

# APCO

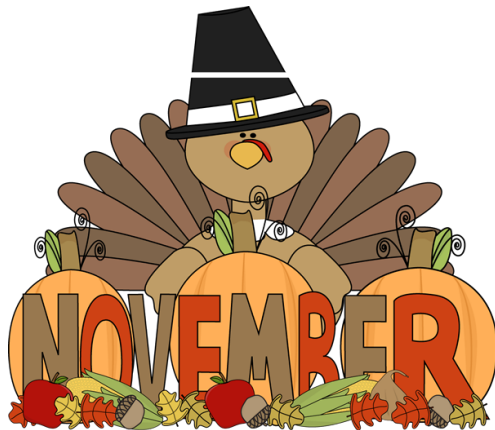
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## MEMBER CHAPTER SERVICES Committee

### APCO 2022—Anaheim, California

Conference and Exposition Committee (CEC) is seeking a Host Committee Chairperson for APCO 2022 in Anaheim, California. The event will be held August 7-10, 2022. We are currently accepting nominations to serve. For complete information on what is required to make a nomination, please go to PSConnect or contact the CEC Chair. Please submit your nomination, no later than December 1, 2020, to; Kim D. Ostin CEC Chair at:

[kostin594@gmail.com](mailto:kostin594@gmail.com)



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## AMBER ALERT ON THE FRONT LINES

Article taken from The AMBER Advocate

Rupert, Idaho, population 5,554, is an agricultural hamlet known for its charm and friendliness. The town is in an area of Southern Idaho known as Magic Valley. On the surface, Rupert would seem like an unlikely setting for a human trafficking case that sparked an intensive search crossing state border.

During the afternoon of April 16, 2020, the Rupert Police Department received a call from a mother that her 14-year-old cognitively impaired daughter was missing. The Minidoka Sheriff's Office sent out an Attempt To Locate (ATL) for the missing child.

Idaho State Police (ISP) Dispatcher DeLisa Orren saw the ATL and contacted Rupert police to learn more about the situation and to determine if it qualified for an AMBER Alert. Orren soon found information linking suspects associated with the incident previous assaults and human trafficking.

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## IDAHO AND CALIFORNIA UNITE TO USE AMBER ALERTS TO RESCUE HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM

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Rupert Police Detective Samuel Kuoha discovered text messages indicating the child had been groomed and was taken around 8:00 a.m. after her mother left for work. Idaho AMBER Alert Coordinator Tanea Parmenter determined the case met AMBER Alert criteria because the victim was lured away from home and taken across state lines for the purpose of sex trafficking.

### The Big Picture

Unfortunately, it is not unique for a vulnerable child living in a small town to be enticed by traffickers through text messages or social media. Consider these findings:

The [U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) found human trafficking suspects were most commonly charged with peonage, slavery, forced labor, or sex trafficking (39 percent), followed by the production of child pornography (32 percent) and transportation for illegal sex activity (29 percent). BJS also reports the number of human trafficking defendants sentenced annually to prison has increased more than fivefold from 2000 to 2015, from 132 to 759.

The [2018 Federal Trafficking Report](#) determined over half (51.6%) of the criminal human trafficking cases active in the U.S. in 2018 were sex trafficking cases involving only children.

The [U.S. State Department of State](#) reported in 2019 a growing trend of traffickers using online social media platforms to recruit and advertise targets of human trafficking.

The [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#) notes the average age for a person entering the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14 years old.

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**Idaho AMBER Alert**

In this case, Parmenter helped the Rupert Police Department ensure the missing person record was updated in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and issued an AMBER Alert at 8:23 p.m. through the state's alerting system, CodeRed. The alert was sent to law enforcement terminals, highway signs, lottery terminals, 511 information, as well as news and radio broadcasts.

The AMBER Alert brought in many tips, including information from people who knew one of the suspects. Those tips helped police obtain the suspect's cellphone number and determine he was in California. The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system was not activated because the suspect and victim were believed to be out-of-state at this point. "We were confident we were doing all we could to help find her; however waiting to hear the outcome of the interaction with officers took quite a while and we were on pins and needles waiting for the investigation to play out," said Parmenter.

