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MARCH 29, 2007

Amendment to AB344

Proposed by Assemblyman John Ocegüera

OPENING STATEMENT

Robert D. Fisher

Chairman, Nevada AMBER Alert Review Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

Good morning and thank you for the privilege of addressing you this morning.

Four years ago I addressed members of the legislature to request that Nevada's AMBER Alert Program be guided by statute; we asked that a Review Committee be established; and we asked that broadcasters be given immunity. When AB344 was signed into law, the measure strengthened the statewide Emergency Alert System, a comprehensive AMBER Alert Plan was written, and law both enforcement officials and broadcasters were trained and tested.

Four years later, we have one of the country's finest plans, with criteria, policies and procedures that are respected and envied by other states, and even other nations. Four years later, Nevada's AMBER Alert has led to the safe recovery of 29 abducted children.

One of the goals of the AMBER Alert Review Committee, is to review and evaluate each AMBER Alert, to determine our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses. We also embrace our ever changing world of technology to reach as many people as possible, making our citizens the eyes and ears of AMBER Alert. After many months of discussion, you have before you the work of our committee, improvements that we feel are necessary to improve Nevada's AMBER Alert Plan and its ability to protect our children.

Our request is two-fold.

1. FALSE AMBER Alert Felony Legislation.

We are not alone in seeking this added tool for law enforcement. The State of Washington Legislature is about to pass a measure that states, "a person who with the intent of

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Submitted by: Robert D. Fisher

causing an activation of the AMBER Alert, knowingly makes a false or misleading material statement causing an activation, is guilty of a class C felony." (S5929)

The language of this bill is taken from a similar bill pending before the Ohio Legislature.

And the AMBER Alert Coordinator in Alabama notes: "We have issued alerts that met the criteria at the time only to find out later it was a hoax. One of our cases resulted in murder charges where the parents killed the child and said the car was stolen with the child inside."

From Louisiana: "The Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters take the Louisiana AMBER Alert Program very seriously and will not tolerate any attempt to abuse or misuse the system. Due to the increased trend in the exaggeration of circumstances stated in order to prompt the activation of an AMBER Alert, the Louisiana Legislature amended their AMBER legislation to read -- Whoever violates the provisions shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned for not more than one year, with or without hard labor, or both." (L.R.S. 14:403.3)

From New Jersey: "We here in New Jersey had an incident last June. I wish we had more to charge her with!"

STATEMENT OF NEED:

You might ask "WHAT HARM IS DONE when an AMBER ALERT is made under false pretenses?

The unique partnerships involved in an AMBER Alert make activations based on false information more serious than other types of false police reports. From the beginning of an abducted child report, law enforcement agencies put all their resources into the case. Time is critical and other activities are dropped until the abduction is resolved. The activating law enforcement agency must make personnel available to take the dozens of calls that come into the call center. It can be an overwhelming response. A hoax can tie up lines and personnel as well as police public information officers, needlessly, and put citizens with real emergencies at risk.

Nearby law enforcement agencies are contacted about the abduction and they may be asked to provide support personnel through mutual aid agreements.

But an AMBER Alert involves more than a law enforcement agency. An AMBER Alert uses the Emergency Alert System, taking over all radio and television stations and cable

operators in the region. Broadcasters then marshal their own resources to keep the Alert in front of the public.

Nevada's Department of Transportation adds information about the alert to their electronic signs and to the 5-1-1 Travelers Information phone system. The Department of Public Safety—Nevada Highway Patrol not only assists in the search, troopers activate their portable signs and move them to streets and highways.

Private enterprise groups are also part of the AMBER Alert. Local casinos and other companies add the AMBER Alert to their signs and message boards. Emails are sent to news organizations and private citizens. Cell phone companies provide the same information to their subscribers.

And the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children makes their resources available to the activating agency, offering resources from flyers to one of their specialized "Jump Teams" of searchers, investigators, forensic specialists and family counselors. This widespread involvement is what makes AMBER Alert work.

