

Protecting Ohio's Families

CART

CHILD ABDUCTION
Response Team

Ohio's New Model





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Dear Law Enforcement Colleague:

At the request of the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Steering Committee, my office has taken on the role of facilitating the administration of the statewide CART program within Ohio. This letter and accompanying informational packet has been sent to you to introduce Ohio's new model recommendations for the CART program. I am excited to bring these new recommendations to you and your community, as I believe these additions to Ohio CART will be of great benefit to your community, your agency, and children in Ohio.

Developed after a number of high-profile child abductions highlighted the need for a rapid response plan, the CART program has been in existence in Ohio since 2006. National statistics indicate that most children who are abducted and murdered are killed within three hours of the abduction. CART was developed to ensure a group of trained personnel could respond quickly to these abductions. Many law enforcement agencies may already have CART teams in place under the original model, and in some cases those CART teams may be functioning well for those jurisdictions. If this is the case in your jurisdiction, please know that you are welcome to maintain your current CART operation without change.

In recent years, however, the number of CART teams in the State of Ohio has declined yet the number of child abductions has not. The Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol have worked together over the last several months to develop an updated system for CART in Ohio. The CART Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from each of the agencies, has made the enclosed recommendations for the purpose of revitalizing CART throughout the state.

These new recommendations will enable your agency to be better prepared if a child is abducted in your jurisdiction. In adopting these recommendations, your agency, through your CART coordinator, will know how to garner the resources and manpower needed for any incident. He or she will have the knowledge and ability to tailor the necessary resources to the abduction and the training to know how best to respond to these situations.

Additionally, the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) has created a new CART Originating Agency Identification (ORI) number for law enforcement agencies to utilize as a tip management tool when there is a child abduction. OHLEG will house a resource database which agencies will be able to utilize when these incidents occur.

In the process of implementing these recommendations, my office will hold ten informational sessions throughout Ohio. These half-day sessions will provide law enforcement agencies with the framework for the new CART model and will also offer the opportunity to ask questions of Ohio's CART Coordinator. The sessions are scheduled for the following times:

January 6, 2015 – Belmont College, 120 Fox Shannon Pl., St. Clairsville
January 8, 2015 – Scioto County Job & Family Services, 710 Court St., Portsmouth
January 12, 2015 – Fort Piqua Plaza Banquet Center, 110 W. High St., Piqua
January 16, 2015 – Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Ave. E., Mansfield
January 21, 2015 – BCI Bowling Green, 750 N. College Dr., Bowling Green
January 26, 2015 – West Chester Police Department, 9577 Beckett Rd., West Chester
January 28, 2015 – Kent State (Trumbull Co. Branch), 4314 Mahoning Ave. NW, Warren
January 29, 2015 – Columbus Police Academy, 1000 N. Hague Ave., Columbus
February 5, 2015 – Ohio Division of Wildlife, 360 E. State St., Athens
February 12, 2015 – OPOTA Richfield, 4055 Highlander Pkwy., Richfield

I would encourage you to take advantage of the informational sessions. Registration for all sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and the informational sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Please RVSP with your agency's name and number of people attending via email to OhioCART@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

I believe you will find the enclosed information helpful and invite your agency to participate in this revitalization of the important CART program. Please add this packet to your "Ohio Amber Alert Guidebook" for future reference.

Thank you for your continued work to protect Ohio's families and children.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike DeWine
Attorney General

Table of Contents

Ohio CART Steering Committee Recommendations	4
Ohio CART Structure and Purpose	4
Recommended Qualifications for CART Coordinators	5
Becoming a CART Coordinator	5
Ohio CART Key Leadership Positions	6-8
Ohio CART Call Out Response Procedures	9
Ohio CART Call Out Criteria	10
Statistics for Ohio's Missing Children	11
Ohio Emergency Alert Programs	12-13
BCI Missing Persons Unit – Missing Children Clearinghouse	14
Ohio CART Steering Committee Member Contacts	15
Participating Agencies	15
Resources	16

Ohio CART Steering Committee Recommendations

The Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Steering Committee is recommending a new organizational model for CART programs in Ohio. This new approach emphasizes the role of local CART Coordinators, who act as the leaders of CART teams within local jurisdictions. The model used since Ohio's 2006 inception of CART relied on organizations to create a predetermined team to respond to child abductions. In contrast to this silo-type approach, the new model relies on CART Coordinators. CART Coordinators are charged with knowing where to find requisite resources in their region and how to tailor a response to the unique circumstances of each child abduction.

