



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2009

CONTACT:
Lieutenant Jody Skogen, NDHP
328-2455

TEST OF NORTH DAKOTA AMBER ALERT PLAN

The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) today announced an annual test of the AMBER – America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response – Alert system to be conducted on Tuesday, May, 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

“Exercising the plan is crucial to ensure quick response and sharing of potentially life-saving information with the public during an AMBER Alert,” said NDHP Superintendent Colonel Mark Nelson. “Although the AMBER Alert plan was developed to respond to child abduction emergencies, the impact of the program has been much more far reaching, serving as a major deterrent to child abduction occurrences.”

All components of the AMBER Alert Plan will be tested. Advance notification is important to avoid misinterpretation of this test as an actual AMBER Alert.

AMBER Alerts are recorded on the ND Department of Transportation’s (NDDOT) 5-1-1 Road and Weather Information System, are displayed on the NDDOT roadside message signs, the nd.gov/amber website, and are also displayed on scrolling banners at North Dakota State Lottery terminal sites. Since the statewide system was unveiled in February 2003, North Dakota has issued three AMBER Alerts. Nationwide, AMBER Alert has been credited with the successful recovery of 443 children.

The AMBER Alert Plan is a voluntary partnership among law enforcement, state agencies, the National Weather Service (NWS) and North Dakota Broadcasters Association to activate an urgent bulletin in child-abduction cases meeting AMBER Alert activation criteria. NDDDES, in collaboration with the NWS, uses the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to provide a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor to statewide radio and television broadcast stations, which disseminate the information to the public. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of the child.

-###-