**California AMBER Alert**

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) contacted Rupert police officers at the request of the Idaho State Police (ISP) about issuing an alert in California. Sgt. Matt Whitworth was working that night and consulted with his on-call manager regarding the request from Idaho. The CHP protocol requires officers to talk to the activating agency to make sure communications are established throughout the investigation. After determining the case met California's AMBER Alert criteria, CHP issued an AMBER Alert at 9:38 p.m. for seven counties along the I-80 corridor in California.

Supervisor and California AMBER Alert Coordinator and Lead Instructor, Sgt. Ed Bertola said, "It can be tricky to activate for another state because we need to be sure it meets our criteria and there's good evidence there's a nexus to California, and that the victim is in our state. AMBER Alerts are most effective when you have good information to give the public and our allied agencies."

The California AMBER Alert was sent to law enforcement, broadcasters, highway signs, lottery terminals, schools, and businesses that have agreed to post the alerts on electronic signs. By law, California must create its own flyer with information about the suspect and victim. The WEA message includes a link to Twitter with the flyer information included.

"We were just trying to think of other avenues for what we could do," said Whitworth. "We were seriously worried about the victim." Meanwhile, Rupert detectives found information about a second suspect who might still be in Idaho. ISP issued a second AMBER Alert through WEA at 11:00 p.m. in several Southern Idaho counties.

Also, CHP undertook a massive search of databases to glean information about the suspect and his vehicle. They activated license plate readers in an attempt to locate the suspect's vehicle and began tracking the suspect's cellphone.

CHP officers from multiple areas descended on a location obtained from the cellphone ping and identified the suspect's vehicle at a rest area in Truckee, California, at 1:04 a.m. on April 17. they called for backup and then approached an older woman inside the car who said everyone in the vehicle was part of her family.

"We were disappointed when they found the car and one of the two suspects and the victim we were looking for weren't there," said Whitworth. "It was devastating that this could be a false report."

The CHP officers did not give up searching after hitting this roadblock. CHP was still receiving pings from the victim's cell phone in that location, so they conducted an exhaustive search of the large rest area. A swift yet thorough search of the area presented challenges, including many other vehicles, large buildings, and a groundcover of new snow.

While searching the back area behind one of the buildings, an officer spotted what appeared to be a fresh set of footprints leading to a densely wooded area. They followed the footprints in the snow for about 150 yards and found the suspect and the victim hiding behind a large tree. “They had a ‘Spidey-Sense’ that something was wrong,” added Whitworth. “We are very relieved we found the victim, I definitely slept well that night.” The suspects were arrested, and the child was placed with child protective services. Three other juveniles, who were with their non-custodial mother, were also located with the Idaho teen.

### **Lessons Learned in Idaho**

Idaho’s AMBER Alert coordinators Leila McNeill and Tanea Parmenter are grateful for CHP’s cooperation and quick action. “We were excited to hear the victim was located safely and they were able to catch the suspects before they got too far into California,” said Parmenter. “We are also extremely fortunate to have an experienced dispatcher catch the ATL and take the time to ask questions, knowing that potential existed that this could be more than ‘just a runaway.’”

Idaho State Police Director Kedrick Wills said Dispatcher DeLisa Orren’s extra efforts exemplify the agency’s goal of changing and saving lives. “The action DeLisa took that night made the difference between this girl being returned to her family and being abducted by people who could have caused her harm.”

Orren humbly dismisses any personal credit for what happened. “A successful AMBER Alert is all about teamwork,” she said. “There are no jurisdictions, diversified agencies, state borders or egos. It is all about everyone working together, doing their part, for the good of the victim. The AMBER Alert system works because of the dedication of each person to the safe rescue of the child.”

Looking back, Parmenter said training and practice helps to ensure policies and procedures are in place to support quick activation and dissemination of AMBER Alerts. A press release was sent after the alert to explain the AMBER Alert process overall, and why WEA was not used initially.

She said this case is an important example of why AMBER Alert coordinators should stay connected with coordinators in other states. “Suspects rarely stay in the same state; building a relationship with the other states assists in the quick recovery of the child and suspects.”

“We work in law enforcement because we care,” added Leila McNeil. “We strive to do all we can to help those in need during the most harrowing time a family can imagine.”