In areas of the state where the former model of CART has been phased out, this new model offers a cost-effective approach to establishing the valuable CART program. Agencies successfully operating a CART team under the former model may wish to continue their operations as is. However, applying the CART Coordinator approach ensures that necessary resources will be provided and mitigates the risk of duplicated efforts.

These recommendations are the results of joint efforts of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office to continually improve the CART program in Ohio in order to recover a child as quickly as possible.

Ohio CART Structure and Purpose

The CART program serves to offer both administrative and operational assistance before and after an abduction. The administrative portion involves preparedness, including identifying staffing, equipment, and other resources, as well as necessary training prior to a CART event. The operational portion involves CART assistance and instruction to the Incident Commander of the agency throughout a child abduction situation. It is vital for the administrative portion to be in place before an abduction occurs so that resources are readily available when an abduction occurs.

When a child abduction occurs, two simultaneous operations begin: 1) the search and recovery operation to locate the child; and 2) the criminal investigation. These two operations have differing goals. The first is to find the child, while the second is to apprehend and ultimately prosecute the offender. Because of the differing goals, it is vital that the roles of Lead Investigator and the CART Coordinator (the leader of the CART team) are filled by different people. The CART Coordinator assists and advises the Incident Commander during the abduction event, while the Incident Commander retains control of the operation. The Incident Commander, CART Coordinator, and Lead Investigator work closely during an event, but fill different roles.

The local CART Coordinator will be trained to know where to find and how to utilize the resources necessary for an activation of the CART program. Resources may include investigators, victim advocates, intelligence personnel, search and rescue personnel, water assets, air assets, search K-9s, food, and water. The CART Coordinator will also be able to tailor the response as large or as small as necessary for each event. The benefit of this format is that the CART Coordinator knows the local CART system and may utilize it to meet the unique needs of the local jurisdiction. For instance, the CART Coordinator can deploy responding personnel during the event as their skills and abilities are best suited for each situation. This process in effect forms an ad hoc task force specific to each unique event and jurisdiction.

Other localized coordinators can be utilized as the CART event grows in order to manage the additional responding resources. These additional coordinators can fill key leadership positions, such as Search Coordinator or Volunteer Coordinator, and assist the local CART Coordinator and Incident Commander as necessary.

Establishing a local CART Coordinator, who has the training and knowledge about available CART resources, will help local communities be better equipped to respond rapidly and effectively in the event that a child is abducted.

Recommended Qualifications for CART Coordinators

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Child Abduction Response Team Certification Manual, an agency Chief Executive Officer (CEO) should consider the following in appointing their CART Coordinator:

- May be sworn or non-sworn personnel
- Must possess supervisory responsibilities within local law enforcement agency
- Must possess a proven background in leadership and management

In addition to the U.S. Department of Justice criteria, the Ohio CART Steering Committee recommends the following preferred qualifications:

- Public safety or crisis management experience
- LEADS Practitioner (as defined by the LEADS Manual)
- NIMS Certification: 100, 200 & 700
- Within one year of appointment:
 - CART Team Leader Training
 - NIMS 300

Becoming a CART Coordinator

Law enforcement agency CEOs can identify and register their CART Coordinator through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) portal. The form is available on the left hand side of the OHLEG homepage.