Finally, the public, which has been brought to a heightened state of attention by the use of so many forms of communication, now shares in the successful resolution of each case. But just as car alarms have lost their ability to protect your car, the risk is there that false activations will dull the public's sense of concern and AMBER Alerts will lose the capacity to protect your children. And it's not just the AMBER Alert that is now compromised. Public trust is also lost, and the EAS -- which is America's Voice for Homeland Security, and our Communities' Voice for Weather, Fire or Flood warnings, is compromised.

BOTTOM LINE: A more serious crime. A more serious penalty. One that would provide law enforcement officers who may be skeptical about an abducted child report a tool to assist their investigation. It can become a deterrent. And it can empower our public safety officials.

As I stated, our request is two fold: The second part is an additional committee position.

2. The Department of Justice has encouraged all states to bring their most important AMBER Alert stakeholders to the table. At the same time, as we have learned from other states, we need to have a broader base, with new ideas and new technology represented on the AMBER Alert Review Committee.

The current Committee struggled with the idea of a 15th seat, a representative appointed at large by the Chairman of the Committee. The at large appointment was created because the Department of Justice encourages us to enlarge our stakeholders. Over the past year, suggestions have been made to add someone from the FBI (which handles recovery efforts when an abducted child crosses the border and goes into Mexico); another suggestion was to bring in a representative from the major airport; and yet another

suggestion -- following a three day conference that the DOJ sponsored last summer, was to add a seat for a representative from Indian Country. Technology, currently in the form of cell phone providers, now plays a major role in the notification process. Who knows what will come in the future? Our own expanded circle of committed volunteers includes a Sergeant from Las Vegas Metro, who helped to write the AMBER Plan and continues to be involved with ongoing statewide law enforcement training. In addition, we have a strong partner in the Nevada Child Seekers. The organization participates in the physical recovery of the child and the development of procedures to smooth the transition to reunite traumatized families.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, thank you for your consideration of all of our request and thank you for allowing the Review Committee to have a voice this morning. I will be happy to answer any questions.

NEVADA AMBER ALERT TIMELINE

March 19, 2000

Krystal Steadman was kidnapped from an apartment complex in Stateline. She was beaten, raped, tortured and murdered. The next day her body was found near Highway 50 below Spooner Summit, after investigators received tip from a motorist who said he saw someone throw something wrapped in a sheet over the edge of the highway. Father and son suspects Thomas Soria Sr, 40, and Thomas Soria Jr., 19, were arrested and charged with kidnapping, rape and murder charges in Krystal's death. Soria Jr. entered a guilty plea in the case and agreed to testify against his father. He was sentenced to life in prison. During the trial, the father, Thomas Soria Sr. committed suicide in the Douglas County Jail.

March 9, 2001

On this date, 17 counties in Western Nevada and Eastern California adopted the "Krystal Child Abduction Alert Program" to use the Emergency Alert System to inform the public about abducted children. The program was developed by Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada State Emergency Communications Committee, based on guidelines from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It was named for Krystal Steadman and dedicated to her memory.

April 13, 2001
(1) [1]

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office requested an activation of the Western Nevada and Eastern California Emergency Alert System for the first Krystal Alert, after a newborn baby boy was abducted from Washoe Medical Center. The baby's mother, Nancy Saucedo, thought she was giving her son to a hospital worker. Instead, Olga Lopez took the child as part of her plot to save her marriage by convincing her husband that she was pregnant and had given birth to a son. About ten hours after grabbing the baby, Lopez took him to St. Mary's Hospital for a health check. The St. Mary's staffer recognized both the suspect and the victim

from pictures and descriptions broadcast by the local media during the Krystal Alert. She kept Lopez at the hospital while a supervisor called police. Lopez was arrested and the child was recovered unharmed and returned to his mother. Lopez eventually entered a guilty plea to the kidnapping charges and was sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

August, 2001
(2) [2,3]

The Reno Police Department requested an activation of the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Alert System for a Krystal Alert issued for two missing boys. The brothers disappeared from the arcade in the Circus Circus Hotel at around 10 PM and their family called police after they couldn't find the boys. Hotel security found the boys in another family's hotel room. They had gone there to watch TV with that family's daughter. The AMBER Alert was cancelled and no charges were filed.

