

Village of Los Lunas
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Roy E. Melnick
Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

To: News Media

From: Chief Roy E. Melnick
Lieutenant Vince Torres, PIO

Date: March 3, 2010

Re: Los Lunas Police Enhances its Response Rate to Child Abductions

When a child is reported missing, time is one of law enforcement's greatest enemies. Every hour a child is missing, the likelihood of a safe recovery decreases. In order to ensure a high level of preparedness for child abduction cases, Chief Roy Melnick, of the Los Lunas Police Department announced the implementation of LOCATER™, (Lost Child Alert Technology Resource) provided by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia. The LOCATER program allows law enforcement agencies to scan photos of the missing child and enter the information related to the description of the missing child and the facts and circumstances relating to the child's disappearance to other law enforcement agencies locally, within the state and nationwide.

There are many challenges facing law-enforcement personnel in missing-child cases. One of the greatest is collecting and disseminating the child's descriptive information quickly. With that goal in mind, LOCATER was created to provide the computer hardware and software needed to rapidly distribute critical missing child data on a local, statewide, or nationwide basis. This program enables law-enforcement agencies to rapidly disseminate images and information about missing and abducted children to other law-enforcement agencies, the media, and the public. Although it is designed for missing child posters, the technology may also be used for a number of purposes such as stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and crime alerts.

The Los Lunas Police Department is pleased to be working with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) to implement LOCATER. The NCMEC has found that when pictures of missing children or abductors are made available to the public, one in six children is recovered as a direct result. The department trained 8 officers in the use of LOCATER creating missing child posters that can then be transmitted locally, statewide and nationwide through E mail within minutes.

“Chief Roy Melnick and all members of the Los Lunas Police Department are committed to utilizing the latest technology and resources available to law enforcement to ensure that if, in the rare case a child from the area should go missing, we will do all we can to ensure a safe recovery.” **ATTACHED IS A SAMPLE POSTER FOR USE AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY.**

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a private, 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NCMEC is the national resource center and clearinghouse on missing and exploited child cases. For information about the many free services NCMEC has to offer law-enforcement personnel, please visit www.missingkids.com. For more information about LOCATER, please call toll-free 1-877-446-2632, x6389 or visit www.locaterposters.org.

Questions regarding this program can be directed to Chief Roy Melnick at 505-352-7650 or to Lieutenant Vince Torres at 505-352-7733.



TEST POSTER

Jane Smith



Age: 4 DOB: 1/1/2006
Sex: Female
Race: White
Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue
Height: 4'
Weight: 60

Missing From: Los Lunas, NM
Missing Since: 2/22/2010
Details: This is a SAMPLE POSTER for training purposes to show what we can send out if we actually have a missing child.

LOS LUNAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Roy Melnick

505-839-3855



New Mexico



02/22/2010