Ohio CART Key Leadership Positions

Local CART Coordinators: The Local Coordinator is administratively responsible for overall administration of the CART program in his or her designated area. Duties include:

- 1) Serve as a liaison to the Ohio CART Steering Committee
- 2) Develop and maintain staffing and non-personnel resources in the area
- 3) Maintain CART database of staffing and non-personnel resources in the area
- 4) Handle public relations about CART within the area
- 5) Maintain records of CART activity and after action improvement activities
- 6) Assist in developing and conducting ongoing CART training including mock exercises in the area
- 7) Compile the after action report and submit it to the Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Incident Commander
- 8) Direct the onsite CART response in assistance to the Incident Commander and the jurisdictional agency
- 9) Serve as the initial CART contact for the jurisdictional agency Incident Commander
- 10) Determine the CART resources that need to be implemented per incident, in collaboration with the Incident Commander
- 11) Coordinate CART responses with other local CART Coordinators as necessary
- 12) Assign key tasks to CART team leaders
- 13) Oversee the CART response in collaboration with the Incident Commander

Incident Commander: The Incident Commander is the senior on-site law enforcement officer from the organization with legal jurisdiction responsible for the incident necessitating a CART response. The Incident Commander is responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and releasing of resources. The Incident Commander has complete authority and responsibility for the conduct of overall operations. (The purpose of CART involvement is to support the Incident Commander and jurisdictional agency.)

The CART Coordinator, through the Incident Commander, may assign or identify leaders for the following roles as appropriate during the event:

CART Team Leaders: The CART Team Leaders will be assigned duties by the local CART Coordinator as the incident response grows. Areas which they may be responsible for coordinating include: operations, planning, intelligence, logistics, finance, administration, volunteers, and resources from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, including Team Adam.

Operations Team Leader: The Operations Team Leader is responsible for the supervision of the Operations Team, including patrol, EMS/Fire, search and rescue, forensics, tactical and investigations. The Operations Team Leader is also responsible for the coordinated response to the incident.

Patrol: Responsible for the preliminary investigation, securing areas such as the victim's residence, the crime scene, inner perimeter, and outer perimeter, road blocks, command post, staging area, and Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

EMS/Fire: Responsible for medical support, rescue support, fire support, and advanced life support.

Search and Rescue: Responsible for the search of the victim's residence, place last seen, last known place, probability of area, and neighborhood.

Forensics: Responsible for processing the victim's residence, the place last seen, the place last known, and the recovery scene.

Tactical: Responsible for coordination with the FBI and other federal agencies, air support, mounted units, trackers, trained searchers, K-9 units, entry team, and probation and parole personnel.

Investigations: Responsible for investigation of family members acquaintances, suspects, victimology, victim's residence, and neighborhood, as well as conducting interviews and interrogations, creating suspect profiles, and working with the prosecutor's office.

Victims' Advocates: Responsible for communicating between the family of the missing individual and law enforcement.

Public Communications: Responsible for communicating with the public and media, and for coordinating with other agencies, as necessary, with incident-related information requirements and for developing and releasing information about the incident to the news media, incident personnel, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

Planning/Intelligence Team Leader: The Planning or Intelligence Team Leader is responsible for the Information and Intelligence Unit, Situation Unit, Demobilization Unit, Documentation Unit, and Resource Unit.

Information and Intelligence Unit: Responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating information, including tips and leads.

Situation Unit: Responsible for preparing contingency plans and situation summaries, and for developing maps and projections.

Demobilization Unit: Responsible for developing plans for demobilization.

Documentation Unit: Responsible for maintaining incident records, assisting with the after action report, and duplication services.

Resource Unit: Responsible for maintaining resources status and for preparing the incident action plan.

Logistics Team Leader: The Logistics Team Leader is responsible for the Supply Unit, Ground Support Unit, Food Unit, Facilities Unit, Communications Unit, Medical Unit, Security Unit, and Staging Unit. The Logistics Team procures material support and other resources that are beyond the jurisdiction's available resources. The Logistics Team coordinates with the Red Cross, when appropriate.

