

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



TRAINING BULLETIN

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Distribution: All Sworn Personnel	Review Month: February	Reviewing Authority: CID / Investigation Services Section
Subject: Florida Alert Plans (Amber, Blue, Purple and Silver)		

This training bulletin consists of the following:

1. Purpose
2. Definitions
3. Procedures

1. Purpose

The purpose of this training bulletin is to familiarize personnel with the Florida Amber, Blue, Purple and Silver Alert Plans and establish procedures for activating the plan.

2. Definitions

- A. Child - anyone under the age of eighteen (18).
- B. Child Abduction - the known taking of a child by an unknown person(s) and believed to be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- C. Family/Parental Abduction - the known taking of a child by a family member.
- D. Florida Amber Alert Plan ([FS 937.021](#)) - a program that is designed to broadcast critical information of an abducted child believed to be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death using the Emergency Alert System via radio and television.
- E. Florida Blue Alert Plan ([FS 784.071](#)) - a plan to aid local law enforcement in the rescue or recovery of a law enforcement officer who has been killed, suffered serious bodily injury, has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, or is missing while in the line of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety by using the Emergency Alert System and the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Dynamic Message Signs and other highway advisory methods.
- F. Florida Purple Alert Plan ([FS 937.0205](#)) - a plan to aid local law enforcement in locating an adult with a mental, cognitive, intellectual or developmental disability other than Dementia or Alzheimer's whose disappearance is a credible threat of immediate danger or seriously bodily harm to themselves.
- G. Florida Silver Alert Plan ([FS 937.021](#)) - a plan to aid local law enforcement in the rescue or recovery of a missing elderly person who suffers from irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties by using the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Dynamic Message Signs and other highway advisory

methods.

- H. Runaway - a child who is known to be missing because of voluntary actions on the part of the child.

3. **Procedures**

A. Activation

1. The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Special Investigations Unit Lieutenant or designee must approve all requests for activation of the Florida Amber, Purple, or Silver Alert Plan by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Major Case Unit Lieutenant or designee must approve all requests for activation of the Florida Blue Alert by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
2.
 - a. The activation of the Florida Alert plan must be used for the investigation of a known child abduction, missing adults, and serious or killed law enforcement officers. This plan must be used sparingly to confirm future public assistance with this type of investigation.
 - b. Pertinent information will be given to the public (e.g. description of missing/abducted person, vehicle information, description of suspect)
3. The approving Lieutenant or designee shall notify the Communication's Supervisor of the Amber, Blue, Purple or Silver Alert Activation.
4. Prior to activating the Florida Amber, Blue, Purple or Silver Alert, the approving Lieutenant or designee shall determine if opening the emergency phone banks located within the CID Training Room is necessary. Until opened and adequately staffed, all initial information will be received through the Communications Center. If the phone banks are opened prior to the activation, the appropriate phone number (i.e. 407-25AMBER, 254-SAFE, or 254-HELP) can be provided to the community to collect all pertinent intelligence and lessen the impact on Communications personnel.
5. Notify Strategic Communications to assist and coordinate with the media. Release specific, not generalized, information to the public to avoid an overwhelming volume of calls. All information must conform with the activation criteria. If a case does not qualify, an alert should not be activated.
6. Law enforcement must follow the abduction criteria established by FDLE.
7. Assistance and guidance can be obtained from the FDLE Missing Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Supervisor for Amber, Purple or Silver alerts, or the FDLE Florida Fusion Center (FFC) for Blue Alerts, if needed.

B. Criteria for activation:

1. Amber Alert
 - a. The child must be under the age of eighteen (18).
 - b. Law Enforcement has a well-founded belief, based on an active investigation that a kidnapping has occurred.

