Disaster Resources

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers resources at no-cost to states that have been impacted by a disaster and are requesting NCMEC assistance either through FEMA or directly from NCMEC.

Team Adam

Team Adam is a program of specially-trained retired law enforcement professionals from the federal, state and local levels who serve as NCMEC consultants. The team deploys as a rapid, on-site response and support system, providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in serious cases of missing children. They also provide support to emergency management agencies in the event that children become separated from their families due to disaster. The program is named for Adam Walsh, the 6-year-old son of John and Revé Walsh, who went missing and was found murdered in 1981.

Project ALERT

Project ALERT is a team of retired local, state and federal law enforcement professionals who donate their time and experience to NCMEC. Project ALERT volunteers provide technical assistance to law enforcement and medical examiners in long term missing children cases, facilitate the collection of biometric and critical information on missing and unidentified children, and help law enforcement access NCMEC resources such as forensic age progression, facial reconstruction, poster distribution, and open source and database searches to help increase the likelihood of identifying missing children.

National Emergency Child Locator Center

The National Emergency Child Locator Center (NECLC) is a dedicated call center in Lake Park, Florida, that stands up at the request of a disaster-impacted state to intake child-related reunification calls, alleviate some of the call load from the impacted state's emergency communications systems, and coordinate tips and leads with on-the-ground reunification efforts. Once activated, the NECLC has the capacity to easily expand or relocate to back-up sites across the country and would be staffed by NCMEC full-time staff as well as Team Adam and Project ALERT volunteers.

Unaccompanied Minors Registry

The Unaccompanied Minors Registry (UMR) is a data collection tool focused on collecting basic information of children who have been separated from their families as a result of a disaster. Through the UMR, NCMEC is able to assist emergency management personnel on the ground in their efforts to reunite families. Individuals can provide basic information and photos concerning a located child whose parents are missing. Once registration information is submitted, NCMEC will cross-reference it against any potential phone calls from a child's parents who may be searching for their child. To access the UMR, go to http://umr.missingkids.com.

Family Advocacy Division

NCMEC provides support to families whose child is missing or a victim of sexual exploitation through its Family Advocacy Division (FAD), a group of master-level trained mental health and child welfare professionals. FAD staff help families, law enforcement, social service agencies, and mental health agencies by providing support services such as immediate crisis intervention and reunification assistance, support for families and survivors of child sexual exploitation, child sex trafficking and abduction, and referrals to appropriate agencies and mental health professionals.

Poster-distribution and Partnerships

The distribution of photographs and posters is one of the most important ways NCMEC draws public attention to missing children. NCMEC reaches out to its wide network of photo partners to transmit images and information of missing children instantly across the nation to participating companies and organizations in an effort to reach millions of people across the country. The public can sign up with the Poster Partner Program to receive alerts via email when posters of children missing from an individual's area become available on NCMEC's website. To sign up for this program, go to www.missingkids.com/Posters.