Supply Unit: Responsible for ordering, receiving, storing and distributing supplies, and the servicing of non-expendable supplies.

Ground Support Unit: Responsible for the preparation of the transportation plan, fueling and maintenance of ground resources, and arranging transportation of personnel, food, supplies, and equipment.

Food Unit: Responsible for obtaining and distributing food and water for personnel.

Facilities Unit: Responsible for facility security and setting up and maintaining facilities.

Communications Unit: Responsible for installing and testing communications equipment, supervising the Incident Command Center, and distributing, maintaining, and repairing communications equipment.

Medical Unit: Responsible for developing medical plans, including coordinating with local hospitals, med flights, first aid for personnel, and preparing for medical emergencies.

Security Unit: Responsible for the coordination of security activities involving the incident, including evidence, personnel operations information, incident command post, and staging area.

Staging Unit: Responsible for obtaining locations for staging.

Finance/Administration Team Leader: The Finance/Administration Team Leader is responsible for the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Cost Unit, and Compensation and Claims Unit.

Time Unit: Responsible for personnel time recording.

Procurement Unit: Responsible for administering costs for vendors, leases, and any fiscal agreements.

Cost Unit: Responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, providing cost estimates, and making cost saving recommendations.

Compensation and Claims Unit: Responsible for financial concerns regarding property damage, injuries, and fatalities.

Volunteer Team Leader: Responsible for registering volunteer personnel and coordinating their activities with the operations team leader. Serves as liaison for mental health organization representatives and citizen advocate groups.

Ohio CART Call Out Response Procedures

Note: Each participating agency will designate a 24/7 county communications center, as well as a backup communications center, to be used for a CART call out. The local CART Coordinator will take the lead in designating the communications center to be used (examples: county 911 system, county sheriff's office dispatch, local police department dispatch, etc...).

1. When the jurisdictional agency initiates an AMBER Alert after an abduction takes place, the Ohio Highway Patrol Communications Center will notify that agency's designated CART Coordinator to request CART assistance. If the incident does not qualify for an AMBER Alert, the Incident Commander may contact his or her designated local CART Coordinator through his or her own Communications Center or through the Ohio Highway Patrol Communications Center at (614) 466-2660.
2. The local CART Coordinator will contact the Incident Commander and they will jointly determine if the abduction circumstances warrant a CART response and CART resources need to be deployed.
3. The local CART Coordinator will request the notification of other local CART Coordinators through the Ohio Highway Patrol Communications Center, based on the CART response plan.
4. The local CART Coordinator will arrive on the scene and be briefed by the Incident Commander on the developing situation. They will further refine the CART response plan as needed.
5. The local CART Coordinator will review the response plan with the team leaders prior to and upon arrival at the scene.
6. The team leaders will review the response plan with the team members upon arrival and deploy them accordingly.
7. The Incident Commander and the local CART Coordinator will work in collaboration throughout the CART response. The Incident Commander and the local CART Coordinator will jointly determine initial response needs, changes in response needs, and the duration of the CART response. The local CART Coordinator will oversee the CART team response.
8. The local CART Coordinator will reserve the right to modify or terminate the CART response if the evolving situation is deemed to no longer warrant a CART response.
9. The agency of jurisdiction will have primary responsibility for the activities of recovery and reunification.
10. The local CART Coordinator will serve as the primary liaison with the agency of jurisdiction in the recovery and reunification process.
11. The recovery and reunification process is critical and should address the following, at a minimum:
 - a. The physical, mental, and emotional needs of the victim
 - b. The mental and emotional needs of the victim's family
 - c. The follow-up with media

Ohio CART Call Out Criteria

The Incident Commander of the responsible jurisdiction, along with the CART Coordinator, will determine when to call out a CART response and the scope of the CART call out. The call out criteria could generally follow the same criteria as an AMBER Alert or an Endangered Missing Alert. However, there is no required criteria for initiating a CART call out. The Incident Commander and the CART Coordinator might consider the following factors in initiating a call out:

