, the state lottery system and to people who signed up to receive alerts by email.

Boise Detective Angie Munson had asked Nevada to also issue an AMBER Alert but the state said it did not meet its criteria because authorities were no longer looking for a vehicle.

“Our public information officer contacted the media in Nevada and Utah and sent them a news release requesting coverage of the missing girls,” said Munson.

That same day Eureka County Sheriff’s Office organized search and rescue teams including searchers on four-wheelers, horseback and in the air. They found survival gear, weapons and ammunition but not the father and two girls. Authorities became more concerned because temperatures were dropping and it was starting to rain.

“We were fearful for the safety of the children,” said Peck. “There had been witnesses to the truck being burnt and they heard a child, but we had no idea where they went from there or if the children were hurt.”

At 5:30 p.m. an adult male walked into a ranch wearing cutoff sweat pants and a hoodie. He told the owners he needed help. Vera Baumann told KTVB her husband recognized the man as the suspect in an AMBER Alert and called the sheriff’s office.

“He was very cold, he was hungry, he was thirsty and he could hardly walk because he had walked in about two miles,” said Bau-

mann. “He said he left (his daughters) behind. He knew they were not going to make it so he walked in for help.”

Searchers started searching the area around the ranch and found the girls 90 minutes later hiding under a tree. They were hungry, bruised and suffering from frostbite. Police had been yelling for the girls but the youngest daughter was so terrified she was afraid to speak. The older daughter finally called out for help.

Authorities learned Dundon told his daughters their house had been burned down, their dog had been poisoned and their mom and the police were trying to kill them.

Dawn Peck, Idaho State Police, Bureau of Identification Manager, Statewide AMBER Alert Coordinator



“The girls were incredibly strong and showed great courage to survive in the conditions they faced,” said Eureka County Sheriff Keith Logan. “We would like to thank all of the agencies, personnel and citizens who were so instrumental in helping locate and recover these young ladies.”

The suspect was treated at a hospital and booked into jail. The two girls were also hospitalized and received treatment for exposure, kidney failure and frostbite. The AMBER Alert was canceled at 10:02 p.m. Detective Munson said this case showed her how AMBER Alerts can be a powerful tool to find abducted children. “It not only helps

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AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

NAVAJO AMBER ALERT SYSTEM IS NOW OPERATING

The Navajo Nation can now issue its own AMBER Alerts when a child is abducted on tribal lands. The AMBER Alert system is in effect for the eleven counties that cover the reservation in Arizona and Utah.



According to Harlan Cleveland, Emergency Coordinator and Acting Director for the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, the system has been live since the beginning of 2018.

“In the event we do need to issue an AMBER Alert, we can issue it on (the) Navajo Nation,” said Cleveland.

The Navajo Nation has not yet issued an AMBER Alert, but did issue an Endangered Missing Person Advisory on January 26, 2018. A man took his 15-month-

old daughter despite not having legal custody. The suspect and the child were found the next morning and two people were arrested. ☺

‘SAVANNA’S LAW’ PROPOSED AS A WAY TO FIND MISSING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDIAN COUNTRY

U.S. senators from New Mexico, North Dakota, Montana and Minnesota are sponsoring the ‘Savannah’s Law’ bill requiring the federal government to take a more active role in addressing and combating the needlessly high rates of violence experienced by Native America women.

The bill is named after 22-year-old Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a member of the Spirit Lake Tribe of North Dakota. On August 19, 2017, she was reported missing by her family. Five days later Savannah’s daughter was found in a neighbor’s apartment. A week later, police found Savannah’s body.

Savanna’s family feels things may have ended differently if police would have taken the missing person report more seriously and initiated a more thorough search.

‘Savanna’s Law’ includes the following actions.

- Improving tribal access to certain federal criminal history record information databases.
- Creating standardized protocols for responding to cases of missing and murdered Native Americans.
- Producing an annual report to Congress with data on missing and murdered Native women.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age, and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age.

The Government Accountability Office report in 2010 found U.S. Attorneys declined to prosecute nearly 52 percent of violent crimes that occur in Indian country. ☺

MOTHER OF ASHLYNNE MIKE ATTENDS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Pamela Foster, the mother of 11-year-old Ashlynnne Mike, who was abducted and murdered on the Navajo Nation reservation in May 2016, attended President Trump's first State of the Union address on January 30, 2017, in Washington, D.C. She was joined by Arizona lawmakers and law enforcement officials who successfully championed the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act which, if signed into law, will expand AMBER Alerts to Native American communities and support them in developing comprehensive child recovery strategies.

"It is such an honor to attend this historical event," said Foster. "I hope to use my time in Washington advocating for passage of this legislation in the House so that President Trump can sign it into law."

Foster was invited by Arizona Representative Andy Biggs. "I believe we are extremely close to passing this lifesaving law," Biggs said. "No child – regardless of race, ethnicity, sex or birthplace – should be outside the protection and jurisdiction of the AMBER Alert system."



