

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 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees of the Louisville Police Department should notify their supervisor, Shift Supervisor or Detective Section 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 Division 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 Division Commander

317.4 AMBER ALERTS

America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER Alert™) is the recruitment of public assistance to locate an abducted child via a widespread media alert using the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS). Utilizing local radio, television and press affiliates, the public will be notified of the circumstances of a child's abduction and how it can assist law enforcement in the child's recovery.

The goal of the AMBER Alert program is the safe return of an abducted child by establishing an effective partnership between the community, the media and law enforcement (CRS § 24-33.5-415.7).

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317.4.1 CRITERIA

An AMBER Alert may be activated by a law enforcement agency if (CRS § 24-33.5-415.7(2)):

- a. The child is 17 years of age or younger.
- b. The Department determines the child has been abducted.
- c. There is a credible threat to the safety and health of the child.
- d. The Department has sufficient descriptive information about the child or the person who is suspected of abducting the child, or other pertinent information, to believe a broadcast will assist in the recovery of the child.

317.4.2 PROCEDURE

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

- a. The Public Information Officer, Shift Supervisor or Detective Section Supervisor will prepare an initial press release that includes all available information that might aid in locating the child, such as:
 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. Details regarding time of the abduction, location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known.
 6. Whether there is reason to believe the suspect has a relationship to the victim.
 7. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle the media.
 8. Telephone number of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to call for further information.
 9. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information.
- b. The Public Information Officer, Shift Supervisor or Detective Section Supervisor will notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. After the information is checked, an AMBER Alert will be issued and the Colorado statewide EAS will be activated.
- c. Disseminate the press release to the local television and radio stations.
- d. The individual responsible for making notifications shall also consider the following resources as the circumstances dictate:
 1. Colorado State Patrol
 2. FBI local office
 3. Prompt entry of information into the U.S. Department Of Justice Missing Person System /National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 4. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) (800-843-5678)
 5. Department Internet sites, communications and resources
- e. As additional information pertinent to the case becomes available, it shall be forwarded to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

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- f. The investigation unit supervisor investigating the abduction or other individual responsible for making notifications shall prepare and forward to the previously described locations additional information regarding the search and investigation.
- g. Upon closure of the child abduction, because the child has been found, or the end of the notification period, the investigation unit supervisor shall immediately notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation with pertinent information (CRS § 24-33.5-415.7(4)).
- h. After 24 hours the investigation unit supervisor investigating the abduction or other individual responsible for making notifications shall assess the need to continue the AMBER Alert.

317.5 BLUE ALERTS

Blue Alerts are for those instances where a person has killed or inflicted a life-threatening injury upon a peace officer. The Blue Alert program is a coordinated effort among the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies and the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters (CRS § 24-33.5-416.5; 8 CCR 1507-27).

317.5.1 CRITERIA

Supervisors may request a Blue Alert when a peace officer has been killed or has received a life-threatening injury and the suspect or suspects have fled the scene of the offense (CRS § 24-33.5-416.5).

317.5.2 PROCEDURE

A supervisor, after confirming that the criteria for a Blue Alert have been met, may notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and request a Blue Alert broadcast.

317.6 SENIOR CITIZEN/PERSON WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES /DEMENTIA ALERT

To aid in the identification and location of missing senior citizens and missing persons with developmental disabilities or dementia disease, the Colorado Legislature created the Missing Senior Citizen, Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities, and Missing Person with Dementia and Related Disability Alert Program. This program is a coordinated effort among the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies, and the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters.

317.6.1 CRITERIA

These alerts apply to the following missing persons (CRS § 24-33.5-415.8):

- a. "Missing person with a dementia disease or related disability" means a person:
 - 1. Whose whereabouts is unknown.
 - 2. Who was a resident of Colorado at the time he/she was reported missing.
 - 3. Who has a dementia disease or related disability, as defined by CRS § 25-1-502.
 - 4. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to his/her health and safety, as determined by a local law enforcement agency.
- b. "Missing person with developmental disabilities" means a person:

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1. Whose whereabouts is unknown.
 2. Who was a resident of Colorado at the time he/she was reported missing.
 3. Who has a verified developmental disability.
 4. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to his/her health and safety, as determined by a local law enforcement agency.
- c. "Missing senior citizen" means a person:
1. Whose whereabouts is unknown.
 2. Who was a resident of Colorado at the time he/she was reported missing.
 3. Whose age at the time he/she was first reported missing was 60 years or older and who has a verified impaired mental condition.
 4. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to his/her health and safety, as determined by a local law enforcement agency.

Confirmation, in the form of a signed statement from the family member, close friend, caregiver, doctor, or medical facility that the missing person is a senior citizen with an impaired mental condition, a person with developmental disabilities, or a person with dementia or related disability, is required to meet the criteria for the alert (CRS § 24-33.5-415.8; 8 CCR 1507-26).

317.6.2 PROCEDURE

A supervisor, acting upon confirmation that the criteria for a Missing Senior Citizen/Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities/Missing Person with Dementia and Related Disability Alert have been met, may notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and request a broadcast. Supervisors should ensure that all criteria for the alert are met prior to the request (8 CCR 1507-26).

317.7 MEDINA ALERTS

Medina Alerts are for those instances where a driver of a vehicle has killed or inflicted a serious bodily injury on a person in a hit-and-run accident. The Medina Alert program is a coordinated effort among the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies and the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters (CRS § 24-33.5-416.7).

317.7.1 CRITERIA

Medina Alerts apply when (CRS § 24-33.5-416.7):

1. A person has been killed or suffered serious bodily injury as the result of a hit-and-run accident.
2. There is additional information concerning the suspect or suspect's vehicle, including one of the following:
 1. A complete license plate of the suspect's vehicle.
 2. A partial license plate of the suspect's vehicle along with the make, style and color of the suspect's vehicle.
 3. The identity of the suspect.

317.7.2 PROCEDURE

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A supervisor, after confirming that the criteria for a Medina Alert have been met, may notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and request a Medina Alert broadcast (8 CCR 1507-33).

317.8 MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSON ALERTS

Missing Indigenous Person Alerts aid in the safe recovery of missing Indigenous persons. The Missing Indigenous Person Alert program is a coordinated effort among the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies, federally recognized tribes, any governmental agency that may be involved in the search and recovery of a missing persons, and the state's public and commercial television and radio broadcasters (CRS § 24-33.5-431).

317.8.1 CRITERIA

The Department may request a Missing Indigenous Person Alert be activated when (8 CCR 1507-36):

- a. There is a reasonable belief that missing person is an Indigenous person.
- b. The person went missing while in Colorado.
- c. The person has been entered as a missing person into the CCIC/NCIC system by the Department.

"Indigenous" means having descended from people who were living in North America prior to the time people from Europe began settling in North America, being an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, or being a lineal descendant of a tribally enrolled parent or guardian (CRS § 24-33.5-2601).

317.8.2 PROCEDURE

A supervisor, after confirming that the criteria for a Missing Indigenous Person Alert have been met, may notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and request a Missing Indigenous Person Alert Broadcast (8 CCR 1507-36).

