



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

GO 302 CBI Alert Programs

Section 300 – Special Populations

Effective Date: 9/21/2023

Supersedes Date: N/A

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to outline requirements for requests for persons alerts issued by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 301 Missing Persons](#)

[GO 1050 Juveniles: General Applicability](#)

[DL-301-01 Missing Persons Reports](#)

[DL-1020-02 Patrol Preliminary Investigations](#)

.03 Discussion

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has implemented and oversees a system of alerts to notify and solicit assistance from the public in locating specific types of persons. The public plays a crucial role in the success of the alerts programs through observational vigilance, which can directly assist in the successful recovery of the person(s) being sought.

Excessive or inconsistent use of the alert programs diminishes program integrity and effectiveness by desensitizing the public with alert overuse. To maintain the integrity of the alert programs, the Colorado Springs Police Department follows the activation criteria established by Colorado law and CBI.

Further information on CBI alert processes, to include missing persons resources, can be located on the [Colorado Bureau of Investigations website](#).

.04 Policy

Department members will document and investigate reports of missing, endangered, and abducted persons, and suspects in accordance with statutory requirements and department policy. As part of

the investigative process, department members will determine if criteria are met for requesting a CBI alert. To request an alert, there must be articulable information to believe the issuance of an alert will aid in the recovery of the person.

Department members may request approval to submit an alert request to CBI if the criteria in this policy are met. Specialized unit members will obtain approval to request an alert from their sworn supervisor. If the requestor is a department member working outside of a specialized unit, a lieutenant will approve the request.

CSPD has discretion in determining whether to request a CBI alert for a missing person; however, CSPD is mandated by law to enter a missing person's information in CCIC/NCIC as described in [GO 301 Missing Persons](#) and [DL-301-01 Missing Persons Reports](#), whether an alert is warranted or not. The required information must be entered into the CCIC/NCIC database prior to requesting an alert.

A case report must be completed related to any incident that involves requesting a CBI alert.

If an alert is no longer needed, CSPD is responsible for updating CCIC/NCIC and notifying CBI so the alert can be cancelled.

.05 Definitions

Abducted Child: A child whose whereabouts are unknown, whose domicile at the time they were reported missing was Colorado, or about whom credible information is received from a law enforcement agency located in another state that the abducted child is traveling to or in the state of Colorado, whose age at the time they were first reported missing was under 17 years old or younger, and whose disappearance poses a credible threat as determined by local law enforcement to the safety and health of the child (C.R.S. § 24-33.5-415.7).

Indigenous Person: A person having descended from people who were living in North America prior to the time people from Europe began settling North America, being an enrolled member of a Federally recognized Indian tribe or being a lineal descendant of a tribally enrolled parent or guardian. In CSPD's systems, this is recorded as a person who identifies their race as American Indian or Alaska Native (C.R.S. § 24-33.5-2601).

.10 CBI Alert Programs

In accordance with statutory requirements, the CBI manages and maintains a series of statewide alert programs available to law enforcement as a resource for emergent mass communication of specific missing or dangerous person alerts. CBI will only issue alerts upon request of a law enforcement agency.

The CBI alert system includes the following:

- AMBER Alert
- Missing Senior Citizen Alert
- Missing Persons with Developmental Disabilities Alert
- Missing Indigenous Person Alert (MIPA)
- Endangered Missing Person Alert
- Blue Alert
- Medina Alert

.15 AMBER Alert

Because of the immediacy of the threat to an abducted child, the department has associated investigative and alert requirements.

Activation of the AMBER Alert must meet the following criteria set by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction of a child 17 years old or younger has occurred.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction to believe a broadcast will assist or help in the recovery
- The child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- C.R.S. § 24-33.5-415.7 also requires a connection to Colorado; that the child's domicile at the time they were reported missing was Colorado, or there is credible information received from a law enforcement agency located in another state that the abducted child is traveling to or in the state of Colorado

Officer Responsibilities

The responding patrol officer will verify an abduction has occurred and obtain victim and suspect information necessary to determine whether an AMBER Alert is appropriate, including:

- Descriptions of the missing child and the suspected abductor
 - In an alert, CSPD must clearly articulate the age of the child with DOB and provide a detailed description, including height, weight, clothing, etc. of both the child and the suspect, if known
- Photographs
- A suspected vehicle description
- Any other information available to identify the child and suspect

- Type of abduction and danger
 - If the incident involves a stranger abduction, it is important to articulate how that is known
 - If the incident involves a parent, guardian, relative, or person know to the child, clearly articulate the immediate danger, i.e., threats of death, serious bodily injury, and to whom those threats were directed

Once an officer believes an AMBER Alert should be considered or activated, the officer will request an on-duty patrol supervisor to respond to the scene.