August 19, 2002
(3) [4]

The California Highway Patrol requested activation of the Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Alert System for Krystal Alert Nichole Timmons. An older, male, family friend took the 10-year-old girl from her home in Riverside, California. A resident who recognized Park and his truck from descriptions broadcast by Reno radio and television stations spotted the suspect, Glenn Park, in Hawthorne. The resident contacted authorities and Walker River Tribal Police officers stopped and arrested Park as he drove through the Schurz Reservation north of Hawthorne. Nichole was safely recovered and reunited with her family. The alert was cancelled. Park was eventually charged with kidnapping, burglary and child endangerment.

October 7, 2002

The Elko County Sheriff's Office requested an AMBER Alert activation in Austin, Texas, to find Nicole Hellman, a missing Elko teenager. Elko investigators had received reports that Nicole, who was taken from her foster family's home in Elko, had been spotted in Austin. They

believed that Hellman was taken by her non-custodial mother and her mother's new boyfriend, who has a record of violence against children. After the alert was issued, an Austin resident spotted the suspects in an Austin restaurant. Nicole was recovered safely and reunited with her family. The activation was the first AMBER Alert issued by Austin, TX authorities.

May 25, 2003

*Authorities in Salt Lake City, Utah, issued an AMBER Alert for 19 month old Acacia Bishop, who was taken from her Salt Lake City home by her grandmother. A family member describes Kelley Jean Lodmell as a paranoid schizophrenic who has not been taking her medication. The AMBER Alert is **NOT** passed onto Eastern Nevada. The next day, Lodmell appears in an Idaho Falls, Idaho, power plant, telling workers that she "lost" her granddaughter in the nearby Snake River. Workers shut down plant's water intake system and contact authorities. Authorities search the river, but haven't found the baby's body. Lodmell has been found competent to stand trial on federal kidnapping charges. (Note: authorities speculate that Lodmell traveled through Eastern Nevada on her way to Idaho Falls.)*

June 3, 2003
(4) [5]

Las Vegas Metro issues its first AMBER Alert even though the program won't officially begin until July 1. The activation is made after a parked car is stolen from a strip mall. The owner has left her child in the car, with the car running, while she goes shopping for shoes. Authorities are concerned about the child's welfare in the 104-degree weather and decided to issue the AMBER Alert after a TV reporter notes the case meets the national criteria for activation. Several hours later, a convenience store worker, who has noticed the car parked outside the store, contacts Metro when a shopper comments that the car, which is running, matches the description from the

AMBER Alert. The child is recovered safely, but the suspects are still outstanding.

June 6, 2003
(5) [6]

California Highway Patrol in Truckee requests Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS AMBER Alert activation for Jenette Tamayo, 9 year old girl taken by force from her home in San Jose, CA. The suspect waited in the garage of the home and attacked the girl's mother as she got out of the car. He grabbed Jenette and left the scene. The incident was recorded on a neighbor's home security camera. In spite of an intensive search, investigators weren't able to find any sign of the girl or the suspect. Several days later, Jenette got away and walked into a convenience store in East Palo Alto, about nine miles away from her home. Clerks say they recognized her from flyers that were attached to pizza delivery boxes and called police. Jenette led authorities to the suspect who was arrested and charged. David Montiel Cruz was found guilty of kidnapping and rape charges. He faces sentencing on Oct. 22, 2004

July 1, 2003

Statewide AMBER Alert program takes effect in Nevada. The new program is based on the successful Krystal Alert program. The Nevada Attorney General's office trains law enforcement agencies in the use of the AMBER Alert. The Nevada Broadcasters Association trains broadcasters in the use of the AMBER Alert and the Emergency Alert System.

