Florida Missing Children’s Day September 10, 2012
Tallahassee

As proclaimed by Resolution of the Florida Legislature, Florida Statute 683.23, the “first ever” Florida Missing Children’s Day was held on Monday, September 13, 1999.

Each year parents, children, law enforcement officers and citizens gather to remember Florida's missing children who are still missing and those who will never come home again. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and FDLE’s Commissioner are invited as speakers.

The objective of this day is to raise awareness of Florida’s currently missing children, to educate the public on child safety and abduction prevention, and to recognize those individuals and law enforcement officers who have made outstanding contributions in the missing children issue.

During this day, all will remember Florida’s missing and recognize citizens, law enforcement officers, and K-9 trailing teams from around the state for their exemplary efforts to rescue missing children. This is also a great time for parents, grandparents and teachers to be educated about the AMBER Alert.

The Florida AMBER Plan was established in 2000, making Florida the second state in the nation to develop a statewide AMBER Alert. The purpose of the Plan is to broadcast critical information of an abducted child as quickly as possible to the media and general public. The initial plan included use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to notify the media and public. The plan was expanded in 2002 to include use of road signs and lottery machines when an Alert is activated. Additionally, the Plan now includes the ability for members of the public to receive emails or free text messages when an AMBER Alert is activated.

The AMBER Alert was named for nine year-old Amber Hagerman (pictured left). She was abducted in 1996 while riding her bicycle outside of her grandparent's home in Texas. She was found deceased four days later. The case is still unsolved. AMBER has since become an acronym for "America's Missing: Broadcasting Emergency Response". In 2003, Congress passed the PROTECT Act to establish and support the development of AMBER plans in each state.

To sign up to receive text or email alerts when an AMBER or Missing Child Alert is activated, visit www.missingchildrenalert.com. It’s easy to sign up and I encourage everyone to do so.

Barbara Renczkowski
Florida PTA
Advisory Board Member
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearing House