

COLOR-CODED ALERTS**I. POLICY**

Federal and state laws have been created and enacted to alert the General Public of emergency situations. These alerts call for the rapid dissemination of information so that the public might assist law enforcement with the identification and apprehension of specific violators or the return of endangered persons. It is the policy of this Department to assist in initiating these alerts, when necessary, and to seek wanted persons actively because of such alerts.

II. CHECKLIST (N/A)**III. DEFINITIONS (N/A)**

Serious Bodily Injury: Means an injury that:

- Creates a substantial risk of death;
- Causes serious permanent or serious protracted disfigurement;
- Cause serious permanent or serious protracted loss of the function of any body part, organ or mental faculty; or
- Cause serious permanent or serious protracted impairment of the function of any bodily part of organ.

IV. FORMS

- Incident Report
- ACRS Report

V. PROCEDURES**1. Amber Alert Program**

The Amber Alert Program is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry, to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases of children under the aged 18.

Broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System (EAS), formerly called the Emergency Broadcast System, to air a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor.

The following criteria are utilized to determine if an Amber Alert should be issued for the State of Maryland:

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted.
- The child is under the age of 18 years
- Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- The child is believed to still be in the broadcast area.
- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or the suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.
- Police have entered the child's name and other critical elements into NCIC.

Only a law enforcement agency can request an activation of the Amber Alert System through the Maryland State Police (MSP). Amber Alerts can be created through MSP by calling 410-653-4200.

See also Vol. II, Chp. 34 Kidnapping, Abduction & Amber Alert Sec. 4

2. Blue Alert Program

The Blue Alert Program was created in accordance with Maryland Public Safety Article, Section 3-605. It was designed to alert the public through the EAS and the dynamic message sign system located across the State of a person who is suspected of killing or seriously injuring a law enforcement officer and whose disappearance poses a serious threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel.

The following criteria are utilized to determine if a Blue Alert should be issued for the State of Maryland:

- The missing offender's whereabouts is unknown;
- The offender has killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer;
- The offender's disappearance poses a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel; and
- The offender's vehicle can be described, including any information about the vehicle's registration plates.

Only a law enforcement agency can request an activation of the Blue Alert System through the Maryland State Police (MSP). Blue Alerts can be created through MSP by calling 410-653-4200.

3. Silver Alert Program

The Silver Alert Program was created in accordance with the Maryland Public Safety Article, Section 3-604. It was designed to alert the public through the EAS and the dynamic message sign system located across the State of the disappearance a person who suffers a cognitive impairment and whose health and welfare is threatened by other factors.

The following criteria are utilized to determine if a Silver Alert should be issued for the State of Maryland:

- The missing person's whereabouts is unknown;
- The missing person suffers a cognitive impairment including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or dementia to the extent that the individual requires assistance from a caregiver;
- The disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual due to age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, as determined by a law enforcement agency.

A caregiver must notify the CPD if the missing person is located and it is unlikely that the CPD or MSP has knowledge that the missing person is located.

Only a law enforcement agency can request an activation of the Silver Alert System through the Maryland State Police (MSP). Silver Alerts can be created through MSP by calling 410-653-4200.

4. Yellow Alert Program

The Yellow Alert Program was created in accordance with the Maryland Public Safety Article, Section 3-606. It was designed to alert the public through the EAS and the dynamic message sign system located across the State of a person who is wanted for leaving the scene of a traffic accident resulting in serious bodily injury or death.

The following criteria are utilized to determine if a Yellow Alert should be issued for the State of Maryland:

- The violator's whereabouts is unknown
- The violator is suspected of violating the Maryland Transportation Article, Section 20-102 and 27-113, leaving the scene of an accident where the driver knew or reasonably should have known that the accident resulted in either serious bodily injury or death and that serious bodily injury or death actually did occur.

Only a law enforcement agency can request an activation of the Yellow Alert Program through the Maryland State Police (MSP). Yellow Alerts can be created through MSP by calling 410-653-4200.

VI. GOVERNING LEGISLATION & REFERENCE

References:

- United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Amber Alert Program
- Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, Section 3-605, Blue Alert Program
- Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, Section 3-604, Silver Alert Program
- Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, Section 3-606, Yellow Alert Program