July 4, 2003

*Manuel Gehring takes his children from fireworks show in New Hampshire. Gehring is arrested 7/12/03 in Gilroy, CA after a nationwide search. **NO** AMBER Alert is issued for the children. Gehring tells investigators he murdered the children and buried them next to I80, "maybe somewhere in the Midwest". Their bodies have never been found. Credit card receipts show Gehring stopped for gas in Winnemucca, NV.*

August 19, 2003
(6) [7, 8]

CHP Susanville requests Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS AMBER Alert activation for Kyle and Jenna Corcoran, taken by their father Gregory from their home in Whittier, CA. After a violent argument, Gregory told his estranged wife, the children's mother, that he wanted to "kill the children". He put the children in his car and drove to Nevada, taking a long detour because the highway was closed when a bridge washed out in a rainstorm. He checked into a motel in Searchlight where he called a friend who told him about the AMBER Alert. After talking with his friends, he called local police and turned himself in. Authorities recovered the children.

August 20, 2003
(7)[9,10]

CHP requested an activation of the Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS for an AMBER Alert for Hilary and Zitlalit Arteaga, taken by force from their home in Garden Grove, CA, by their father, Luis Arteaga. (CHP faxes to NWS Reno) The children are still missing and believed to be in Mexico with Luis' family.

January 5, 2004
(8)[11, 12]

CHP Susanville request for Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS AMBER Alert activation for Sandra and Sarah Dilley, taken from Eureka, CA by their non-custodial mother. Police say Jimeise Dilley has a history of violence and had been charged with the murder of another of her children. Police say she is accompanied by a girlfriend and two men, described as the women's "fiancee's". Jemieise saw the AMBER Alert activation at a truck stop in Lovelock and turned herself into authorities. The girls were recovered safely and returned to their grandparents.

March 17, 2004
(9)[13]

The Walla Walla County Sheriff and Washington State Police requested an AMBER Alert activation in the Western Nevada/Eastern California and Eastern Nevada EAS Operations areas after receiving a report that an abduction suspect was seen in the

Winnemucca area. A Washington State AMBER Alert was issued for 2 year old Crystal Cuanas after she was taken from her home in Walla Walla on the afternoon of March 16. She was taken by force by her father, and investigators feared she had been hurt during the abduction. Fallon radio station KVLV receives the activation from the Local Primary station KKOH, and broadcasts the information. Two Fallon residents who heard the alert on KVLV called Fallon Police with possible sightings. One woman reports seeing the suspect's pick up truck in downtown Fallon. Another woman says she saw the suspect and the child in a second hand store. Based on their reports, police arrested Ernesto Cuanas without incident and safely recovered Crystal and returned her to her home.

March 18, 2004
(10) [14]

The California Highway Patrol in Susanville requested an activation of the Western Nevada/Eastern California area EAS for an AMBER Alert for 5 month old Anthony Pintarelli. The boy was taken from his home near Medford, Oregon by his non-custodial mother, Ashley Ann Garabrant. The woman had a history of mental instability and violence and had recently been released from a mental institution. Oregon investigators believed the woman was headed to the area of Yuba City/Marysville, California, but they weren't sure if she would stay there or head in another direction on Interstate 80. The mother turned herself in to police in Chico, California after hearing the alert. The child was recovered safely.

April 7, 2004
(11) [15]

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department issued an AMBER Alert for five year old Donovan Bingaman after investigators determined that he was with his father, who was suspected of murdering the boy's mother on 4/6/04. Bingaman remained in Las Vegas area but in spite of numerous sightings, authorities were not able to find him. A second AMBER Alert was issued on April 10

and shortly afterwards Bingaman turned himself into authorities. Donovan was safely recovered and Bingaman faces murder and kidnapping charges.

June 23, 2004
(12) [16, 17, 18]

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office requests an activation of the Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS after three girls are taken from their Silver Springs home by their estranged father. According to deputies Walter N. Ball, Jr., broke into the home and shot the girls' mother in the neck after attacking and beating another woman in her home a block away. The father threatened the 19, 16 and 14 year old girls with a gun, and then ordered them to remove their clothing. He forced them to get into his vehicle and drove them to a secluded park near Lake Lahontan. In early June, one of the girls filed sexual assault and incest charges against her father. Ball was arrested but released on bail and ordered to stay away from the family. The girls are beaten with a crowbar and sexually assaulted during the six-hour ordeal. Ball, who had been drinking heavily before and during the kidnapping, finally passes out and one of the girls took his gun and shot him in the head. They drove the truck to a main road and flagged down a Lyon County Sheriff's Deputy. The girls told the deputy where to find Ball's body. No charges were filed against the girls. The mother and one girl were hospitalized as a result of their injuries. Both are expected to recover from their injuries.

