



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORCOM Prepared to Handle Missing/Exploited Child Calls

Partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Announced

Bellevue, WA, March 30, 2011- Emergency 9-1-1 calls regarding missing and/or sexually exploited children could be the first step towards saving a child in your community. The North East King County Regional Public Safety Communications Agency (NORCOM) is prepared to take these types of calls. NORCOM has recently become a NCMEC 9-1-1 Call Center Partner. This program acknowledges NORCOM's commitment to making the safety of our children a priority. Every 9-1-1 call involving a missing and/or sexually exploited child must be handled according to best practices. To promote the adoption of these best practices, NCMEC has created the **9-1-1 Call Center Partner Program**. NORCOM has incorporated the best practices in its policies and training material, making a commitment to follow these best practices. NORCOM becomes the first 911 communications center in the state of Washington and the 21st agency in the country to partner with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

"When a child is missing, the first few moments of that incident are the most critical. These calls demand a timely and coordinated response between 911 and law enforcement. By becoming a NCMEC partner agency, NORCOM is reaffirming our commitment to our participating agencies and the community that our Telecommunicators have the training, tools and resources necessary to aid in the successful recovery of these children" said NORCOM Executive Director Chris Fischer.

Every 9-1-1 call center must have in place policies and training to help ensure every missing and sexually exploited child is given the best chance to be found alive and unharmed. NCMEC is encouraging all Emergency Call Centers to become a NCMEC 9-1-1 Call Center Partner in order to obtain the skills and resources needed to respond to calls pertaining to missing and/or exploited children. Learn how to become a 9-1-1 Partner at www.missingkids.com/911.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Since it was established by Congress in 1984, the organization has operated the toll-free 24-hour national missing children's hotline which has handled more than 2.4 million calls. It has assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 145,600 children. The organization's CyberTipline has handled more than 751,000 reports of child sexual exploitation and its Child Victim Identification Program has reviewed and analyzed more than 28,465,000 child pornography images and videos. The organization works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice's office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. To learn more about NCMEC, call its toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST or visit www.missingkids.com.

ABOUT THE NCMEC 9-1-1 Readiness Project/ Partner Program

The Missing Kids and 9-1-1 Readiness Project was created through a collaboration with AMBER Alert, a training and technical assistance program, a U.S. Department of Justice initiative; Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO); National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED); National Emergency Number Association (NENA); and NCMEC. To learn more about the NCMEC 9-1-1 Readiness Project visit www.missingkids.com/911.

North East King County Regional Public Safety Communications Agency
www.norcom.org