### **Lessons from California**

As AMBER Alerts are still relatively rare in the larger scheme of law enforcement’s work, Sgt. Whitworth noted the importance of other emergency alerts utilized in notifying the public. He said the experience gained from issuing the other alerts helps him keep up on what needs to be done to issue an effective alert.

Sgt. Bertola emphasized that AMBER Alert coordinators, law enforcement officers and telecommunicators must listen and look for indicators of sex trafficking when responding to calls/reports, because more and more often there is a connection between trafficking and missing children.

He said this case is a good example that officers should never give up—even when leads initially point to confusing

or contradictory information.

“The officers could have said, ‘Good luck’ but they took the information and followed their gut and held the people for an extended period of time to figure this out,” said Bertola. “They didn’t give up on what they thought was happening. All the technology in the world doesn’t substitute for determination or good police work.”

Both Bertola and Whitworth have children, and they say that experience gives them extra motivation to find missing and abducted children.

“At the end of each alert you hug your kids differently,” said Bertola. “I’ve often tried to put myself in a victim family’s place. I couldn’t bear the loss in this type of situation. CHP is dedicated to do whatever we can do and develop any technology we can to make the amount of time a family is separated the shortest time possible and get every child back safely.”

“It does give extra motivation when you have kids of your own,” said Whitworth. “It’s why you sign on to do this job in the first place, because you want to help people. We want to do the right thing and do the best job we can.” Sergio Anaya Alcantar, 18, was charged with felony rape and kidnapping. Alcantar’s stepfather, Carmelo Villanueva Galarza, 35, was charged with kidnapping and sexual abuse of a minor under 16.

## Chapter Officer Toolkit

APCO Membership Services have been working diligently to update the Chapter Officer Toolkit. The Toolkit is located in the Membership section on the APCO International Web Page. The Toolkit contains resources for chapters. This month we want to highlight a new resource for virtual conferences.

Under the Chapter Events Tab we have added the information from the Chapter Leader Workshop last month. The presentation given by Jennifer Kirkland of the Colorado Chapter, as well as the 2020 Colorado APCO/NENA Virtual Conference Guide have been posted. We thank the Colorado Chapter for being so willing to share their after action review.

The last resource in this category is the ability to send promotional items directly to your attendees. The Chapter can choose and personalize promotional items to be sent to each of their virtual attendees.

Have you had a virtual conference or event? We would love to share your experiences with other chapters. Share your information with your Member and Chapter Services Representative for publication.





## Membership Information

Member Type	10/1/2019	10/1/2020
Associate Members	2,869	2,582
Full Members	4,830	4,523
Full Group Members	6,756	8,320
Online Group Members	19,660	19,138
Commercial Members	536	497
Commercial Group Members	296	213
<b>Total Number of Members</b>	<b>34,947</b>	<b>35,273</b>
Total Number of Group Agencies	1,139	1,262
Commercial Groups	55	45



### APCO Membership Renewal

Your membership will expire on Dec 31st. Log into [myapcointl.org](https://myapcointl.org), click on My Invoices, to print or pay your invoice.

## Conference and Exposition Committee

The Conference and Exposition Committee (CEC) was established in 2012 by the Association to provide a conduit to allow our members to have a method of providing input to APCO Staff regarding the Annual Conference and Exposition. The Committee is made up of a representative elected from each of the four Regions, a member at large appointed by the Association President and a representative of the Commercial Advisory Council (CAC). Additionally, the Chair of the Professional Development Events Committee (PDEC), a representative of the Board of Directors (BOD) and two APCO Staff members serve on the Committee.

This Committee advocates to ensure that the interests of the Members are served, and to continue to enhance and strengthen the partnership with APCO Staff. An important element of this liaison is the advocacy role that the Committee takes, which strengthens this vital partnership. This partnership has resulted in many significant changes in areas such as the Career Advancement Center, Food Vouchers, Presentation Theater, Expo Quest, and the very popular Block Party.

