

The Amber Alert in Oregon is a coordinated effort to allow broadcasters and other agencies in a collaborated effort to recover abducted children.

Organization:

On October 28, 2002, the Governor of the State of Oregon signed the executive order establishing the Amber Plan within the state. The Governors Public Safety Policy & Planning Council recommended the plan after presented by the Oregon Amber Plan Work Group. That Work Group after implantation now serves as the Amber Plan Review Committee. The committee will review this plan, recommend changes and review Amber activations. Representatives from the following agencies comprise the committee:

The Oregon State Police
The Oregon Association of County Sheriffs
The Oregon Association of Police Chiefs
The Oregon Emergency Management
The Oregon Department of Transportation
Oregon Association of Broadcasters
The Oregon S.E.C.C.

Activation:

There is a multi-step process that occurs during an Amber Alert. Outlined here is the steps that are involved by both law enforcement, emergency management and broadcasters.

1. A law enforcement agency (LEA) receives a report of a child abduction.
2. The law enforcement agency determines that this abduction meets the Amber Criteria. The criteria, followed by all law enforcement agencies in the state comprise of the following four steps.

OREGON AMBER ALERT PROTOCOL

1. An abduction has occurred.
 2. The abducted person is 17 years of age or younger,
 3. The child/person is in serious bodily harm or death.
 4. There is adequate descriptive information available to believe that its dissemination to the public could help locate the child/person, suspect, or suspect vehicle.
-
3. The LEA calls the "Oregon State Police Northern Command Center (OSPNCC), requesting immediate statewide "Amber Alert".
 4. LEA advises the OSPNCC if they will be responsible for answering (intake) of the public's tips via the statewide tip line information number, 1-866-5AMBER5. The statewide tip line will be forwarded to those law enforcement agencies that request it for staffing incoming tips. That agency will then staff multiple phone lines, receive the tips from the public after the broadcast has occurred, and have an officer present to properly forward the information received. For those agencies that are unable to staff a tip line, the Oregon State Police will perform that function from the OSPNCC in Salem.
 5. OSPNCC will verify the criteria, confirms an Amber Alert and requests the Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) / Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) to broadcast the alert using the statewide Emergency Alert System.
 6. LEA initiates a statewide "All Points Bulletin" (APB) advising Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) and other public safety agencies of the Amber Alert. LEA provides suspect/child/vehicle information and 911 calls if possible.
 7. OSPNCC may request Oregon Department of Transportation to broadcast the Amber Alert on the network of statewide Highway Variable Message Signs. (VMS)
 8. OSPNCC notifies the Oregon State Police Bureau of investigation of the confirmed child abduction and the issuance of an Amber Alert.
 9. Oregon State Police Criminal Division where appropriate or required, activates:
 - a. Missing Children Clearing House
 - b. CISD staff to work the tip line.
 - c. TRAK system
 - d. Offer field support to the L.E.A.

10. Oregon Emergency Management/OERS then provides the following services to issue an Amber Alert statewide.

- e. OEM will activate the E.A.S.
- f. The event code used is "CAE" (Child Abduction Emergency)
- g. The location code will be all of Oregon, Clark County, Washington, and depending of the location of the abduction will include counties in adjacent states.
- h. The duration code will be for three hours
- i. The script used by the broadcast must be two minutes or less. A sample script is shown on the next page.
- j. A message phone will have the information available during the alert at 503-373-7850.

11. Use of the **Amber Alert Web Portal**.

- k. The Oregon State Police Northern Command Center upon activating the Amber Alert will also begin the process of activating the "Amber Alert Web Portal"
- l. Either the NCC will access the portal or will give the access code to the portal to the initiating agency.
- m. The purpose of the portal is to list all the information about the alert that was issued and any subsequent information that comes forth after the initial EAS broadcast.
- n. The portal will then begin to contact all the news media contacts, law enforcement contacts, or any other persons who have signed up to be notified at the activation of an Amber Alert. This portal is capable of dialing 200,000 phone numbers in a 10 minute period. It will contact either pagers or cellular telephone with the text message "Amber Alert".
- o. Those contacted or anyone who has heard the alert can immediately browse the Internet at www.amberalert911.com and see the activation in Oregon or adjacent states.
- p. As the Amber Alert progresses, all additional information about the progress of the alert, resolution of the alert, even if the child is recovered will be available on this site.
- q. The information will either be provided directly by the agency requesting the Amber Alert. In the event that the community is not able to man the "Tip" line or the investigation itself, the N.C.C. will provide that support.

SAMPLE AMBER ALERT SCRIPT

"This is an Amber Alert"

This is _____ . We have just
(Name of Governmental Agency)

Received this important information regarding a missing child in

(Area, District, City and/or County)

The _____ is looking for a child
(Law Enforcement Jurisdiction(s))

That was last seen at _____
(Location)

And is believed to be in danger. The child, _____
(Name)

is ____ years old, _____ with _____ hair and was last seen
(age) (Sex) (color)

wearing _____
(Description of clothing)

Authorities say that the child may be in the company of

(Name, Description, clothing, etc.)

and they may be traveling in a _____
(Vehicle make, model, color)

which was last seen heading _____
(Direction and street/city location)

If you know these individual(s) are at this time, call 911. If you are able to provide any information that might assist with this investigation, please call 1-866-5AMBER5 immediately. Again that number is 1-866-5AMBER5. That's 1-866-526-2375.

We now return to programming.

12. OSPNCC will forward the 1-866-5AMBER5 number back to the LEA's Command Center "War Room" tip line number. Those numbers will be available to the OSPNCC and should be listed in the Local Operational Area EAS Plan in those counties where a local "War Room" has been established.

AMBER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Amber Alerts have become one of the most integrated forms of cooperation between the Law Enforcement Community and the Broadcast and Cable Communities. The use of the broadcast medium to recover abducted children involves a very large coordinated effort between various government agencies. The Amber Review committee exists as the vehicle to maintain the high degree of integrity required to maintain cooperation in this volunteer effort.

Within weeks of every Amber Alert issued and at other periodic periods the Amber Review Committee will meet to discuss recent alerts or the entire structure of the Oregon Amber Alert System. The purpose is to constantly review procedures, improve lines of communications and otherwise keep the system performing at a high degree of effectiveness. Among the agencies currently involved in this committee are as follows:

1. The Oregon S.E.C.C. committee.
2. The Oregon State Police Operations Bureau.
3. The Oregon State Police Missing Children Clearinghouse.
4. The Oregon State Police Northern Command Center.
5. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management
6. The Oregon Association of County Sheriffs
7. The Oregon Association of Police Chiefs
8. The Oregon Association of Broadcasters
9. The Oregon Department of Transportation
10. Washington County Emergency Services
11. One at large position