

WYOMING

MISSING PERSON CLEARINGHOUSE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



State of Wyoming

Office of the Attorney General

Division of Criminal Investigation

HISTORY OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE

During the 1990 Wyoming legislative session, the legislature mandated “The Office of the Attorney General shall establish and operate a central repository of information and clearinghouse on missing children and missing persons.” (Reference 90LSO-0206, Section 200, subsection (e))

The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation responded by establishing the Missing Person Clearinghouse on May 1, 1990. Responsibility for the Clearinghouse was assigned to the Control Terminal Section within the Division of Criminal Investigation. The Control Terminal Section was selected because of the established ties with the National Crime Information Center. A database was established to provide statistics and reports for the Missing Person Clearinghouse. This database includes information identifying the individual, limited personal descriptors, the jurisdiction holding the missing person report, and dates indicating when reported missing and when located.

NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER

Information entered into the Clearinghouse database is the result of entries into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) by Wyoming law enforcement agencies. NCIC has established the following five categories for entry of missing persons:

Disability - A person of any age who is missing and under proven physical/mental disability or is senile, thereby subjecting himself/herself or others to personal and immediate danger.

Endangered - A person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating his/her safety may be in danger.

Involuntary - A person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating the disappearance may not have been voluntary, i.e., abduction or kidnapping.

Juvenile - A person under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the criteria set forth in any of the other categories.

Catastrophe Victim - A person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe.

Other - A person over the age of 21 not meeting the criteria for entry into any other category who is missing and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety.

A record for a missing person who is under the age of 21 shall be entered into NCIC 2000 within 2 hours, using one of the appropriate categories (Disability, Endangered, Involuntary, Juvenile, or Catastrophe Victim). A missing person report filed with an agency is sufficient documentation for entering a juvenile.

A record for a missing person who is over the age of 21 may be entered in the NCIC Missing Person File provided the entering agency has signed documentation in its possession supporting the stated conditions under which the person is declared missing. This written documentation will aid in the protection of the individual's right to privacy.

In the absence of documentation from a parent, legal guardian, next of kin, physician, or other authoritative source, including friend or neighbor in unusual circumstances, or when such documentation is not reasonably attainable, a signed report by the investigating officer will suffice.

NCIC does not require a waiting period for the entry of a person into the NCIC Missing Person File. In December of 1990, the use of waiting periods such as 24 or 48 hours before entering a missing person into NCIC by law enforcement agencies was prohibited by federal law (National Child Search Assistance act, 1990). Within 60 days after entry, a child who is still listed as missing in NCIC, must have dental records and other identifiable information, if available, entered into NCIC.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Wyoming is registered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. As a registered member, the Wyoming Missing Person Clearinghouse receives continuous information from the National Center on missing persons listed with the Center. Additionally, possible sightings called into this center on their toll-free hot line are forwarded to state programs for appropriate distribution to law enforcement agencies.

This year the National Center forwarded **25** possible sighting/information notices to the Wyoming Clearinghouse. The notices were referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for possible investigation.

WYOMING ACTIVITY MISSING PERSONS BY CATEGORY

	CATASTROPHE	DISABILITY	ENDANGERED	INVOLUNTARY	JUVENILE	OTHER	TOTAL
ACTIVE AT START 2010	0	5	15	9	24	11	64
REPORTED DURING 2010	0	15	32	0	804	64	915
CLEARED DURING 2010	0	14	33	0	807	65	919
ACTIVE AT END 2010	0	6	14	9	21	10	60

MISSING PERSONS REPORTED BY MONTH

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
68	57	59	78	81	74	70	85	90	108	78	67

MISSING JUVENILE INFORMATION

Female juveniles accounted for **378** of the missing person reports for 2010 and male juveniles accounted for **352** of missing persons reported for the same period. The average age for reported missing juveniles was **15 1/2** years of age.

