CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

ALERT SYSTEMS

GENERAL ORDER: 08.10	**CREATED:** May 6, 2025	**ISSUE DATE:** May 6, 2025
CALEA STANDARD:		**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 6, 2025
ACTION: Creates a general order.		

08.10.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to provide guidelines for alerting the public to important information and soliciting public aid when appropriate.

08.10.1 POLICY

Public alerts may be employed using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television, and press organizations and other groups to notify the public of incidents or enlist the aid of the public when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community. Various types of alerts may be available based upon each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

08.10.2 DEFINITIONS

A. ABDUCTED CHILD

An individual age 17 years or younger who has been unwillingly confined, restrained or moved from one place to another or taken without consent from the individual's legal guardian or designated legal representative.

B. ASHANTI ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Provides a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person between the ages of 18 and 64. This evidence-based alert is for a person missing under circumstances that indicate physical safety may be endangered, or the disappearance may not be voluntary, including an evidence-based abduction or kidnapping.

C. BLUE ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Provides a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a violent criminal who has seriously injured or killed a local, state, or federal law enforcement officer or poses an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement.

D. AMBER ALERT SYSTEM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

A voluntary cooperative effort among North Carolina radio and television broadcasters, local and state law enforcement, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (NCCMP). The goal is to use local radio and TV stations, electronic highway signs and lottery terminals to immediately notify citizens of a criminally abducted child in their area.

E. NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR MISSING PERSONS (NCCMP)

Serves as the clearinghouse for information regarding missing children and adults. (1-800-522-5437) (https://nccmp.ncdps.gov)

F. MISSING ENDANGERED SYSTEM

A program designed to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person or missing child who is believed to be suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or cognitive impairment that, in the light of the person's or child's missing status, requires the person or child to be protected from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation (NCGS 143B-1022).

G. SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization. (NCGS 14-32.4(a))

08.10.3 ASHANTI ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

A. CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION

All the following criteria must be met for an Ashanti Alert to be activated:

1. An adult between the ages of 18 and 64 has been identified as a missing individual and,

2. Missing under circumstances that indicate that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered or

3. That the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including abduction or kidnapping.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Investigate the case following guidelines set forth in General Order 08.07 Missing Person and determine whether the case meets the qualifying criteria for an Ashanti Alert.

2. Enter the information into the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) system.

3. Initiate a statewide "be on the lookout" (BOLO) bulletin to all appropriate law enforcement agencies.

4. The supervisor shall contact NCCMP for authorization to request an Ashanti Alert.

5. Once authorization is given, the supervisor shall go to the NCCMP website and submit an online request for an Ashanti Alert. Once received, the alert will be denied or approved by the NCCMP via the email provided.

6. All updates and changes shall be made through the NCCMP website.

7. Once the missing person has been located, the requesting law enforcement agency shall complete a cancellation through the NCCMP website. Cancellation through the website will notify the media, National Center for Missing Exploited Children (NCMEC) and DOT of the cancellation.

8. The supervisor shall notify their chain of command, including the Chief of Police, and draft a media release.

08.10.4 BLUE ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

A. CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION (NCGS 143b-1023)

All the following criteria must be met for a Blue Alert to be activated:

1. A law enforcement officer is killed and suffers serious bodily injury.

2. The suspect poses a threat to the public and other law enforcement officers and possesses information that may assist in locating the suspect, including information regarding the suspect's vehicle, complete or partial license plate information, and a detailed description of the suspect, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.

3. The Chief of Police with jurisdiction recommends the issuance of a Blue Alert to NCCMP.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Investigate the case and determine whether the case meets the qualifying criteria for a Blue Alert.

2. The Chief of Police or designee shall go to the NCCMP website and submit an online request for a Blue Alert. The request must contain sufficient information such as the suspect's vehicle, complete or partial license plate information, and a detailed description of the suspect, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.

3. The Blue Alert will be active for a period of 24 hours. Once this time has expired, the alert may be extended for an additional 24-hour period at the request of the Chief of Police or designee involved after review once again by the NCCMP.

a. In addition, the following must be completed by the Patrol Bureau Commander or designee:

i. Enter the information into NCIC.

ii. Initiate a statewide BOLO bulletin to all appropriate law enforcement agencies.

iii. Provide a 24-hour phone number to receive calls during the investigation.

08.10.5 AMBER ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

A. CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION (NCGS 143B-1021)

All of the following criteria must apply for the Amber Alert to be activated:

1. The child is 17 years of age or younger;

2. The abduction is not known or suspected to involve a parent of the child unless the child's life is suspected to be in danger of injury or death.

Note: If the abduction of the child is known or suspected to be by a parent of the child, the NCMEC, in its discretion, may disseminate information through the Amber Alert System if the child is believed to be in danger of injury or death. It will also be the responsibility of NCMEC to determine whether there is sufficient identifying data to justify an Amber Alert activation.

3. The child is believed to have been abducted or to be in danger of injury or death;

4. The child is not a runaway or voluntarily missing; and

5. The abduction has been reported to and is being investigated by a law enforcement agency.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Investigate the case following guidelines set forth in General Order 08.07 Missing Person and determine whether the case meets the qualifying criteria for an Amber Alert.

2. Enter the information into the NCIC system.

3. Initiate a statewide BOLO bulletin to all appropriate law enforcement agencies.

4. Provide a 24-hour phone number to receive calls during the investigation.

5. The supervisor shall contact NCCMP for approval to request an Amber Alert. There should be enough identifying information, such as the description of the child, abductor and vehicle information.

6. Once authorization is given, the supervisor shall go to the NCCMP website and complete the online request for an Amber Alert. Once the completed form is received and after NCCMP releases the EAS, the information will be submitted and released to the media.

7. All updates and changes shall be done through the NCCMP website.

8. Once the missing person has been located, the requesting law enforcement agency shall complete a cancellation through the NCCMP website. Cancellation through the website will notify the media, NCMEC and DOT of the cancellation.

9. The supervisor shall notify the chain of command, including the Chief of Police, and draft a media release.

08.10.6 MISSING ENDANGERED ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

A. CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION

All the following criteria must be met for a Missing Endangered Alert to be activated:

1. Believed to have a cognitive impairment (not medical).

2. Reported missing to law enforcement within 72 hours.

3. In danger of abuse, physical harm, neglect or exploitation.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Investigate the case following guidelines set forth in General Order 08.07 Missing Person and determine whether the case meets the qualifying criteria for a missing endangered alert.

2. Enter the information into the NCIC system.

3. Initiate a statewide BOLO bulletin to all appropriate law enforcement agencies.

4. Provide a 24-hour phone number to receive calls during the investigation.

5. The supervisor shall contact NCCMP for approval to request an Amber Alert. There should be enough identifying information, such as a description of the child, abductor and vehicle information.

6. Once authorization is given, the supervisor shall go to the NCCMP website and complete the online request for an Amber Alert. Once the completed form is received and after NCCMP releases the EAS, the information will be submitted and released to the media.

7. All updates and changes shall be made through the NCCMP website.

8. Once the missing person has been located, the requesting law enforcement agency shall complete a cancellation through the NCCMP website. Cancellation through the website will notify the media, NCMEC and DOT of the cancellation.

9. The supervisor shall notify the chain of command, including the Chief of Police, and draft a media release.

JAMES S. HUGHES
CHIEF OF POLICE