The Committee is responsible for attending various events and educational tracks throughout the conference and also soliciting feedback from the attendees on the quality of the presentations and events. The committee is tasked with the responsibility of submitting a comprehensive After-Action Report that identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses to the BOD following every Conference & Expo. This report is utilized in recognizing areas that may require changes in future conferences. The Committee continues to work toward making the Association's Annual Conference and Exposition the premier public safety event in the world.

By: Kim Ostin, Chair

## Bylaws Committee

How do you know if your local APCO Chapter is following the current International APCO rules and recommendations? Have you ever wondered if your local Chapter is in line with the Bylaws and Policy Manual of APCO International? Do you know how your local Chapter matches to the format, language and policies for APCO? Do you know if your local Chapter governing documents even exist?

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, then do we have a deal for you! At no charge to your local chapter, the APCO International Bylaws Committee will review your governing documents and make recommendations on updates that can be made to bring the governing documents in line with the APCO International Bylaws and Policy Manual. The Committee does not demand changes, but rather makes recommendations to your local Chapter Governing Boards.

The Bylaws Committee membership includes longtime industry employees as well as relatively new staff so a full range of knowledge is included. The Committee leadership comes from the membership of the committee for conti-



## Bylaws Committee (continued)

nuity in the process. All Committee members are volunteers that usually join because they are interested in how APCO International is governed and want to learn more about APCO. The Committee has legal advisors as well as liaisons with the Executive Council of APCO International to make sure the overall Bylaws and Policy Manual are correct.

The Bylaws Committee is happy to review your documents and send recommendations back to you. Simply have the Chapters Governing Board contact, by email, the Bylaws Committee Chair, Maureen Will at [maureen.will@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:maureen.will@newtown-ct.gov) or Co-Chair, Kathryn Pompeo at [kathryn.pompeo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kathryn.pompeo@kingcounty.gov) to make arrangements to send your documents to the Committee.

By: Kathy Pompeo, Vice Chair

## Commercial Advisory Council (CAC)

If you have been to an APCO event as a vendor, you understand that there are two sides to all conferences. The attendees (dispatchers, managers, Chiefs, etc.) and the vendors. We, the vendors, are made up of salespeople, engineers, marketeers, and even owners. All of us have one thing in common besides complaining about a slow show.

We all enjoy working with dispatchers, radio techs, and agency leaders. If you have sold in other markets, you understand that this one is special. The people we work with are a friendly and accessible group. We understand why so many refer to it as a 'calling'.

Being a successful Commercial Member means getting involved. Whether it's at the local level sharing your expertise in technology and operational related products and systems, helping to plan a local or regional conference, or taking an even broader role such as joining the CAC; there are plenty of opportunities to get yourself and your company known. The camaraderie that comes with this deeper engagement is invaluable and provides opportunities to work with Association leadership across the country.

So what is the CAC? It is the Commercial Advisory Council.

What do they do? The CAC provides APCO with guidance on a variety of topics relative to the vendor community. Whether it's advising on critical issues regarding emerging technology for public safety communications or helping to define the latest trends in education such as virtual conferences. All of these issues must work for the commercial members too, as they depend on the business to keep the machine running and being able to give back.

Continued on page 8



## Commercial Advisory Council (CAC) (continued)

Interested in learning more? Besides the website, <https://www.apcointl.org/apco-commercial-community/commercial-advisory-council-cac/>, reach out to any of the CAC members and we can walk you through it. Need help finding someone? Check with your CCAM or Chapter Officers for the contact point. Prefer to ease into it? The CAC has an associate membership that allows a glimpse inside the workings of the Council and only lasts one year.

By: Ken Carson, Xybix Systems



## From the West Virginia Chapter

Congratulations to the following award winners presented at their annual 911 Telecommunicator Conference in October at Snowshoe Resort –

Director of the Year – Jimmy Sadler from Fayette County 9-1-1

Telecommunicator of the Year – George Dudding from Roane County 9-1-1

Lifetime Member – Mary Kackley from Berkeley County Central Communications

Linda G. Johnson Award– Dave Posey from Unified Electronics/WV APCO CCAM

President's Award – Zach Bailey from Roane County 9-1-1/WV APCO Conference Staff, WV TERT Team Leader

Also, Mary Kackley was recognized for her 45 years of service. Ms. Kackley will officially retire as Director of the Berkeley County Central Communications.