Supervisor Responsibilities

If the criteria are met for consideration of an AMBER Alert, the on-duty patrol supervisor will respond to the scene to ensure a preliminary investigation is initiated.

The patrol supervisor will immediately notify the shift lieutenant and advise the criteria for an AMBER Alert have been met. A lieutenant will approve the initiation of the AMBER alert.

The supervisor will:

1. Notify the on-call sergeant for the Homicide and/or Crimes Against Children Unit
2. Initiate the CCIC/NCIC entry by notifying Records, as required by law, and described in [DL-301-01 Missing Persons Reports](#)
3. Contact CBI at (303) 239-4211 (business hours) or the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) Call Center at (303) 239-4360, to request the initiation of an AMBER Alert
4. It is recommended the on-scene supervisor obtain a direct number to the assigned CBI Agent for ongoing coordination.

A lieutenant will notify the CSPD Public Information Officer of the abduction and subsequent AMBER Alert request after CBI has been notified.

CBI will be kept informed of any relevant updates by the shift lieutenant or the ranking investigator of the Violent Crimes Section Homicide and/or Crimes Against Children Unit.

Specialized Unit Response

The on-call Homicide and/or Crimes Against Children Unit Sergeant will respond to take command of the investigation in conjunction with the Violent Crimes and/or Special Victims Section Lieutenant as described in [INV-22 Missing Child/Child Abduction Investigations](#).

When the child is found, the designated investigative team will contact CBI to cancel the AMBER Alert immediately and ensure proper documentation of the cancellation.

.18 Other Missing Persons Alerts

Missing Senior Citizen Alert

An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing person meets the definition of "missing senior citizen" may request approval for a "Missing Senior Citizen Alert."

Requirements to activate a Missing Senior Citizen Alert include:

- The missing person is 60 years of age or older
- They went missing while in Colorado
- Their disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person
- Confirmation by law enforcement of the person's status; includes receiving a signed statement from a family member, close friend, caregiver, doctor, or person at a medical facility that verifies the missing senior citizen has an impaired mental condition

Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities Alert

An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing person meets the definition of a person with verified developmental disabilities may request approval for a "Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities Alert."

Requirements to activate a Developmental Disabilities Alert include:

- They went missing while in Colorado
- Their disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person
- Law enforcement verification the information meets the definition of "Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities" with:

A signed statement from a family member, close friend, caregiver, doctor or medical facility that verifies the missing person has a disability(ies) that is manifested before the person reaches twenty-two years of age, which constitutes a substantial disability to the affected individual, and is attributable to intellectual/developmental disability or related conditions which include: cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or other neurological conditions when such conditions result in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior.

Missing Indigenous Person Alerts

An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing person meets the definition of "indigenous person" may request approval for a "Missing Indigenous Person Alert".

Requirements to activate a Missing Indigenous Person Alert include:

- They went missing while in Colorado
- The person must be Indigenous based upon information provided (e.g., enrolled member of Federally recognized tribe, or lineal descendent of enrolled tribal member) and their entry in CCIC/NCIC as a missing person must reflect their indigenous status (at CSPD, this is done by choosing the correct race)
- Their disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person

Note the state's Office of the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives encourages a reporting party who makes a report of a missing Indigenous person to request that law enforcement ask for this alert through CBI. Such requests will be given due consideration with this information in mind.

Endangered Missing Person Alert

An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing person meets the criteria of an "endangered missing person" may request approval for an "Endangered Missing Person Alert." This alert may only be requested when a missing person does not meet the criteria for any other CBI alert. Department members will consider the totality of circumstances being investigated in determining whether a person meets the criteria for the Endangered Missing Person Alert.

CSPD requirements to activate an Endangered Missing Person Alert include:

- They went missing while in Colorado
- Their disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person, based on age, health, mental or physical disability, in combination with environmental or weather conditions, or based on a reasonable belief they are unable to return to safety without assistance.

.20 Suspect Alerts

Blue Alert

CSPD may request a "Blue Alert" when a peace officer has received a life-threatening injury or been killed by a suspect(s) who have fled the scene.

Medina Alert

An investigating officer who has reason to believe an incident meets the criteria may request approval for a "Medina Alert."

Requirements to activate a Medina Alert include:

- Verification the report meets the definition of “Hit and Run” and “Serious Bodily Injury” as defined by CRS § 42-4-1601
- Law enforcement has sufficient additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle, including but not limited to:
 - A complete or partial license plate number of the suspect's vehicle and the make, style, and color of the suspect's vehicle or
 - The identity of the suspect

.30 Training

The Training Academy is responsible for implementing statutorily mandated trainings and training records retention.