

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)

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An emergency message, commonly called an AMBER Alert, based on established criteria, about a missing child believed to be abducted. Note, the agency/organization establishing the criteria varies by jurisdiction but most criteria loosely follow those of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred.
- The law enforcement agency believes that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The abduction is of a child aged 17 years or younger.
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Review the state AMBER alert plan for jurisdiction specific guidance. AMBER Alerts should be reserved for those cases that meet the AMBER criteria. Overuse of AMBER Alert could result in the public becoming desensitized to alerts when they are issued.

The law enforcement agency investigating the abduction will describe the missing child, provide a description of the suspect and/or vehicle, and ask the public to notify the requesting agency if they have any information on the whereabouts of the child or suspect.

<http://www.amberalert.gov/guidelines.htm>

<http://www.missingkids.com/AMBER>

Blackout Periods.

In order to prevent awakening the public in the middle of the night for warnings of non-imminent events, and to reduce disabling of audible alarms, smartphone alerts, etc. by the public, a blackout period is recommended from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. local time. In such situations, alerts should be delayed until the end of the blackout period. Non-alerting channels should still be used, such as law enforcement bulletins, email notifications, media releases, etc. throughout blackout periods. When significant public impact is expected and lead time is so short that immediate notification, including waking the public, is needed before the end of the blackout period, an alert may be issued.

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	PSSCCC	Locations included in alert area
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Rescue
Event: Child Abduction Emergency
Response Type: Monitor

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

City/State of abduction Vehicle tag and USPS state code Vehicle description	<i>[City, ST] AMBER Alert: LIC/[Tag Number] ([USPS State]) [Year] [Color] [Make] [Model]</i>
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Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Description of alert area Recommended action (Vehicle description and license tag)	<i>AMBER Alert for [Alert Area Description]. Looking for [Year] [Color] [Make] [Model] with [State] license plate [Tag Number].</i>
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Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location. Why do people need to act? Where is the emergency taking place?	<p>The <i>[Official Government Agency]</i> has issued an AMBER Alert for a child abducted in <i>[City] [State]</i>.</p> <p>The child is believed to be in danger, and may be taken to this area.</p> <p>The child's name is <i>[Child's Name]</i>. <i>[He/She]</i> is a <i>[Age]</i>-years old, <i>[Gender]</i> with <i>[Hair Color]</i> hair. <i>[He/She]</i> was wearing a <i>[Shirt Description]</i>, <i>[Pants Description]</i>, and <i>[Other]</i>. <i>[He/She]</i> was last seen at <i>[Location Description if different from City State of abduction]</i> at <i>[Time] [Day]</i>.</p> <p>Authorities say that the child may be in the company of <i>[Suspect's Name]</i>. <i>[He/She]</i> is a <i>[Age]</i>-years old, <i>[Gender]</i> with <i>[Hair Color]</i> hair. <i>[He/She]</i> was wearing a <i>[Shirt Description]</i>, <i>[Pants Description]</i>, and <i>[Other]</i>.</p> <p>They may be traveling in a <i>[Year] [Color] [Make] [Model]</i></p>
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	<p>with <i>[State]</i> license plate, <i>[Tag Number with spaces]</i>, which was last seen heading <i>[Direction and Street/City Location]</i>.</p> <p><i>[Long, detailed descriptions of the child, suspect or vehicle are difficult for audio listeners to follow. Only the most visible attributes are included in the physical descriptions for EAS alerts. See DOJ caution about including personally sensitive information that has no bearing on locating an abducted child in an AMBER alert. Include supplemental details, cautions, etc. only if very important for public safety. Additional details, including extended physical descriptions, can be provided in associated law enforcement bulletins, press releases and web site.]</i></p>
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Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

<p>What should people do?</p>	<p>If you have any information about the location of this child, or see the vehicle, or the suspect; please call the <i>[Law Enforcement Agency]</i> at <i>[10-digit telephone number without spaces]</i> or call 9 1 1 immediately.</p>
<p>When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)</p>	<p>The AMBER Alert remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 6-hours, or sooner if needed.</p>
<p>Closing.</p>	<p>For more information, check <i>www.[Official Web Site].gov</i>, or tune to local news media. Please do not call <i>[9 1 1]</i>, except to report a serious emergency; or you have seen the vehicle, the suspect or the child.</p>

