

## Public Alerts

### 317.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

### 317.2 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.

### 317.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 317.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Garden Grove Police Department should notify their supervisor, Division Lieutenant, or Investigations Division Supervisor as soon as practicable upon learning of a situation where public notification, a warning or enlisting the help of the media and public could assist in locating a missing person, apprehending a dangerous person or gathering information.

#### 317.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor apprised of the need for a public alert is responsible to make the appropriate notifications based upon the circumstances of each situation. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Chief of Police, the appropriate Bureau Commander and the Public Information Officer when any public alert is generated.

The supervisor in charge of the investigation to which the alert relates is responsible for the following:

- (a) Updating alerts
- (b) Canceling alerts
- (c) Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed
- (d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Bureau Commander

### 317.4 AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert™ Program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless industry, to activate urgent bulletins in child abduction cases.

#### 317.4.1 CRITERIA FOR AMBER ALERT

The following conditions must be met before activating an AMBER Alert (Government Code § 8594(a)):

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- (a) A child has been abducted or taken by anyone, including but not limited to a custodial parent or guardian.
- (b) The victim is 17 years of age or younger, or has a proven mental or physical disability.
- (c) The victim is in imminent danger of serious injury or death.
- (d) There is information available that, if provided to the public, could assist in the child's safe recovery.

When circumstances surrounding a child's disappearance are unknown, an alert may be implemented after sufficient time has elapsed and investigation has taken place, which eliminate other alternative explanations for the child's absence.

With this criteria in place, the Garden Grove Police Department Division Lieutenant, or designee will decide when it is appropriate to inform the media of the child abduction via an AMBER Alert, and are authorized to approve and/or initiate an AMBER Alert in our jurisdiction.

#### 317.4.2 PROCEDURE FOR AMBER ALERT

In the event of a confirmed child abduction, the following procedures shall be followed:

- (a) Immediately enter the abducted child and (suspect's vehicle if appropriate) into the
- (b) NCIC database and mark the case as a Child Abduction.
- (c) Contact the CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). ENTAC is the designated "24/7" point of contact for law enforcement agencies requesting activation of an AMBER Alert. The 24-hour phone number for law enforcement agencies to contact ENTAC is (916) 843-4199. Photos of the missing person can be scanned and sent via email to [entac@chp.ca.gov](mailto:entac@chp.ca.gov)
- (d) Notify Control One of the AMBER alert once it is obtained. This will facilitate any countywide Red Broadcasts, Regional Broadcasts, or Code Alex if appropriate. They can also assist by Distributing Press Release/Information to Regional Media Outlets and other Public Safety Communication Sites.

The supervisor in charge will ensure the following:

- (a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that might aid in locating the child:
  - 1. The child's identity, age and description
  - 2. Photograph if available
  - 3. The suspect's identity, age and description, if known
  - 4. Pertinent vehicle description
  - 5. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
  - 6. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison
  - 7. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information

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- (b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center should be contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast, following any policies and procedures developed by CHP (Government Code § 8594).
- (c) The press release information is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.
- (d) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS).
- (e) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Department of Justice Missing and Unidentified Persons System (MUPS)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- (f) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:
  - 1. The local FBI office
  - 2. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

#### 317.4.3 BORDER ISSUES

If there are indicators that the child may be transported out of state or the country, notifications to the FBI should be made. If the child has been transported across the Mexican border, San Diego Sheriff's Department or the San Diego Police Department's Mexico Liaison Units should be contacted. If the child is being transported across the Canadian border, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police National AMBER Alert Center can be contacted at (613) 993-5430.

#### 317.4.4 CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM (CART)

CART is a team of individuals from various agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines who are trained and prepared to respond to a missing, endangered or child abduction. CART leverages resources to aid in the search and rescue effort, and to assist us in our investigation. The objective of CART is to assist, not to assume control of the investigation or operational function "away" from the handling agency. If requested by the Investigative Supervisor or designee, CART members will become integrated into the Incident Command System surrounding the event.

The CART team Coordinator will be the Bureau Commander of the Sheriff's Emergency Communications Bureau. Notification and deployment will be included into the existing AMBER Alert policy overseen by ECB Division Lieutenant and Control One at the Orange County Sheriff's department.

#### 317.4.5 MUTUAL AID

The experiences of other law enforcement jurisdictions that have implemented similar plans indicate an AMBER Alert will generate a high volume of telephone calls to our agency.

If this occurs, and staffing levels cannot support the high volume of telephone inquiries, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Center, Public Information Hotline, can be used.

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In this event, notify the Sheriff's Department Control One supervisor of our incident and request for assistance at telephone number (714) 628-7008. The Control One Supervisor will notify OCSD Emergency Management staff, and provide the Public Information Hotline telephone number that will be activated for the public to call.

We will assign a minimum of two detectives/officers to respond to the Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center, to screen and relay information, and clues received from the Public Information Hotline. The Hotline will not be activated until staff is in place to receive telephone calls from the public. As circumstances dictate, more staff resources from our agency may be necessary to assist the staff at the Emergency Operations Center with the Public Information Hotline.

The Garden Grove Police Department will continue to handle all press releases and media inquiries. Any press inquiries received by the Sheriff's Department will be referred back to our agency.

In the press release, the public will be directed to the Hotline telephone number provided by the Sheriff's Department Control One supervisor.

#### **317.5 BLUE ALERTS**

Blue Alerts may be issued when an officer is killed, injured or assaulted and the suspect may pose a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.

##### **317.5.1 CRITERIA FOR BLUE ALERTS**

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Blue Alert (Government Code § 8594.5):

- (a) A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffered serious bodily injury or has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense.
- (b) The investigating law enforcement agency has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.
- (c) A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast.
- (d) Public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of the suspect.