July 1, 2004
(13) [19]

The Carson City Sheriff's Office issues an AMBER Alert for the return of Isabel Marie Brown, a 11 month old girl who was taken by Alejandro Lozano-Lozano after a fight between Lozano-Lozano and the baby's mother, Kimberly Maddox. Maddox and the baby had been riding in Lozano-Lozano's car before the fight. When Maddox got out of the car, Lozano-Lozano refused to hand over the baby and took off instead. Even though the mother did not want the AMBER Alert issued, investigators

were concerned about the baby's welfare because Lozano-Lozano was not related to the child. About four hours after the AMBER Alert was issued, Lozano-Lozano turned the child over to one of her relatives. He is still at large and the Carson City D-A's office is preparing charges in the case. *(This alert was to be activated with the new CAE code, but due to programming problems with KKOH's EAS equipment, it was sent as a Dust Storm Warning.)*

December 21, 2004
(14) [20]

The California Highway Patrol requested an activation of the Emergency Alert System for an AMBER Alert for a 13-year old Hayward boy who had been taken by his non-custodial father. The father had a history of violence and child abduction. Police were concerned that he would take the child out of state. The boy, Ernesto Ozuna, was found the next morning in Oakland after a resident reported seeing a child sleeping in a car and that the car was similar to the vehicle description in the AMBER Alert. Police surrounded a nearby residence where they thought the father, Jose Ozuna, was hiding. However, he had left the home, and they have issued felony warrants for his arrest. The boy was unhurt, and told investigators that his father was headed out of state, until he saw the AMBER Alert signs over the 880 freeway.

January 30, 2005
(15) [21]

The California Highway Patrol issued a statewide AMBER Alert for 6 year old Okira Hernandez, a missing Rialto girl. At approximately 10:30 PM, Okira's mother had stopped at a friend's home and left her daughter sleeping in her car while she went inside the house. The keys were in the car and the engine was running. When she came out of the home, the car and the child were gone. She notified authorities in Rialto who asked for the California AMBER Alert. Several hours later a vehicle similar to the Hernandez car was seen on Highway 215. Another report put the car northbound on 395. Based on both

reports, At 3:25 AM on January 31, 2005, The California Highway Patrol contacted the Nevada Highway Patrol in Reno and requested issue a statewide AMBER Alert in Nevada. NHP Reno contacted KKOH, the Northern Nevada LP-1 station which issued the activation at approximately 3:39 AM. NHP Reno also contacted NHP in Las Vegas and requested that they issue an AMBER Alert for Southern Nevada. The NHP Las Vegas office sent out a TRAK notification, mass faxed their media contacts and requested NDoT to activate their programmable road signs. However, NHP Las Vegas did NOT issue an EAS activation. Radio and television stations around the state carried the alert information. At approximately 8:00 AM on January 30, 2005, the California Highway Patrol cancelled the AMBER alerts because Rialto Police had found the vehicle and recovered the child safely. Police say the suspect apparently dumped the car when he or she realized there was a child in the back seat. The suspect has not been identified.

July 11, 2005
(16) [22,23]

On July 11, 2005, the Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff's Office requested activation of the Nevada AMBER Alert for two children, Bryan and Jennifer Cervantes. Officers issued the request after investigating a shooting at the home of the children's grandparents in Queen Creek, Arizona. Officers found the bodies of the grandparents and the children's uncle, but no sign of the children. The children's mother discovered the bodies when she returned home from work. Investigators theorized that the children were taken by their father, Rodrigo Cervantes Zavala, after he murdered the adults. While they thought he might be headed to Mexico, they were also concerned that he would travel to Las Vegas. On Monday, July 17, 2005, Mexican authorities located Cervantes Zavala in Puerto Vallarta and the children were found in another community. The children were unharmed and were returned to their mother in Arizona.