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	051000	Commonwealth of Virginia
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Rescue
Event: Child Abduction Emergency
Response Type: Monitor

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

City/State of abduction Vehicle tag and USPS state code Vehicle description	[Test] Springfield, VA AMBER Alert: LIC/UNKNOWN (VA) 2011 Red Toyota Sienna. Fishing sticker.
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Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Description of alert area Recommended action (Vehicle description and license tag)	[Test] AMBER Alert for Virginia. Looking for 2011 Red Toyota Sienna with Virginia license plates with "I'd rather be fishing" sticker.
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Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location. Why do people need to act? Where is the emergency taking place?	[This is a test.] The Virginia State Police and Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse have issued an AMBER Alert for a child abducted in Springfield Virginia. The child is believed to be in danger, and may be taken to this area. The child's name is Johnnie Doe. He is a 6-week old, male with short brown hair. He was abducted from 7611 Big Turnpike in Springfield at 11 a.m. today. Authorities say that the child may be in the company of an unknown white male. The suspect is described as a 25 to 35 years old, approximately 5-foot-10, weighing about 150 pounds. He was last seen wearing a red T-shirt and blue jeans. They may be traveling in a 2011 Red Toyota Sienna
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	with Virginia license plates and a "I'd rather be fishing" sticker on the rear window.
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Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

What should people do?	If you have any information about the location of this child, or see the vehicle, or the suspect; please call the Springfield Police Department at, 703-555-1212, or call 9 1 1, immediately.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The AMBER Alert remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 6-hours, or sooner if needed.
Closing.	For more information, check www.VA-AmberAlert.gov , or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except to report a serious emergency; or you have seen the vehicle, the suspect or the child. [This concludes this test.]

Note: This sample AMBER Alert is based on an alert by the Virginia State Police, with details changed. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	006095, 006113, 006067, 006013, 006001, 006055, 006077	Solano County CA, Yolo County CA, Sacramento County CA, Contra Costa County CA, Alameda County CA, Napa County CA, and San Joaquin County CA
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Rescue
Event: Child Abduction Emergency
Response Type: Monitor

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

City/State of abduction Vehicle tag and USPS state code Vehicle description	[Test] Vacaville, CA AMBER Alert: LIC/ZZZ-9999 (CA) 1999 Blue Saturn 2-door
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Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Description of alert area Recommended action (Vehicle description and license tag)	[Test] AMBER Alert for Vacaville and east Bay Area. Looking for 1999 Blue Saturn 2-door with California license plate ZZZ-9999
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Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location. Why do people need to act? Where is the emergency taking place?	<p>[This is a test.]</p> <p>The California Highway Patrol and Solano County Sheriff's Office have issued an AMBER Alert for a child abducted in Vacaville California.</p> <p>The child is believed to be in danger, and may be taken to this area.</p> <p>The child's name is Sofia Doe. She is a 16-year old, female with hair dyed blue. She was wearing a white sweater, black jeans and red/black backpack. She was abducted near Interstate 80 and First Avenue in Vacaville at 11 a.m. today.</p>
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	<p>Authorities say that the child may be in the company of Santiago Smith. He is described as an 18-year old, male with a shaved head. He was last seen wearing a black shirt, blue jeans and a brown baseball hat.</p> <p>They may be traveling in a 1999 blue Saturn 2-door with California license plate, Z Z Z 9 9 9, which was last seen traveling north from Vacaville on Interstate 80.</p>
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Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

<p>What should people do?</p>	<p>If you have any information about the location of this child, or see the vehicle, or the suspect; please call the Solano County Sheriff's Office at, 707-555-1212, or call 9 1 1, immediately.</p>
<p>When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)</p>	<p>The AMBER Alert remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 6-hours, or sooner if needed.</p>
<p>Closing.</p>	<p>For more information, check www.MissingKids.gov, or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except to report a serious emergency; or you have seen the vehicle, the suspect or the child.</p> <p>[This concludes this test.]</p>

Note: This sample AMBER Alert is based on an alert by the California Highway Patrol, with details changed. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.