

^{Initial}
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Press Release

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Narrative:

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

Bristol, TN 02/05/2013- Emergency 9-1-1 calls regarding missing and/or sexually exploited children could be the first step towards saving a child in our community. The Bristol Tennessee Police Dept & 911 District has completed enhanced specialized training to become NCMEC 9-1-1 Call Center Partners. By becoming a partner, the Department now has greater resources that will enable us to better serve the public. "This program acknowledges the 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," said Virginia Smelser, Communications Manager for the Police Department. To promote the adoption of these best practices, NCMEC has created the **9-1-1 Call Center Partner Program**. Bristol Tennessee has incorporated the best practices in its policies and training material, making a commitment to follow these best practices.

Every year 800,000 children go missing in the United States. That's more than 2,000 children per day. Calls about missing and sexually exploited children can become high profile events that have a devastating impact on the victim's family, your community, and your 911 center. 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 911 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. To learn more about the 9-1-1 Partner Program, visit www.missingkids.com/911.