

# HOUSTON'S AMBER ALERT

The Houston Regional Amber Alert System is a cooperative public service effort between local law enforcement, media outlets, Amber Alert Partners, and the public to safely recover abducted children.

## WHEN IS THE AMBER ALERT ACTIVATED?

The following five criteria must be met to activate the Houston Regional Amber Alert (HRAA) System:

- (1) The child must be 17 years of age or younger.
- (2) The law enforcement agency believes the missing child has been abducted.
- (3) The law enforcement agency believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- (4) The law enforcement agency has conducted an investigation that has verified that an abduction has taken place or ruled out alternative explanations.
- (5) Sufficient information is available to distribute to the public that could assist in locating the abducted child, suspect, or the vehicle used in the abduction.

## WHO ACTIVATES THE AMBER ALERT?

The local law enforcement agency where the incident occurs must decide if the case fits Amber Alert criteria and request activation.

## HOW IS AN AMBER ALERT ACTIVATED?

Law enforcement agencies or the Amber Alert Coordinator access a secure Amber Alert website and the Alert is distributed to all regional law enforcement agencies, media outlets, and Amber Alert corporate partners. Amber Alert Partners notify employees traveling in the area to look for the missing child or suspect's vehicle. The child's photo and Amber Alert message are also sent to subscribers and posted across Texas Center for the Missing's social media platforms. When the child is located, the Amber Alert is cancelled.

We bring hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.



### **DOES THE AMBER ALERT WORK?**

Across the country, the Amber Alert is credited with the successful recovery of hundreds of children. Houston's Regional Amber Alert System is responsible for 10% of the safe recoveries documented nationwide.

### **WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE SYSTEM?**

Law enforcement agencies in Houston's 14-county region, media outlets, and Amber Alert Partners – and you! To receive Houston's Amber Alerts, sign-up today on our website at [centerforthemissing.org](http://centerforthemissing.org).

### **WHO ARE AMBER ALERT PARTNERS?**

Houston-area businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations that actively participate in the Amber Alert Program are Amber Alert Partners. There is no cost to become a partner, but interested parties must register with the HRAA System. Companies and agencies with a large number of drivers and vehicles are especially encouraged to participate as Amber Alert Partners.

### **WHO OVERSEES HRAA?**

Texas Center for the Missing administers the Houston Regional Amber Alert System and an independent Advisory Board provides oversight. Houston's Amber Alert follows FCC rules for activating the Emergency Alert System.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WITNESS A CHILD BEING ABDUCTED OR BELIEVE A CHILD IS MISSING?**

Call 9-1-1 immediately. Request your local police department and provide as much information as you can about the child, the suspect, and the suspect's vehicle.

### **WHY IS IT CALLED AMBER ALERT?**

The program is named in memory of nine-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was abducted while playing near her grandparents' Arlington, Texas, home in 1996. She was found murdered a few days later following an extensive search. To this day, the case remains unsolved.

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