Pamela Foster, the mother of 11-year-old Ashlynnne Mike

AMBER ALERT INTERNATIONAL

AMBER ALERT EUROPE STARTS TASK FORCE TO SAVE MORE MISSING CHILDREN

AMBER Alert Europe launched a task force on January 29, 2018, with a mission for saving missing children. The task force includes experts from the Czech Republic, Malta, Poland and the Netherlands. The task force provides a way to share information and best practices, network with colleagues across Europe and learn how to enhance their AMBER Alert systems.

“When a child goes missing, an AMBER Alert system connects police with the public through technology,” said Frank Hoen, founder of AMBER Alert Europe. “Since technology evolves so quickly, it is crucial that police keep up with the latest technological developments.”

NINE OUT OF TEN MISSING EUROPEAN CHILDREN RECOVERED IN 2017 THROUGH AMBER ALERTS

European law enforcement officials brought home 93 percent of the children safely after issuing AMBER Alerts in 2017. AMBER Alerts were issued 27 times for 31 children.

The success stories include the Netherlands’ recovery of a 15-year-old deaf and autistic boy after an AMBER Alert was issued. Police believed he was in imminent danger due to weather conditions. More than 12 million Dutch citizens responded to the alert. A crucial tip helped reunite the boy with his family.

The Czech Republic issued an AMBER Alert for a two-year-old girl who had been missing for two months. The girl’s mother abducted the child but turned herself into police after the alert was issued. The child was found in good health.

PUNJAB PLANS TO CREATE AN AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

The Punjab government has formed a committee to help protect children and has plans to start an AMBER Alert system. Punjab is a geographical and cultural area in eastern Pakistan and northern India. Officials hopes the child abduction alerts will help recover abducted children and help prevent the crimes from happening in the first place.

FAKE AMBER ALERT SPREAD ON FACEBOOK IN CANADA

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) in Canada said a post about a fake AMBER Alert was shared nearly 5,000 times on Facebook in early March 2018. The post stated: "RNC have issued an AMBER Alert, please share. Last seen at Mount Pearl Summit Centre yesterday evening 7:30," and included a photo of a young girl. The RNC is now investigating who made the false report. ↪

CANADIAN POLICE AGENCY USING LICENSE PLATE READERS FOR CHILD ABDUCTIONS

The Sault, Ontario, Police Department can now scan license plates to spot AMBER Alert suspects and other offenders. The Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) has three cameras placed in a police car that can scan six plates a second. The ALPR contains data provided by the Canadian Police Information Centre. The Ontario Provincial Police have 30 ALPR units and have used them since 2009. ↪

CAYMAN ISLANDS CREATING AN AMBER ALERT PROGRAM

The Cayman Islands government is creating an emergency alert system that will include AMBER Alerts. The British territory is located in the western Caribbean Sea. The notification system would send messages to all smartphone users, radio, TV and cable television programs. The system is expected to cost \$1 million to implement. The Cayman Islands initially tried a basic SMS text message system for sending emergency alerts, but that method proved to be ineffective during a tsunami-exercise last year. ↪

MORE THAN 50 EXPERTS WORKING TO RECOVER EUROPE'S MISSING AND ABDUCTED CHILDREN

The AMBER Alert Europe Police Network now has more than 50 law enforcement experts from 17 countries to help find missing and abducted children. The network was established in 2014 to assist law enforcement officers in quickly contacting and consulting with each other on missing child cases. These contacts are crucial, as 37.5 percent of Europeans live near bordering areas and a missing child can easily cross to a neighboring country. Because of the network, police experts can easily find and maintain information on a single point-of-contact for missing persons in another country. ↪

AMBER ALERT BRIEFS



JUSTICE ORGANIZATION HONORS FLORIDA AMBER ALERT ADVOCATE DONNA UZZELL WITH ITS HIGHEST AWARD

SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, will honor Donna Uzzell for its highest practitioner award for 2018. The Special Agent in Charge for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement has been actively involved with promoting AMBER Alert, human trafficking and child safety training, and protecting vulnerable populations like the elderly and disabled. "It is enormously gratifying that the 2018 Hawkins Award will recognize and honor Donna's fearless leadership, passionate devotion to duty and relentless pursuit of programs and policies that have measurably improved our justice and public safety systems nationwide," said SEARCH Chair Bradley D. Truitt, Director of Information Systems, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Ms. Uzzell has worked with the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program for more than a decade, and continues to contribute as an Associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. She will be presented with the award on July 24, 2018, in Washington, D.C. ↪



IOWA'S CHAMPION FOR THE AMBER ALERT RETIRES

Iowa State Trooper and longtime advocate for the AMBER Alert Todd Misel has retired after a 34-year career in law enforcement. Misel was part of a group that created Iowa's AMBER Alert program in 2003. Iowa's governor told the group he wanted the alert up and running soon. "He brought it up at the state fair and gave us 90 days to put it together and figure it out," said Misel. "It was an extremely aggressive time line but we had something by early spring of the (following) year." Misel has also worked with the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Program for more than a decade. ↪