- c. Law Enforcement has a well-founded belief, based on an active investigation, that the child is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury.
 - d. There must be a detailed description of the child and/or abductor/vehicle to broadcast to the public (photo when available).
 - e. The activation must be recommended by the local law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction.
 - f. This system is not to be used for Runaway or Family/Parental Abductions, unless the investigation determines the child's life is in immediate danger.
2. Blue Alert
- a. A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffered serious bodily injury, or has been assaulted with a deadly weapon; or a law enforcement officer is missing while in the line of duty under circumstances causing concern for their safety.
 - b. The suspect has fled the scene of the offense.
 - c. The investigating law enforcement agency has determined that the offender poses a serious threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.
 - d. A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or other means of escape, or license plate of the suspect's vehicle, is available for broadcast.
 - e. Dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect; and
 - f. If the law enforcement officer is missing, there is sufficient information available 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 law enforcement officer.
3. Purple Alert
- a. Purple alerts will be activated only when there is sufficient descriptive information about the missing adult and the circumstances surrounding his or her disappearance to indicate that activating the alert is likely to help locate the missing adult. The missing adult must:
 - b. Have a mental or cognitive disability that is not Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related disorder; an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, as those terms are defined FS [393.063](#); a brain injury; another physical, mental, or emotional disability that is not related to substance abuse; or a combination of any of these;
 - c. Whose disappearance indicates a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to himself or herself, as determined by the local law enforcement agency;
 - d. Who cannot be returned to safety without law enforcement intervention; and
 - e. Who does not meet the criteria for activation of a local Silver Alert or the Silver Alert Plan.

4. Silver Alert
 - a. The missing person must be sixty (60) years or older and there must be a clear indication that the individual has an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties, e.g. dementia. This must be verified by law enforcement, or;
Under extraordinary circumstances when a person age 18 to 59 has irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties and law enforcement has determined the missing person lacks the capacity to consent and that the use of dynamic message signs may be the only possible way to rescue the missing person.
 - b. Local law enforcement has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlets in theirs and surrounding jurisdictions.
 - c. The law enforcement agency's investigation must conclude that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety.
 - d. There must be a description of the vehicle and a tag number to display on the Florida Department of Transportation dynamic message signs.
 - e. Local law enforcement must verify vehicle and tag information.
 - f. The local law enforcement agency must have entered the missing person into the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) and issued a statewide BOLO to other law enforcement/911 centers.

C. Steps for Activation:

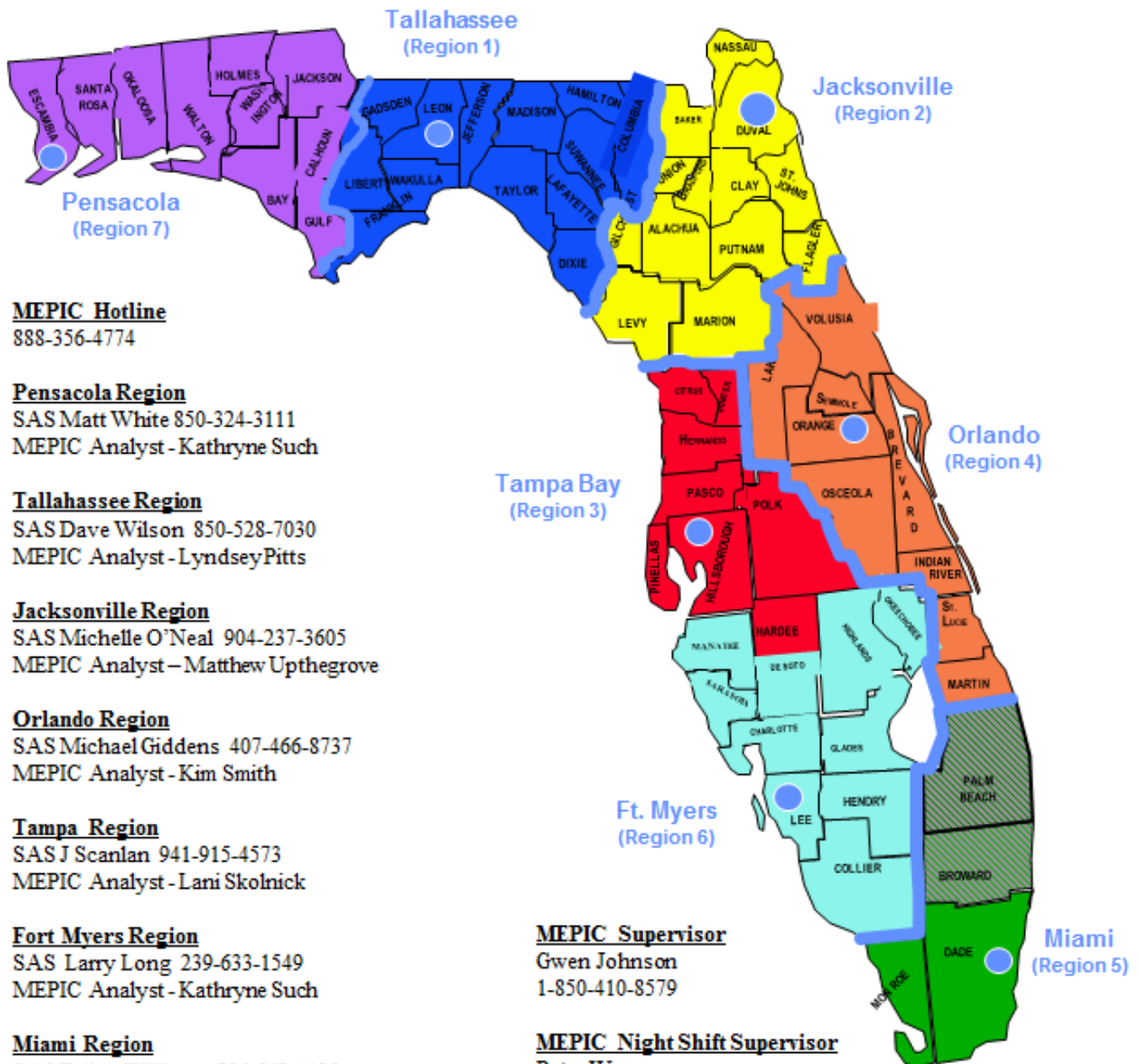
A Watch Commander or above, or CID supervisor shall contact the approved Lieutenant or designee to request activation of the Florida (Amber, Blue, Purple, or Silver) Alert Plan by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