July 23, 2005
(17) [24]

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office requests a statewide activation of the Nevada AMBER Alert for an eight year old girl who was abducted from her home in Fernley. Lydia Bethany-Rose Rupp was last seen at 5:30 am when her mother went to work at a local supermarket. The child was taken by Fernando Aguerro, who had been renting a room from Lydia's mother. He also took her clothes, his clothing, Lydia's identification papers and pictures, and the mother's identification papers. Authorities believe he left the area around midmorning, but the mother did not report her child missing until 11:30 on the night. Lydia's mother admitted that Aguerro had been paying a significant amount of attention to her daughter and that they had argued about that and his interest in returning to San Diego. Aguerro was a convicted sex offender who was not registered in Lyon County. Although Lyon County, through Nevada Highway Patrol, requested activation of the AMBER Alert in California, the CHP activation was apparently not made until the afternoon of Sunday, July 24th. In the meantime, authorities tracked Aguerro to Tijuana, Mexico, through phone calls he made to relatives in Las Vegas and San Diego, but authorities were unable to locate him there. Given the evidence of his presence in Mexico, Lyon County investigators deactivated the AMBER Alert in Nevada on July 26th, but kept it in effect in California in case Aguerro crossed back into California. On Friday, July 29, Lyon County Sheriff's investigators confirmed that Aguerro had been taken into custody in Ensenada. Mexican officials worked with US authorities to return Lydia to her family. Aguerro remains in custody in Tijuana while the Lyon County District Attorney's office begins extradition proceedings to return him to Fernley where he will face kidnapping charges.

November 7, 2005: The FBI called Nevada Highway Patrol to request a "National" AMBER Alert for 9 year old Kyle Brown. The severely handicapped and blind child was taken from his home in Winnemucca on November 3 by his natural, custodial father. Later that day, the father is suspected of robbing a Wells-Fargo bank in Reno, after passing the teller a note saying that he needed money to provide medical care for his son. The clerk gave him an undisclosed amount of money and he left the building. In the course of the investigation, the FBI learned from relatives that Brown said he was going to take his son to Mt. Rushmore and then to

New York where he was going kill the boy and himself. Nevada Highway Patrol Lieutenant Jerry Seevers explained to the FBI that there was no such thing as a "National" AMBER Alert and that Nevada had no control over out-of-state AMBER Alerts, but they could request activations in other states. While the FBI told reporters that they did not consider the case an abduction, they wanted the AMBER Alert issued because they were concerned that the father would not be able to meet the child's medical needs which included special care every three hours. By tracking cell phone records, the FBI knew that Brown was in South Dakota and Minnesota on November 6th. Activations were requested in Minnesota, Wisconsin and several Eastern states. Minnesota and Wisconsin state police took the information but declined to issue AMBER Alerts. Other states issued the AMBER Alerts, including West Virginia. On November 8, 2005, a Washington DC rookie police officer who was formerly a TV meteorologist read the West Virginia AMBER Alert on a weather web site while he was tracking a thunderstorm. The next night he spotted Brown's Jeep Wagoneer and arrested Brown. He found Kyle in the back seat and in good condition. The child was returned to his mother and Brown is expected to face federal bank robbery charges.

November 29, 2005: At approximately 13:34 PM, the Lander County
(18) [25] Sheriff's Office requested an activation of the Eastern Nevada Emergency Alert System for an AMBER Alert for a missing Battle Mountain girl. A family friend called the Sheriff's Office to report that the two year old girl had been taken from the family home by her mother who was apparently under the influence of drugs and possibly suicidal. According to investigators, there was a history of calls at the house for problems related to the mother and possible drug use. Elko broadcasters carried the activation and less than 90 minutes after the initial report, Elko Police found the mother in the city of Elko and took her and the child into custody. The child was unharmed and the mother was charged with child endangerment. The alert was cancelled just before 2:00 PM.