CONGRESSMAN PROPOSES "ASHANTI ALERT ACT" TO FIND ABDUCTED ADULTS

Congressmen from Virginia, Texas, Maryland and Rhode Island have introduced a bill that would create a system to notify the public when an adult is abducted and believed to be in danger. The "Ashanti Alert Act" is named after Ashanti Billi. The 19-year-old woman was found murdered eleven days after she was reported missing and 300 miles from where she was last seen alive. The alerts would be for missing people between the ages of 18 and 65 and would utilize TV, radio and social media to send messages to the public. Virginia lawmakers have passed a bill that allows law enforcement officers in that state issue an Ashanti Alert. ↪

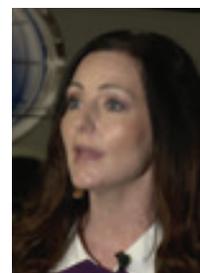
WISCONSIN CONSIDERS “GREEN ALERT” FOR MISSING VETERANS

Wisconsin legislators have passed the “Green Alert” bill that would be used to find missing and vulnerable veterans. Senator LaTonya Johnson said it would be similar to the state’s AMBER Alert and Silver Alert. The bill was inspired by a Wisconsin reserve sergeant who went missing last year during the spring. 🍷



NURSING STUDENTS LOBBY FOR SILVER ALERT IN ALABAMA

One hundred nursing students from the University of Alabama in Huntsville lobbied legislators to create a Silver Alert for patients with Alzheimer’s and dementia. The bill would also create more training for law enforcement officers when they search for people with a diminished mental capacity. “It’s an opportunity to help people and that’s what nurses do,” said student Dawn Brown. 🍷



NEBRASKA SEEKS EXPANSION OF SILVER ALERTS TO INCLUDE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Some Nebraska legislators would like Silver Alerts to be issued for missing children with disabilities. The alerts are voluntarily shared on TV and radio for disabled adults who wander from their home without assistance. Iowa Representative Sharon Negele said Silver Alerts have helped recover 88 percent of missing persons between 2013 and 2017. She said the same protection should be provided for children. 🍷



MISSOURI MAYOR DONATES MONEY FOR POLICE LICENSE PLATE READERS

The mayor of Godfrey Township, Missouri, heard about nearby Alton Police Department’s request to buy four license plate recognition cameras and handed over a \$13,400 check to help pay for them. “As one community goes, the other community goes,” said Mayor Mike McCormik. “We need success in Alton just like Alton needs successful things in Godfrey.” The cameras will be placed on a bridge and will be used to capture any vehicle tagged for an AMBER Alert or vehicles suspected in connection with other crimes. The information is shared with 14 police and sheriff’s departments in Illinois and Missouri. 🍷



BRENT CURRENCE Continued from page 7

killed her younger brother, murdered her mother and the mother's friend.

The agency initially requested an AMBER Alert but at the time we did not have a witnessed abduction. We require a witnessed abduction, so it took a several of us on the phone working together to be able to support the local sheriff the best we could. We ended up issuing an Endangered Missing Child Advisory and providing the sheriff with many resources. The sheriff was willing to accept the assistance and help because he had never experienced anything like this.

We were able to recover the girl safely; the suspect's intention was to kill the child. We were able to find her alive in his basement before he was able to do that. Reflecting on that case, it was amazing how everybody worked so quickly and effectively together, because this incident spanned a large area and different entities from the county in which it occurred. The AMBER Alert helped generate a lot of tips and leads based on things the public saw. These tips led us to the suspect, allowing us to arrest him and safely recover the female child involved. ☺

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with the recovery of the children, but also—as in this case—identified the path traveled and provided additional leads for the investigation.”

Boise Police issued this statement from the victim's family. “They say they are grateful to the community for sharing information while the girls were missing and for their thoughts and prayers. They also want to thank the Nevada law enforcement officials and community members who helped (in the) search.”

Peck said she is glad she made the call to issue the alert. “Authorities said the girls would not have been able to survive much longer in the conditions. Do not adhere to the national guidelines so closely that you pass an opportunity to save a child.”

She also urged AMBER Alert coordinators to know their counterparts in neighboring states and how to contact them. “The only challenge and lesson learned from this case has to do with keeping our list of coordinators and procedures for requesting a state to rebroadcast our alert up to date.”

Idaho has significant experience with issuing AMBER Alerts for other states. Since the state started its child abduction alert program in 2005, Idaho has issued 30 AMBER Alerts, including reissuing eight alerts from other states.

Dundon accepted a plea deal in September 2017 and admitted to felony custodial interference. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison in November 2017, including eight years before being eligible for parole. ☺