



POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. 572

Amber Alert

Date Issued: January 5, 2021

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2 Pages

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Massachusetts Amber Alert Plan is a voluntary, cooperative effort between the Worcester Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police, to establish an emergency alert system to notify the public when a child has been abducted and it is believed that the child's life is in serious danger of bodily harm or death. The plan also calls upon the local media outlets to interrupt regular programming to broadcast information about the missing child. The goal of the AMBER Alert Plan is to provide law enforcement with another tool to help recover abducted children and quickly apprehend the suspect.

2. ACTIVATION GUIDELINES:

Upon notification that a child has been abducted; the sector supervisor must be informed. It shall be the supervisor's responsibility to determine if the case meets the criteria for activating the Alert Plan.

ALL of the following AMBER Alert Plan criteria must be met before activation can take place:

- A child, 17 years of age or younger, has been abducted
- Law Enforcement believes the child is in serious danger of bodily harm or death
- There exists enough descriptive information for law enforcement to believe an AMBER Alert will help locate the child

A. AMBER Alert Procedure:

- a. Information is received regarding the abduction of a child.
- b. Initial investigation confirms criteria for AMBER Alert activation
- c. On duty Unit Commander is notified
- d. Unit Commander confirms the following information has been obtained:
 - Name, age and physical description of child
 - Description of child clothing
 - Location and time that the child was last seen
 - Description of Vehicle that was involved in the abduction
 - Description and/or identification of possible suspects
 - Last known direction of travel and possible destination
 - A recent photograph of the abducted child

- e. Unit Commander completes the fillable PDF AMBER Alert Activation Request Form (also located in Department Forms under WPD (S:) Drive at S:\Department Forms\AMBER ALERT Activation Request Form.pdf), and immediately:
 - Emails the completed request form to machildamberalert@mass.gov
 - Telephones MSP Communications at 508-820-2121 for verification that the email has been received.
- f. MSP confirms receipt of AMBER Alert Form and either agrees to activate the plan or denies activation.

3. CONCLUSION:

This plan is a tool to use when investigating the report of an abducted child. Nothing in this plan precludes the CJIS protocol for entry of missing persons. Likewise all other unit policies and procedures need to be adhered to when investigating the report of missing children. This includes when the request for activation has been denied.

Per:

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*1/5/2021 Updated several sections to reflect current process and form