



June 5, 2010
AST PR# 10-043

Fairbanks Resident Finds Missing Children After Emergency Phone Call System Activated

(FAIRBANKS, Alaska) - Two children were found after the Alaska State Troopers dispatch center in Fairbanks triggered an automated call to homeowners in the University West area to help search for the two boys. A man who joined the search after receiving the automated call on his home phone found the missing 2- and 4-year-old boys about 19 minutes after the system was activated. The boys were found almost two miles away from their home in the parking lot of the Fairbanks Athletic Expressway Club. At 3:49 p.m., the mother of the boys reported to Alaska State Troopers she woke up after a very brief nap to find the boys gone. Troopers, aided by area law enforcement, hit the streets in search of Leon Beetus, 4, and Sampson Beetus, 2. Fairbanks AST dispatch activated Intrado, a website-based service provided through the Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Management services, at 4:18 p.m. The Colorado-based website system is hooked into the emergency 911 system and can either call individual phone numbers or phones within a targeted area, such as University West, and relay emergency messages such as a call for help or an evacuation. People living within this area received a call with a computerized voice telling them about the missing boys, their description and time and area they were last seen. Numerous people came out of their homes to join the search for the boys. After they were found unharmed at 4:37 p.m., the system sent out another message telling people to disregard the earlier message because the boys had been found. Troopers, along with University of Fairbanks Police, Fairbanks Police and Fairbanks International Airport Police were either actively searching or responding to help when the children were found. Alaska State Troopers would like to thank the people who came out in the rain and looked for the missing children. The system worked like a charm thanks to the good people living in the area.

###