



Antietam Broadband Joins AMBER Alert Program

Eyes on Safety Covers Four State Area and D.C.

October 29, 2020 (Hagerstown, MD) Antietam Broadband today announced that it has become a secondary distributor of AMBER Alerts. Effective immediately, all field technicians will receive AMBER Alerts on their company issued devices when there is an active alert in Maryland, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. With this announcement the company will become one of the largest employers in Washington County, MD to be a secondary distributor of AMBER Alerts. "Helping communities where our employees live and work is one of Antietam Broadband's core values," said Brian Lynch, President, Antietam Broadband. "Our team travels thousands of miles in the county every year. Our Eyes on Safety program solidifies what many of our field technicians have been doing for years, working for the good of our community. I am proud of the role we are playing to help protect children."

"The AMBER Alert program is built on the idea that the eyes of many gives us a better chance in the search for an abducted child," said NCMEC president and CEO, John F. Clark. "We are grateful to Antietam Broadband for adding more eyes to our search."

In the United States, there are approximately 175 AMBER Alerts issued each year for the most serious child abduction cases. These are cases where the child is believed to be in imminent danger and there is enough descriptive information to assist in their recovery. NCMEC redistributes AMBER Alerts, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, to a network of secondary distributors. These distributors include companies, businesses or organizations that have the capability to deliver geographically targeted messages.

Key Facts:

Missing Children Statistics

- In 2019 NCMEC assisted law enforcement and families with more than 29,000 cases of missing children.
- Of the nearly 26,300 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2019, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.
- To date 1000 children have been successfully recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert program, including 75 recoveries credited to the wireless emergency alert program.

- NCMEC has analyzed more than 17,600 attempted child abductions to identify trends and help develop safety tips for families.

Exploited Children Statistics

- NCMEC operates the CyberTipline (1-800-THE-LOST/1-800-843-5678), a national mechanism for the public and electronic service providers to report instances of suspected child sexual exploitation.
- In 2019 the CyberTipline received more than 16.9 million reports.
- Since its inception, the CyberTipline has received more than 71 million reports.
- Law enforcement has identified more than 19,000 child victims.

Antietam Broadband will serve as a secondary distributor of AMBER Alerts by relaying alerts in real-time from NCMEC to field technicians. Antietam's team will continue to perform their regular job duties, contacting local law enforcement should they encounter anyone matching an AMBER Alert.

About Antietam Broadband:

Antietam Broadband was founded in 1966 and was purchased by Schurz Communications, Inc. in 1968. It is a full-service telecommunications company offering a complete range of residential and business-class technology solutions including digital television, high-speed Internet and digital phone services in Washington County, MD. Antietam introduced Flight Gigabit Internet service in 2016 and made Hagerstown the 75th gigabit city in the USA. The company is focused on enhancing the lives of its customers by providing the latest telecommunication services and maintaining the highest standards of excellence in customer care and world class technical service.

About National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

Since 1984, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® has served as the leading private, nonprofit organization helping to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent future victimization. As part of its work as the clearinghouse and resource center on issues relating to missing and exploited children, NCMEC operates a hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678), and has assisted in the recovery of more than 367,000 missing children. NCMEC also operates the CyberTipline®, a mechanism for reporting suspected child sexual exploitation, which has received more than 71 million reports. To learn more about NCMEC, visit www.missingkids.org.