JUVENILES BY AGE

YEARS OF AGE	17	16	15	14	13	UNDER 13	TOTAL
NO. OF CASES	233	220	129	87	43	18	730

REPORTED MISSING PERSONS BY COUNTY JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2010

COUNTY	DISABILITYY	ENDANGEREDD	INVOLUNTARY	JUVENILE	OTHER	TOTAL
ALBANY	0	3	0	29	1	33
BIG HORN	0	0	0	3	0	3
CAMPBELL	1	3	0	71	0	75
CARBON	0	0	0	17	1	18
CONVERSE	0	0	0	4	0	4
CROOK	0	0	0	2	0	2
FREMONT	1	2	0	63	2	68
GOSHEN	0	0	0	2	0	2
HOT SPRINGS	0	0	0	1	0	1
JOHNSON	0	0	0	2	0	2
LARAMIE	4	12	0	196	11	223
LINCOLN	0	0	0	11	2	13
NATRONA	2	0	0	152	32	186
NIOBRARA	0	0	0	1	0	1
PARK	1	1	0	28	2	32
PLATTE	0	1	0	5	2	8
SHERIDAN	0	0	0	30	2	32
SUBLETTE	0	0	0	4	0	4
SWEETWATER	0	7	0	61	2	70
TETON	0	0	0	8	2	10
UINTA	5	2	0	36	1	44
WASHAKIE	0	0	0	3	0	3
WESTON	0	1	0	7	2	10
FEDERAL	1	0	0	68	2	71
TOTAL	15	32	0	804	64	915

WYOMING AMBER ALERT PLAN

Wyoming Amber Alert Plan:

The Wyoming AMBER Alert plan was implemented on January 26, 2004. Within thirty-six hours of the plan being put into place, an Amber Alert was initiated at the request of Utah officials. Nearly four hours later, the abducted child was located unharmed and the abductor arrested in Rawlins, Wyoming. A second activation occurred in September 2004, at the request of Kansas officials. That activation also resulted in the safe recovery of the child, this time near Laramie, WY.

The Wyoming AMBER Plan is a cooperative effort between law-enforcement agencies, Wyoming Association of Broadcasters, Wyoming Department of Transportation and the National Weather Service to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. Broadcasters air a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor via radio and television and capable electronic highway signs display a description of abductor vehicle information. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to inform the entire community so that citizens may assist in the search for the abducted child.

Once the criteria for an Amber Alert are met, concise information is put together for distribution to the public, via the local media. The information is further distributed through group fax and group e-mail and may include descriptions and pictures of the missing child, the suspected abductor, a suspected vehicle, direction of travel, etc. Under the plan, local law enforcement makes the determination that the missing child meets the criteria for an Amber Alert and faxes information to the Division for review. The information is then sent to the Cheyenne office of the National Weather Service for distribution via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and posted to those electronic highway signs capable of displaying relevant information.

How Does the AMBER Plan Work?

Each state or local program establishes its own AMBER Plan criteria; however, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children suggests the following criteria should be met before an Alert is activated:

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted.
- A child is considered seventeen years old or younger.
- Law enforcement will only activate an Amber Alert if it is believed the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help in the safe return of the child.

What Should You Do In Case Of An AMBER Alert?

The AMBER Alert message encourages the public to look for the missing child or suspect. You become the ears and eyes of local law enforcement.

In the event that you spot a child, adult, or vehicle fitting the AMBER Alert description, immediately call the telephone number given in the AMBER Alert and provide authorities with as much information as you know.

The goal of Amber Alert is the safe return of the child.

Contact Information:

Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation

(307) 777-7181

<http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/amberalert/amberalert.html>

Email: amberalert@state.wy.us

Amber Alert Activations

Date	Abduction Location	Results
04-09-2010	Gillette, WY	Child safely recovered

CONTACT POINT

Reports of missing persons should be made to the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction. To check on the status of the NCIC entry and the Wyoming Missing Person data base, contact can be made through the following:

Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation
Control Terminal Unit
Missing Person Clearinghouse
208 South College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Telephone (307)777-7537

This publication may be made available in alternative formats for those with disabilities. Please contact the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation for additional information.