April 26, 2006: The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department requested
(19) [26] an EAS activation for an AMBER Alert for Jaxton Allen. The mother of the 14 month old child, Krista Allen, reported that he had been left in the back of her car, which was taken by

two acquaintances of hers around midnight. She waited several hours before reporting the missing child, and investigators believe the delay was related to a drug deal between the mother and the two suspects. The AMBER Alert was called into the LP-1 station and the activation was made around 1:00 PM. In addition to the activation, investigators requested that Las Vegas area radio and TV stations repeat the message as often as possible because they believed that the suspects were still in the metropolitan area. In addition to the broadcasts, several road signs were programmed to carry the activation. Two men who heard the activation on their car radio and saw a vehicle resembling the stolen CRV called police. As a result of the tip, the suspects were located on Highway 95 near downtown Las Vegas. Metro police arrested John Dyksinski and Rachel Miller on child endangerment charges. Krista Allen was also arrested on child endangerment charges for waiting several hours to report the incident. Child welfare officials handed Jaxton over to relatives.

January 29, 2007
(20)[27]

At approximately 5:19 PM, Washoe County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a possible parental abduction at 580 East 9th Street in Sun Valley, north of Reno. When they arrived, Sandra Montelongo told them that her daughter, Paula Brooks and her daughter's husband, Phillip Brooks, had forced their way into the home and assaulted her and her husband before taking their 8 month old daughter Adrianna and leaving the area. Mrs. Montelongo added that she had been given custody of the infant on January 8th, 2007. She also said she was concerned that the baby had been injured during the abduction. Deputies determined that the situation met the criteria for an AMBER Alert and the activation was issued by KKOH, the Local Primary 1 station. A local resident who heard the alert saw a car that matched the description of the suspect's vehicle and contacted authorities while following the vehicle. The car turned into a trailer park in Panther Valley and deputies found it at approximately 10:00 PM. They made contact with the suspects a short time later. Paula and Phillip Brooks had barricaded themselves inside a friend's home in the trailer park. The friend left the home and deputies brought in a Hostage Negotiations Team who made contact with the Brooks. After about half an hour of discussion, the Brooks surrendered and released Adrianna. The child was examined by the Tactical Emergency Medical Services team and found to be unharmed. She was returned

to her grandmother. The parents face charges of first degree kidnapping, burglary and domestic violence. The father also faces an interstate parole violation charge related to the sale of methamphetamines after he was released from prison in Kansas. A spokeswoman for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office said that the combination of the AMBER Alert and a helpful citizen resulted in a happy ending for a potentially tragic situation.

February 4, 2007
(21)[28]

Elko Police Department requested an activation of the Eastern Nevada EAS for an AMBER Alert for a 14 year old girl who had been forcibly taken from her home by a 54 year old man. The girl and the man were acquaintances but the man, who was not a relative, had a history of violence and was known to carry weapons. Friends said he had recently made threats of suicide. After several hours, Elko contacted Nevada Highway Patrol in Reno to request a statewide AMBER Alert activation but the request and the alert were cancelled before the statewide activation could be made because Elko P.D. officers located the man and recovered the girl. She was returned to her family.

March 19, 2007
(22)[29]

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department requested an activation of the Southern Nevada EAS for an AMBER Alert for four-year old Manaen Miles. The child was taken on March 18 by his non-custodial mother and another woman after they shot and killed the child's uncle in his home in Altadena, California. The mother, Vanessa Ochoa, was a resident of Henderson, Nevada and was seen leaving the crime scene in a car with Nevada temporary plates. She was accompanied by Misha Dean. Investigators requested the Nevada activation because they believed the suspect and her accomplice had taken the child back to the Henderson-Las Vegas area. After receiving several tips, LASD, Las Vegas Metro and Henderson PD Investigators located the suspects. They surrendered to authorities and released the child who was unharmed. Ochoa and Dean face kidnapping and murder charges in California.

(22 activations/29 children/27 recoveries)