

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Emergency: | 911 |
| Police/Fire: | (760)352-2111 |
| Ambulance: | |
| Parent's Work Number(s): | |
| Close Relative: | |
| Close Friend: | |
| School: | |
| Poison Control Center: | |

(Post the above phone numbers by the telephone)

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Full Address: | |
| Phone: | |



Courtesy of

El Centro Police Department
150 North 11th Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(760)352-2111

For more information on this program
in your community, contact:

Crime Prevention
(760) 337-4517

A PARENTS GUIDE FOR PREVENTING CHILD ABDUCTION

**CITY OF EL CENTRO
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



Thousands of children are reported missing every year in America. Some children will be found and returned home. Some will not. Child abduction is a tragedy that devastates parents and touches all of us. This brochure tells you how to keep your children safe.

WHAT TO DO

- Know where your children are at all times and never leave children alone in cars.
- Establish strict procedures for picking children up at school, after movies, at friends' homes, etc. Don't let your children accept rides from people with whom you haven't made prior arrangement, even if they say they are police officers, teachers or friends of the family.
- Teach your children their full names, your full name, address, and telephone number. Teach them how to reach either you or a trusted adult and how to call for police assistance. Make sure they know how to make local and long-distance telephone calls. Even small children can learn to dial 9-1-1 or 0 for an operator to get help.
- Teach your children about the abduction problem in a calm and simple way, as if you were teaching any other important coping skill.
- Listen attentively when your children discuss anyone they've encountered in your absence.
- Have photographs taken of your children four times a year (especially for preschoolers). Make note of birthmarks or other distinguishing features.

- Have fingerprints taken of your children. Most law enforcement agencies have child fingerprinting programs.
- Establish a family code word. Tell your children never to go with anyone who does not know the code word.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN:

- Never leave the yard without your permission. Very small children should play only in the backyard or in a supervised play area.
- Not to wander off, to avoid lonely places, and not to take shortcuts through alleys or deserted areas.
- They are safer walking or playing with friends. Always to come straight home from school unless you've made other arrangements.
- Never to enter anyone's home without your prior approval. (Exception: A block parent or safe house.)
- To scream, run away and tell you or a trusted adult if anyone attempts to touch or grab them.
- Not to give any information over the telephone, particularly their name and address, or that they are alone.
- Never to go anywhere with anyone who does not know the family code word.
- To keep all doors locked and admit only authorized people into the house.

THE SAFE HOUSE PROGRAM

A safe house is a temporary haven for children who find themselves in emergencies or frightening situations such as being bullied, followed or hurt while walking in the neighborhood. Individuals who volunteer their homes for a safe house program agree to make emergency phone calls for children in trouble and watch out for neighborhood children going to and from school.

A safe house is not a medical-aid station, restaurant or a public restroom. The program is not an escort service or a place for long-term protection. It is a short-term interaction between an adult helper and a child needing help. It is also an effective way for a community to protect children.