- 1) The missing child is under 18 years old.
- 2) The missing child might have been abducted.
- 3) The missing child meets high-risk criteria. One or more of the following applies to the child:
 - a. The child is out of his or her zone of safety for his or her age, developmental stage and/or physical condition. *Note: The zone of safety will vary for each child depending on the above conditions. For example, in the case of an infant, the zone of safety is limited to the immediate presence of an adult custodian or the safe area in which the infant is placed. For a school-age child, the zone of safety may be the immediate neighborhood or route between home and school and other activities.*
 - b. The child is mentally diminished. *Note: If the child is developmentally disabled or emotionally disturbed, he or she may have difficulty communicating with others about needs, identity, or address. The child may be more prone to exploitation.*
 - c. The child has a medical issue and/or is drug dependent.
 - d. The child is a potential victim of foul play or sexual abuse.
 - e. The child is in a life-threatening situation.
 - f. The child's disappearance involves any other circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to conclude that the child should be considered at risk.
- 4) In the event the missing person is 18 years or older, a CART call out may be made if evidence and information indicates an abduction has taken place or the person is missing under extenuating circumstances and an immediate response could make a difference between life and death. A CART call out will be based on jurisdictional need and the available resources as determined by the Incident Commander and the CART Coordinator.

Statistics for Ohio's Missing Children

Every year, thousands of children are reported missing and entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). In the past five years (2009-2013), over 90% of children whose disappearance warranted the activation of an AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Child Alert were recovered safely.

