

	Abbotsford Police Department Policy	
	Operations	Incident Response
	II.B.125	AMBER Alert

PREAMBLE

The Abbotsford Police Department (“AbbyPD”), together with the RCMP and other municipal police departments, provides AMBER Alert coverage for the province of British Columbia. AMBER Alert enhances AbbyPD’s existing efforts to ensure the safety of Abbotsford’s streets, schools and communities.

DEFINITIONS

- (1) **AMBER Alert** - a coordinated information dissemination system which uses the media, SMS messaging, public reader boards and other means of communication to solicit help from the public for the safe recovery of an abducted child.

POLICY

- (2) AbbyPD will consider initiating, and will only initiate, an AMBER Alert if all the following criteria for activation are met:
- (a) The victim is under the age of 18.
 - (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the victim has been abducted.
 - (c) There are reasonable grounds to suspect that the victim is in imminent danger.
 - (d) There is enough descriptive information about the victim and abductor, or the vehicle involved to believe that a public appeal could help locate the victim.
 - (e) The alert can be issued in a time frame that would provide a reasonable expectation that the child could be located or the abductor could be apprehended.

- (3) An AMBER Alert will not be activated for parental abductions and/or custody disputes, unless violence, threats or life threatening actions have been demonstrated.
- (4) If the AMBER Alert criteria are not met, the investigator will follow standard investigative practices for missing persons and will, if appropriate to the circumstances, continue to work towards establishing the criteria for an AMBER Alert. An AMBER Alert may be activated at any time.