1. The approved Lieutenant or designee in conjunction with the assigned detective supervisor shall:
 - a. For Amber, Purple or Silver Alerts contact the FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) 24/7 at 1-888-356-4774 to initiate the appropriate Florida Alert plan. If the request is made after normal working hours the call will be answered by the FDLE dispatch center and appropriate notification will be made.
 - b. For Blue Alerts contact the FDLE's Florida Fusion Center (FFC) 24/7 at 1-850-410-7645 to initiate the alert.
2. Inform the person answering the telephone of who you are and advise them that you have a missing child case and need to speak with the MEPIC Supervisor immediately.
3. In conjunction with the MEPIC Supervisor, the requesting law enforcement agency shall determine if the information is to be broadcast on a regional or statewide basis. Regional broadcast for the Orlando operational area will include Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Seminole, Sumter, Orange, Osceola and Volusia counties, respectively.
4. In conjunction with the MEPIC Supervisor, the requesting law enforcement agency shall prepare information (child, suspect and/or vehicle information) for public distribution using the approved format.

5. Once assigned, CID investigators shall be responsible for updating the MEPIC or FFC with additional information concerning the investigation as it progresses. When the investigation determines the need no longer exists for the description to be broadcast, the MEPIC or FFC will be notified to cancel the alert.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Child Abduction Response Team & Missing Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse Contacts



MEPIC Hotline
888-356-4774

Pensacola Region
SAS Matt White 850-324-3111
MEPIC Analyst - Kathrynne Such

Tallahassee Region
SAS Dave Wilson 850-528-7030
MEPIC Analyst - Lyndsey Pitts

Jacksonville Region
SAS Michelle O'Neal 904-237-3605
MEPIC Analyst - Matthew Uptegrove

Orlando Region
SAS Michael Giddens 407-466-8737
MEPIC Analyst - Kim Smith

Tampa Region
SAS J Scanlan 941-915-4573
MEPIC Analyst - Lani Skolnick

Fort Myers Region
SAS Larry Long 239-633-1549
MEPIC Analyst - Kathrynne Such

Miami Region
SAS Felipe Williams 786-562-4125
Miami Dade PD Analyst - Spencer Hodge
Broward/Monroe/Palm Beach Analyst -
Amanda Carder
Dade County Analyst - Lindsey Miller, Rafael
Dellaseira, and Ashley Adams-Jack

MEPIC Supervisor
Gwen Johnson
1-850-410-8579

MEPIC Night Shift Supervisor
Peter Warren
850-528-1300

Statewide CART Coordinator
Brett Lycett
1-850-251-1577

Statewide AMBER Alert Coordinator
MEPIC Analyst Lyndsey Pitts
1-850-544-4763

FLORIDA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM OPERATIONAL AREAS

