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## CHIP-EQUIPPED CLOTHES COULD THWART ABDUCTIONS

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It's similar to the technology used to collect tolls on the I-15 express lanes, but instead of tracking cars, it alerts parents if someone takes a child from their home.



It's called an RFID tag -- a tiny computer chip and antenna. It's small enough to be hidden in a hem or underneath a lining. The tags would trip an alarm if a child was abducted from a home that's been equipped with special sensors.

"They can be at doors and windows, they can be embedded in walls so you don't have to see them," Bob Reed of Smartwear Technologies.

The system was created by a San Diego company called Smartwear Technologies. On their Web site, they promote it as an answer to a parent's worst fear. Parents would have the option of adding vital information about their child to a database that could be shared with police in the event of a kidnapping.

But Smartwear points out the system works fine without the database, and the tags themselves contain no identifying information. The company believes the privacy risk is minimal.

"But if you had to weigh the privacy issue of your eight year old daughter versus the desires of a sexual offender, I don't think there's much debate," Reed said.

Smartwear is hoping the tagged clothing and the home sensors will be available by next spring.

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