

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tri-Com Central Dispatch Taking major steps to handle the growing number of missing & exploited children 9-1-1 calls

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

St Charles, Illinois 03/14/12- Emergency 9-1-1 calls regarding missing and/or sexually exploited children could be the first step towards saving a child in your community. Tri-Com staff has completed 176 hours of enhanced specialized training and are now better prepared to take these types of calls. Tri-Com has recently become a NCMEC 9-1-1 Call Center Partner. This program acknowledges Tri-Com'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**. Tri-Com has incorporated the best practices in its policies and training material, making a commitment to follow these best practices.

"The call for a missing or exploited child normally begins with the 9-1-1 call and we know that seconds count when that call comes in. Having successfully completed the NCMEC 9-1-1 Call Center Partner Program, Tri-Com has adopted best practices that will enable staff to more effectively handle 9-1-1 calls for missing and exploited children." – Stacy Sarna, Director

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 call 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 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. To learn more about the 9-1-1 Partner Program, visit www.missingkids.com/911.