



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 2, 2022

## Navajo Police Department receives AMBER Alert toolkits to aid response



**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan and First Lady Phefelia Nez were joined by 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar, and Navajo Nation Chief of Police Daryl Noon on Monday, as the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative (AAIC) donated seven AMBER Alert toolkits to the seven Navajo Nation police districts.

The toolkits include a Panasonic Toughbook Tablet, Pelican protector case, headset, webcam, scanner, and a camera. The toolkits were funded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018.

“When a child goes missing, the first 48 hours are the most critical time for response. The donated AMBER Alert kits will help us fill the time gaps within 48 hours. Preparation and coordination are key to bringing a child home safely, and the toolkits will assist our law enforcement officers if a child should be reported missing. Responding officers can access the kit and have everything they need to send out an alert as quickly as possible while still in the field,

including in rural areas. On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative and the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program for their partnerships to keep our children safe,” said President Nez.

During the event, AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Administrator Janell Rasmussen, AIIC Program Manager Tyesha Wood, AMBER Alert Region 4 Liaison Josie Sabori, AIIC Project Specialist Chelsa Seciwa, and others delivered the toolkits to the seven Navajo Nation police districts for immediate use.

The mission of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program and the AIIC is to assist Tribal communities in developing programs to safely recover endangered missing or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of tribal communities and their local, state and federal partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities, capabilities and increase public participation in protecting children.

“Through the Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018, many partnerships were established between tribal communities and external agencies to protect our children. Many families know the personal heartbreak and trauma of missing loved ones on the Navajo Nation and throughout Indian Country. Multiple jurisdiction systems have historically failed the victims, their families, and survivors. However, today, we have to set a new tone of hope on this issue that impacts our homes and tribal communities. The consistency for proactivity, collaboration, and support is needed within the justice system, public safety, and communities to protect our precious children,” said First Lady Nez.

President Nez added that the Nez-Lizer Administration had prioritized its efforts to expand the AMBER Alert system and a comprehensive 9-1-1 system that can cover the 27,000 square miles of the largest tribal nation in the United States.

“This special partnership sets the tone for protecting our children in Indian Country. Under the leadership of Chief of Police Noon and Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management Director Harland Cleveland, and with the support of President Nez, we built the AMBER Alert system and the 9-1-1 system from the ground up. We lost some of our children to violence, but we continue to mourn and honor them to protect the future generation. Our goal is to keep families and communities safe,” said Director Delmar.

“The Navajo Police Department has embarked on numerous changes throughout the years and we continue to prioritize changes to further elevate our department. One of the things we recognize is we can't do this alone and I appreciate the support we received from our leaders and organizations. We will continue to welcome the support from our community partners, especially in regard to AMBER Alert initiatives and we will remain focused and committed to the protection of our children here in the Navajo Nation,” added Chief Noon.

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