

Kanawha Putnam Emergency Management Plan Hazard Identification Annex	
<h1>Amber Alert/Missing Person</h1>	<h1>B15</h1>
Risk Moderate	Vulnerability Low

I. Introduction

Criminal acts can pose the potential for harm against children who are not capable of defense against certain actions by adults. The jurisdiction can utilize the guidelines of the national Amber Alert program to increase awareness of certain instances where children may be endangered by kidnapping or unauthorized taking by an adult. Such awareness can assist in the timely rescue of children from these dangerous situations and the apprehension of persons committing criminal acts.

The rural nature of the jurisdiction can put at risk certain persons who, for whatever reason, become lost within the jurisdiction.

This annex identifies the hazards associated with, and describes guidelines to be used in the response to missing persons.

II. Situation and Assumptions

- A. The Amber Alert program has developed a national protocol for providing public warning of incidents involving children who have been unlawfully taken from custody of parent(s) or guardian.
- B. The West Virginia State Police administrate the Amber Alert program within the jurisdiction.
- C. The National Weather Service NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) resources are utilized in Amber Alerts for public warning.

- D. 911 Centers maintain guidelines for handling Amber Alert messages.
- E. Resources exist to assist in locating missing persons, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. All-terrain vehicles
 - 2. Tracking and scent dogs (WV K9 Search and Rescue)
 - 3. Helicopters equipped with Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR)
- F. Public Safety response personnel will respond and assist in locating missing persons.
- G. Response
 - 1. Missing (lost) persons
 - a. Proper coordination of searching personnel will improve the effectiveness of ground searches.
 - b. Ground searches can contaminate the area to the extent that the subsequent use of search dogs will be ineffective.
 - c. Untrained volunteers will likely seek to participate in searches. These personnel must be coordinated.
 - 2. Amber Alert
 - a. Requests for activation of the Amber Alert system can only be made by law enforcement to the WV State Police.
 - b. The following criteria applies:
 - (1) Victim must be age 17 or younger.
 - (2) Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

- (3) Law Enforcement has enough descriptive information about the child, the abductor and the suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast will facilitate locating the child.
- (4) Law enforcement must enter the abducted child into NCIC and must provide supportive documentation as to why the system should be activated.
- (5) All requests for activation must be made by law enforcement to the WV State Police.

III. Functional Annex Components

- A. Primary Functional Annexes – include, but are not limited to:
 1. [A01 – Public Warning](#) (Amber Alert only)
 2. [A02 – Emergency Public Information](#)
 3. [A03 – Communications](#)
 4. [A09 – Fire/Rescue](#)
 5. [A14 – Law Enforcement/Security](#)
- B. Support Functional Annexes – not likely to apply.