2013 Total Reported Missing (under 18) - 18,599

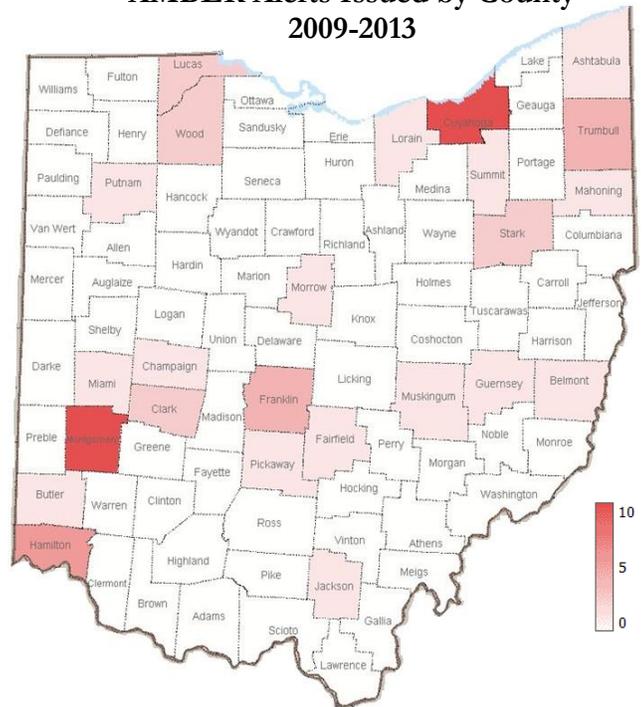
Age Reported Missing

- 151 Age 0-5
- 975 Age 6-12
- 17,473 Age 13-17

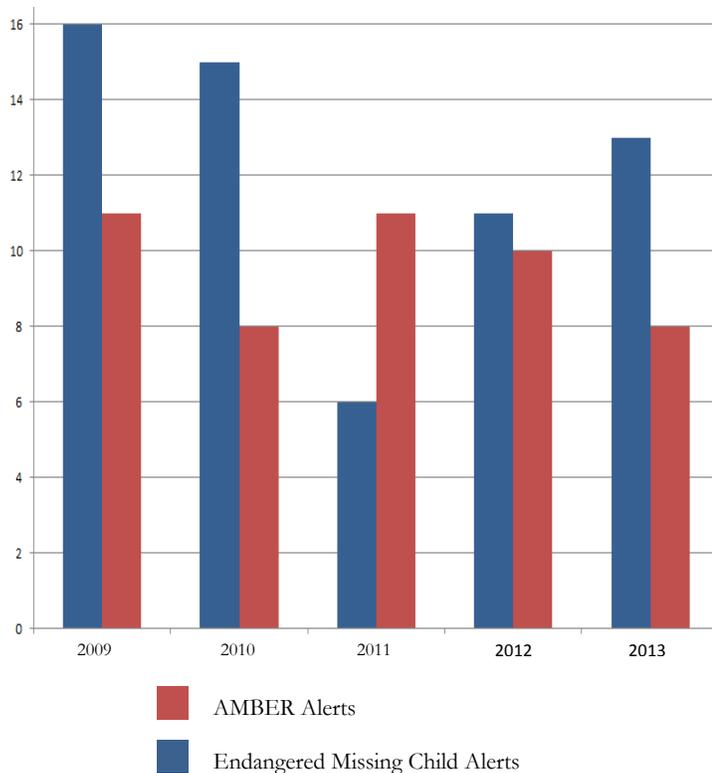
Missing Circumstances (if included in NCIC)

- 8 Abducted By Stranger
- 11,453 Runaway
- 35 Abducted By Non-Custodial Parent

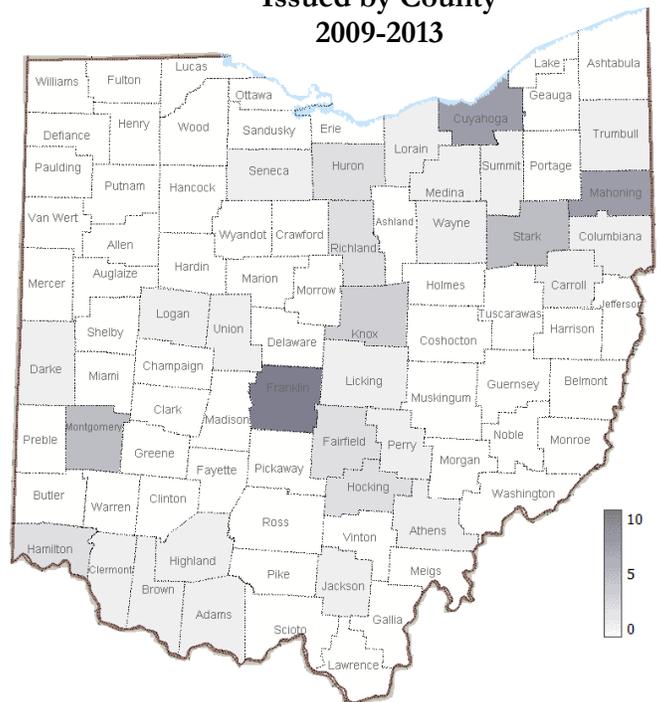
AMBER Alerts Issued by County 2009-2013



Endangered Missing Child and AMBER Alerts



Endangered Missing Child Alerts Issued by County 2009-2013



Ohio Emergency Alert Programs

The Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee advises the Governor, the Attorney General, the Department of Public Safety, and law enforcement agencies on an ongoing basis on the implementation, operation, improvement, and evaluation of the statewide emergency alert program. For Alert activation procedures, please consult the Ohio Alerts Guidebook. The guidebook is available at www.ohioamberplan.org. The statewide emergency alert program consists of the following alerts:

AMBER Alert

The AMBER Alert is a voluntary partnership involving law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation, and other agencies. During an AMBER Alert, an urgent news bulletin is broadcast over the airwaves, as well as highway alert signs and a variety of other notification systems, to enlist the aid of the public in finding an abducted child and stopping a perpetrator. ALL of the following criteria must be met to initiate an AMBER Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms the child is under 18 years of age.
2. Law enforcement believes the abduction poses a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm or death to the child.
3. Law enforcement obtains sufficient descriptive information about the child, the suspect, and/or the circumstances surrounding the abduction to believe that activation of the alert will help locate the child.
4. Law enforcement determines the child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a family abduction, unless the investigation determines the child is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.

