

PRESS RELEASE

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Northern District, Chairman

De'Keither A. Stamps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mississippi Public Service Commissioners Partner with Law Enforcement and Utility Providers to Enhance Mississippi's AMBER Alert Network

JACKSON, MS (September 20, 2024)— In a statewide press conference earlier this morning, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) announced the establishment of a strategic alliance with law enforcement agencies and utility organizations to provide additional resources for the state's AMBER Alert program.

Led by Southern District Commissioner Wayne Carr, this initiative recognizes the critical role that utility workers can play in resolving AMBER Alerts. Many utility professionals - like utility linemen and utility operators - perform their job duties outdoors by streets and residential areas, which provides a unique opportunity for these professionals to spot individuals and vehicles included in an AMBER Alert.

"Given the nature of their jobs, utility representatives can play a crucial part in our state's AMBER Alert program by recognizing the signs of child abduction and understanding how to best respond in these types of situations," Commissioner Wayne Carr said. "We are excited to create a partnership with statewide law enforcement agencies and utility organizations in order to provide safety education to utility crews and to contribute to Mississippi's strong AMBER Alert network. By implementing this initiative, we can make a difference for the people of Mississippi."

Through this innovative partnership, the MPSC, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the Attorney General's Office, electric cooperatives, water companies, and natural gas providers will collaborate to educate utility employees on the state's AMBER Alert program and train them to recognize the signs of child abduction. By equipping this extensive network of utility workers with the necessary knowledge and tools, the MPSC hopes to create a vigilant network of additional watchful eyes across Mississippi, ultimately strengthening the safety net for all citizens.

"The AMBER Alert system plays a very important role in protecting our most vulnerable—our children," Central District Commissioner De'Keither Stamps said. "This program has saved countless lives by rapidly engaging the public and law enforcement to locate missing children in the most crucial hours. Understanding and recognizing the signs of child abduction is a responsibility that falls on all of us. Being trained to identify these signs can mean the difference between life and death for a child in danger. Together, we can make a difference and ensure the safety of our communities."

Additionally, a social media campaign and the distribution of informative materials will accompany the utility training program, further disseminating this initiative's goals and messages to residents across Mississippi.

Northern District Commissioner and MPSC Chairman, Chris Brown, expressed support for the partnership, stating "Uniting law enforcement and utility providers is a significant step forward in protecting our children. Every moment counts when it comes to ensuring safety for our most vulnerable, and this partnership enhances our AMBER Alert network, empowering utility workers to be vigilant protectors in their communities."

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