

# ROWLETT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rowlett, Texas

On the evening of Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at approximately 6:45 p.m. an incident occurred that epitomizes the spirit of community and volunteerism that exists in Rowlett.

At 6:45 p.m. a call was received from a residence in the 3700 block of Dorchester Dr. A mother calling from a neighbors house was reporting that her six year old daughter had gone out to get ice cream from a passing ice cream truck and had not returned. Rowlett Police Officers were immediately dispatched to the scene. After conducting a preliminary search of the child's home, the search expanded to the surrounding neighborhood. The ice cream truck was located and the driver advised that he had not seen the missing girl.

Rowlett P.D. Communications Officers now notified the organization A Child is Missing. This company uses technology to call residences and business in a targeted area by telephone and delivers a message describing the missing child and asking the individual receiving the call to notify police immediately if they see the child. At about the same time Communications Officers notified Rowlett Fire Rescue and had firefighters respond to the area and start going door-to-door searching for the missing little girl.

By 7:30 p.m. Rowlett's C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) members were activated and started heading to the scene. At this point neighbors living in the area who had been notified of the missing child by a phone call from A Child is Missing were out in the neighborhood assisting in the search. Dallas and Garland helicopter units and a K-9 unit from Garland were also requested and started heading to the scene.

Now, dozens of C.E.R.T. volunteers, concerned neighbors, police officers and firefighters were going door to door notifying those who had not been called by the automated phone system of the situation as well as searching the neighborhood and surrounding woods and fields for the missing child. C.E.R.T. volunteers even had search dogs on the scene.

At 8:09, police officers conducted a second search of the child's residence and located the little girl asleep under her bed, unharmed. Rowlett Communications Officers notified the dozens of police officers, firefighters, neighbors and C.E.R.T. volunteers that the search was over and that this child had been found uninjured and safe.

When word was received out in the streets and fields that the child had been found and all was well, those involved in this wonderful example of community spirit and togetherness smiled and shared a collective sigh of relief knowing that a missing child was home and safe.

A few days later a card was received from the mother of the missing girl expressing how grateful she was to all those who turned out that night to search for her daughter. She expressed how thankful she was to all the C.E.R.T. volunteers, to her neighbors, and to the police and firefighters involved that night for their time, efforts and concern. The child's mother wrote "I have lived in Rowlett for many years and I can truly say that I live in a safe and healthy community."

The Rowlett Police Department and Rowlett Fire Rescue would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those C.E.R.T. volunteers and the neighbors involved in this incident. In C.E.R.T. and with other citizens volunteer groups active in our city we have a tremendous community resource available to assist our public safety professionals. Thank you all for a job well done.