Endangered Missing Child Alert

The Endangered Missing Child Alert was created for missing children cases where the missing circumstances do not meet the AMBER Alert criteria, but the child's life is still considered at risk of serious bodily harm or death if the child is not found quickly. ALL of the following criteria must be met to initiate an Endangered Missing Child Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms the child is under 18 years of age.
2. Law enforcement confirms the child is missing, such as lost, non-witnessed/non-confirmed abduction or the child's whereabouts are unknown.
3. Law enforcement believes the missing circumstances pose a credible threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
4. Law enforcement obtains sufficient descriptive information about the child and the circumstances surrounding the disappearance to believe that the activation of the alert will help locate the child.

Ohio Emergency Alert Programs

Endangered Missing Adult Alert

The Endangered Missing Adult Alert was created to enlist the help of the public to find a missing adult, where the circumstances put the missing person's life at risk of serious bodily harm or death if they are not located quickly. ALL of the following criteria must be met to initiate a Missing Adult Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms the individual is missing.
2. Law enforcement confirms the individual is 65 years of age or older or is an adult who has a mental impairment.
3. Law enforcement believes the disappearance of the individual poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the individual.
4. Law enforcement believes there is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the disappearance that the alert activation will help locate the individual.

This alert is most commonly issued for a missing elderly person (65-year-old or older) who suffers from Alzheimer's or other cognitive illnesses. The alert is also issued for any age missing adult who suffers from serious mental illness to such extent that they cannot care for themselves.

Ohio Blue Alert

The Ohio Blue Alert is a notification system used to enlist public assistance in the event a law enforcement officer is critically injured, killed, or missing and the suspect has not been apprehended. ALL of the following criteria must be met to initiate an Ohio Blue Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms that a law enforcement officer has been seriously injured or killed, and a suspect has not been apprehended, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety
2. Law enforcement obtains sufficient descriptive information about the suspect or the circumstances surrounding a law enforcement officer's injury, death, or disappearance to indicate that activation of the alert may help locate a suspect or a missing law enforcement officer.

BCI Missing Persons Unit – Missing Children Clearinghouse

Ohio Revised Code section 109.65 established the Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCCH) under the Attorney General's Office. MCCH is statutorily charged with being a central repository of information and other functions to assist in the locating of missing children. MCCH and OHLEG are housed under Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The unit will compile the resource list and maintain the CART Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) in OHLEG. Additionally, BCI will have Special Agents designated as CART Coordinators who will be available to assist the local agencies.

Ohio CART Steering Committee Member Contacts

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Joesph.Dietz@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Participating Agencies

Ohio AMBER Alert
Operations: 614-466-2660
Administration: 614-387-7488

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Missing Persons Unit and Criminal Intelligence Unit
Toll-free: 1-855-BCI-OHIO
OhioMCCH@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov
Intel@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Phone: 614-761-0330
oacp@oacp.org

Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Executive Director Robert Cornwell
Phone: 614-431-5500
Email: bob@buckeyesheriffs.org

Resources

AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program – The U. S. Department of Justice has identified Fox Valley Community College as the administrator of federal AMBER Alert training, which includes the CART Program. The Ohio CART Steering Committee is working with Fox Valley to make these courses available either online or within the state of Ohio. These courses are free to attend.

Fox Valley Technical College
Phone: 877-712-6237
Fax: 920-735-4757
askamber@fvtc.edu

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3175
24-hour call center: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
Phone: 703-224-2150
Fax: 703-224-2122
www.missingkids.com

Additional CART resources are available on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway at www.ohleg.org.

Relevant Ohio Revised Code Sections:
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/109.65>
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2901.30>
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5502.52>