##### **317.5.2 PROCEDURE FOR BLUE ALERT**

The supervisor in charge should ensure the following:

- (a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that might aid in locating the suspect:
  - 1. The license number and/or any other available description or photograph of the vehicle
  - 2. Photograph, description and/or identification of the suspect
  - 3. The suspect's identity, age and description, if known

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4. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
  5. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison
  6. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information
- (b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center is contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast.
  - (c) The information in the press release is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.
  - (d) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:
    1. Entry into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS)
    2. The FBI local office

#### **317.6 SILVER ALERTS**

Silver Alerts® is an emergency notification system for people who are 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired and have been reported missing (Government Code § 8594.10).

##### **317.6.1 CRITERIA FOR SILVER ALERTS**

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Silver Alert (Government Code § 8594.10):

- (a) The missing person is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired.
- (b) The department has utilized all available local resources.
- (c) The investigating officer or supervisor has determined that the person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- (d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- (e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

##### **317.6.2 PROCEDURE FOR SILVER ALERT**

Requests for a Silver Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.10).

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#### **317.7 ADDITIONAL ALERTS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES**

Additional public safety emergency alerts may be authorized that utilize wireless emergency alert system (WEA) and emergency alert system (EAS) equipment for alerting and warning the public to protect lives and save property (Government Code § 8593.7).

##### **317.7.1 CRITERIA**

Public safety emergency alerts may be issued to alert or warn the public about events including but not limited to:

- (a) Evacuation orders (including evacuation routes, shelter information, key information).
- (b) Shelter-in-place guidance due to severe weather.
- (c) Terrorist threats.
- (d) HazMat incidents.

##### **317.7.2 PROCEDURE**

Public safety emergency alerts should be activated by following the guidelines issued by the Office of Emergency Services (Government Code § 8593.7).

#### **317.8 YELLOW ALERT**

A Yellow Alert may be issued when a person is killed due to a hit-and-run incident and the department has specified information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle (Government Code § 8594.15).

##### **317.8.1 CRITERIA FOR YELLOW ALERT**

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Yellow Alert (Government Code § 8594.15):

- (a) A person has been killed due to a hit-and-run incident.
- (b) There is an indication that a suspect has fled the scene utilizing the state highway system or is likely to be observed by the public on the state highway system.
- (c) The department has additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle including but not limited to the following:
  - 1. The complete license plate number of the suspect's vehicle.
  - 2. A partial license plate number and additional unique identifying characteristics, such as the make, model, and color of the suspect's vehicle, which could reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.
  - 3. The identity of a suspect.
  - 4. Public dissemination of available information could either help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of a suspect based on any factor, including but not limited to the time elapsed between a hit-and-run incident and the request or the likelihood that an activation would reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.

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#### 317.8.2 PROCEDURE FOR YELLOW ALERT

Requests for a Yellow Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.15).

#### 317.9 FEATHER ALERT

A Feather Alert may be issued when an Indigenous person is reported missing. The determination that criteria has been met for the alert shall be made within 24 hours following the initial report being made to the Department (Government Code § 8594.13).

##### 317.9.1 CRITERIA FOR FEATHER ALERT

The Department may request that a Feather Alert be activated if it is determined that the alert would be an effective tool in the investigation of missing and murdered Indigenous persons, including young women or girls. The following factors shall be considered to make that determination (Government Code § 8594.13):

- (a) The missing person is an Indigenous person.
- (b) The Department has utilized local and tribal resources.
- (c) The investigating officer has determined the person is missing.
- (d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger and missing under circumstances that indicate any of the following:
  - 1. The missing person's physical safety may be endangered.
  - 2. The missing person may be subject to trafficking.
  - 3. The missing person suffers from a mental or physical disability, or substance use disorder.
- (e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

##### 317.9.2 PROCEDURE FOR FEATHER ALERT

Requests for a Feather Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.13).

#### 317.10 ENDANGERED MISSING ADVISORY

An Endangered Missing Advisory may be requested when a person is reported missing who is developmentally disabled, or cognitively impaired, or has been abducted, or is unable to otherwise care for themselves, placing their physical safety at risk (Government Code § 8594.11).

##### 317.10.1 CRITERIA FOR ENDANGERED MISSING ADVISORY

All of the following conditions must be met before activating an Endangered Missing Advisory (Government Code § 8594.11):

- (a) The missing person is developmentally disabled, cognitively impaired, has been abducted or is otherwise unable to care for themselves, placing their physical safety at risk.

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- (b) The Department has utilized all available local resources.
- (c) The investigating officer has determined the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- (d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- (e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

#### 317.10.2 PROCEDURE FOR ENDANGERED MISSING ADVISORIES

Requests for an endangered missing advisory shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.11).

#### 317.11 EBONY ALERT

An Ebony Alert may be requested when it is determined the alert would be an effective tool in the investigation of missing Black youth, including a young woman or girl (Government Code § 8594.14).

##### 317.11.1 CRITERIA FOR EBONY ALERT

The investigating officer may consider the following factors to make the determination that an Ebony Alert would be an effective tool (Government Code § 8594.14):

- (a) The missing person is between the ages of 12 and 25 years old, inclusive.
- (b) The missing person is missing under circumstances that indicate their physical safety is endangered or they have been subject to trafficking.
- (c) The missing person suffers from a mental or physical disability.
- (d) Determination that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- (e) Belief that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- (f) The Department has utilized all available local resources.
- (g) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

##### 317.11.2 PROCEDURE FOR EBONY ALERT

Requests for an Ebony Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.14).



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#### **317.12 LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC EMERGENCIES**

In the event of an emergency, as defined in Government Code § 7299.7, the Garden Grove Police Department shall provide information to the public relating to the emergency in all languages jointly spoken by the local population as provided in Government Code § 7299.7.