

# Cocoa Beach Police Department

## Standard Operating Procedure



<b>Effective Date:</b> August 9, 2022	<b>Replaces:</b>	<b>Number:</b> 192.00
<b>Subject:</b> Florida Blue Alert Program	<b>Re-evaluation Date:</b> 2024	
<b>Distribution:</b> ALL PERSONNEL	<b>Related Standards:</b> 15.20M	

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Policy
4. Discussion
5. Definitions
6. Blue Alert Activation Criteria
7. Activation Process
8. Deactivation Procedures
9. Committee Review of LEO Alert Activation
10. References

### 1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for the activation of the Florida Blue Alert System

### 2. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all sworn Police Department personnel.

### 3. **POLICY**

The safety of our officers and citizens are paramount in accomplishing our mission. It is the policy of this Department to utilize the Florida Blue Alert System when a Cocoa Beach Police Department officer is killed, suffered serious bodily injury, or is missing while in the line of duty and the suspect, who is considered to pose an imminent threat to the public is still at large.

### 4. **DISCUSSION**

Executive Order 2008-81 established the Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Alert Plan. This alert system was created in response to the increasing number of law enforcement officers in the state who were killed or injured in the line of duty. In some of these cases, the offenders used vehicles to flee and attempt to escape. Under this plan, when the below criteria are met, FDLE, DOT, and FHP will activate dynamic highway message signs to immediately broadcast important information about the offender/vehicle involved in an incident in which a law enforcement officer is injured or killed. In 2011, the program was renamed the Florida Blue Alert Program, per Senate Bill 464. The Cocoa Beach Police Department has adopted the below standardized criteria and incorporated it into the Blue Alert Program. The Blue Alert is a means of disseminating suspect information to the public through the Emergency Alert System by broadcasting the alert on television, radio and dynamic message signs located along the State's highways as it relates to an officer who has been killed, seriously injured, or is missing in the line of duty.

### 5. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. Blue Alert- An alert to request assistance from the public through the Emergency Alert System by broadcasting the alert on television, radio, and dynamic message signs located along the State's highways following the disappearance, assault, or death of a law enforcement officer.

### 6. **BLUE ALERT ACTIVATION CRITERIA**

- A. In accordance with State Statute 784.071, to activate a Blue Alert, the following criteria must be met:
  1. A Law enforcement Officer has been:
    - a. Killed
    - b. Suffered serious bodily injury; or

- c. Assaulted with a deadly weapon; or
    - d. Missing while in the line of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the officers safety;
  - 2. The suspect has fled the scene of the offense;
  - 3. The agency investigating the offense determines that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or to other law enforcement officers;
  - 4. A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or other means of escape, or the license plate of the suspect's vehicle is available for broadcasting (Note: To activate FDOT'S Message Signs, vehicle descriptive information and a complete or a partial tag number must be available);
  - 5. Dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect, and
  - 6. If the law enforcement officer is missing, there is sufficient information relating to the officer's last known location and physical description, and the description of any vehicle involved, including the license plate number or other identifying information, to be broadcast to the public and other law enforcement agencies, which could assist in locating the missing officer;
  - 7. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend issuing the Blue Alert.
7. **ACTIVATION PROCESS (CFA 15.20M)**
- A. To activate a Blue Alert, the following steps must occur in the order without any unnecessary delay:
    - 1. The assigned investigator will gather the necessary information to include, but not limited to:
      - a. Description and/or identity of the offender, if available;
      - b. Detailed description of the suspect(s) vehicle or other means of escape;
      - c. Vehicle license plate number or partial number, if available; and
      - d. Any other information that may assist in helping the public locate the suspect.
    - 2. With the approval of their supervisor, the assigned detective or designee will call the Florida Fusion Center (FFC) Intelligence Watch and Warning (IWW) at (850) 410-7645.
    - 3. The regional FDLE on-call supervisor will work with the lead detective or the designee to ensure that the activation criteria have been met and offer assistance. The determination will be made if the alert will be displayed regionally or statewide.
    - 4. The assigned detective or the designee and the FFC/IWW will prepare information for the public dissemination, including suspect and/or vehicle information.
    - 5. Dissemination: The Florida Fusion Center/Intelligence Watch and Warning will notify law enforcement agencies throughout the state to include:
      - a. Contact with the Florida Highway Patrol's Orlando Regional Communications Center (ORCC) to send the LEO Alert. The ORCC communications supervisor will relay that information to other regional communication centers where the activation is taking place.
      - b. Contact with FDOT's Orlando Regional Transportation Management Center to develop the message content using the FDOT – approved template which includes vehicle information, tag number and other identifiers.
      - c. The message will be displayed until the offender(s) is captured or for a maximum of six (6) hours. The alert will be displayed on dynamic highway message signs on all requested highways unless a traffic emergency occurs, which requires a motorist safety message to be displayed. FDOT also will record a LEO Alert message on the 511 system when the LEO Alert is activated.
      - d. Display vehicle information on road signs and lottery machines.
      - e. Activate the Emergency Alert System on the radio and television in the surrounding area.
      - f. The same activation steps will be used if there is revised vehicle information, or a broadcast area is changed.
8. **DEACTIVATION PROCEDURES**
- Upon apprehension, the investigating detective will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the offender(s) has been captured, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert. (CFA 15.20M)
9. **COMMITTEE REVIEW OF LEO ALERT ACTIVATION**
- Activations of each Florida Blue Alert will be reviewed by a committee of state agency partners and law enforcement representatives to ensure that the criteria and goals are met, and the activations took place in a timely fashion.

10. **REFERENCES**

[Florida Statute 784.071- Assault or battery on a law enforcement officer; missing while in line of duty; blue alert.](#)



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**City of Cocoa Beach**

Date: 07/26/22