

AMBER[®] ALERT

AMBER Alert Reaches Indian Country



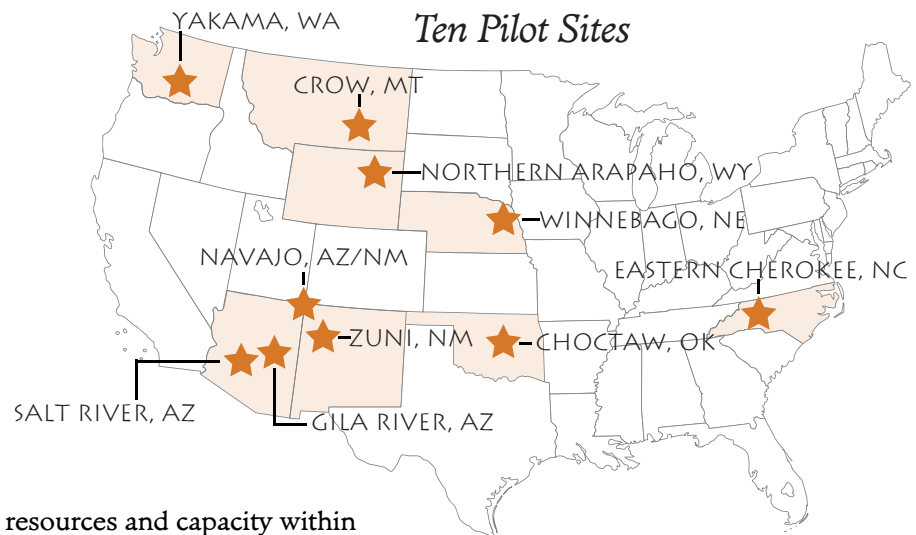
AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative in 2007 to establish and expand child recovery practices, capacity and resources in tribal communities. As a result of this initiative, AMBER Alert plans have been developed in 13 selected tribal communities. Assessments of capabilities have been conducted at all sites, with the focus on building capacity within each community to respond to and investigate reports of endangered, missing, or abducted children. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided a range of training and technical assistance in FY 2007, 2008 and 2009 that has built on these capabilities.

Reporting of all crime in tribal lands has improved significantly over the last several years. However, reporting of missing, abused, endangered or abducted children remains relatively low. Limited

resources and capacity within Tribal communities to report and respond to incidents of missing children contribute to this situation. There is also a limited understanding of the AMBER Alert Program as well as the partnerships needed to create an AMBER Alert plan for Tribal communities. Not unlike non-tribal communities, AMBER Alert plans require critical partnerships between law enforcement, the broadcast/media industry, departments of transportation and other organizations to effectively recover endangered or abducted children. Creating opportunities and capacity within Tribal communities is essential if the recovery rate of missing/abducted children is to improve.

To date, over 700 tribal community members, government leaders, first responders, child protection officials and law enforcement officials have attended training and technical assistance programs to improve skills and capacity related



to a wide range of child protection needs. Interest in the AMBER Alert in Indian Country initiative continues to grow, and the Department of Justice will continue to provide assistance to tribal communities to help them locate missing and abducted children and to protect Indian children from exploitation and abuse.

The AMBER Alert Program has led to the recovery of more than 495 abducted children through a voluntary integrated network designed to increase the investigative capacity of law enforcement, create cooperative partnerships, improve child recovery efforts and create a seamless network of AMBER Alert plans throughout the United States and border countries.

The AIIC initiative has established a goal of implementing AMBER Alert plans in an additional 25 tribal communities in 2010.