## From the Kansas Chapter

Congratulations to the following 2020 award winners recognized at their virtual conference held in October:



Telecommunicator of the Year- Janae Fleming, Franklin County



Director of the Year- James Tweed, Jefferson County



Line Supervisor of the Year- Erin Harrell, Shawnee County



Team of the Year,  
Rice County Emergency Communications



40 Years of Service Recognition - Myonne Borst, Pratt Police Department

Kansas APCO's next Conference will be April 12-14, 2021 in Manhattan, KS.

## Upcoming Conferences 2021

### North Carolina State Conference & APCO WRC—Idaho



# Save The Dates!

## NC Public-Safety Communications Conference MAY 2-5, 2021

Wilmington Convention Center | Wilmington, NC

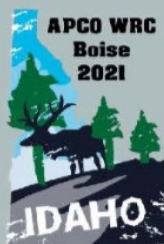


North  
Carolina  
APCO



NORTH  
CAROLINA  
NENA  
9-1-1

NC911CONFERENCE.COM



## Registration is NOW Open!

Join us in Boise, Idaho March 31st-April 2nd, 2021.

We are busy planning excellent training tracks and events.

Do not miss out on the Early Bird Pricing! APCO Members see  
PSCONNECT for discount code. <https://www.2021apcowrc.org>

Special Room Rates \$137 will go fast:

[APCO Western Region Conference Block](#)

Call for Papers will be out shortly. Do know a  
great speaker? Send them our way.

Travel discounts also available on our website.

Questions? [IdahoAPCOWRC@gmail.com](mailto:IdahoAPCOWRC@gmail.com)



## APCO Announcements

### Join Us in December for the Virtual Emerging Technology Forum

APCO's [Tech Forum](#) has gone virtual, so if you have never been to a Tech Forum, now is your chance. Join us December 1-3 to experience this dynamic event where members and industry leaders share their vision of the future of emergency communications. The program, which blends live presentations and a virtual exhibit hall, runs from 11 a.m. ET to 5 p.m. ET each of the three days. Attendees can earn 12 CDEs.

[See the program](#) | [Register](#) (\$25 for Full/Associate APCO Members)

### Upcoming Live Webinar

Join us for this upcoming webinars - free to members and worth one CDE each.

[Managing and Leading 9-1-1 During the Craziest of Crazy Times](#)

November 18 | 1:00 p.m. ET

Sponsored by Hexagon [Register now](#)

Visit [apcointl.org/webinars](http://apcointl.org/webinars) for all upcoming webinars.

### We Need You! Seeking Volunteers

We invite you to use your experience to shape the future of public safety. Getting involved in the development of [APCO American National Standards](#) is an excellent way to contribute your knowledge as well as learn from your peers. You do not need to be an expert or an APCO member to participate; you just need to be willing to contribute your knowledge and skills to accomplish a common goal. If you are interested in joining, please [complete this survey](#).

### APCO Government Relations Update

#### APCO Asks FCC to Reconsider Rules on Wireless E9-1-1 Location Accuracy Requirements

APCO filed a [Petition for Reconsideration](#) with the FCC regarding the rules on wireless 9-1-1 location accuracy that were adopted in July. As an alternative, APCO asked the FCC to establish a minimum percentage of 9-1-1 calls that must be delivered with dispatchable location information.

#### Despite Objections, Majority of FCC Adopts Order Stripping 4.9 GHz Band From Public Safety

A majority of the FCC approved an [order](#) that strips the 4.9 GHz spectrum from public safety. The majority took this action despite [significant opposition](#) expressed by multiple major public safety associations. APCO joined with eleven other public safety associations on a [press release](#) strongly criticizing this action.

#### U.S. Court of Appeals Denies Request for Emergency Relief to Halt FCC 6 GHz Order

In a brief [order](#), the U.S. Court of Appeals denied a [motion](#) filed by APCO on September 4 seeking to halt implementation of the FCC's order permitting new unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band. APCO will continue to fully prosecute its [appeal](#) of the FCC's 6 GHz order and remain highly vigilant of any harm caused by new unlicensed use of this band to mission critical public safety microwave operations.

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