FALL 2020

Fall 2020 report reviewing the status of AMBER Alert Plans across the United States and territories, as well as additional alerts utilized by our states to help recover missing adults, children, and other vulnerable populations.

AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program

In Partnership With:

National Criminal Justice Training Center
at Fox Valley Technical College

AMBER® ALERT

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Introduction

The AMBER Alert process has been credited with saving over 1000 children since the first AMBER Plan was started in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area in 1996. Every state has an AMBER Alert plan, and the system exists in at least 30 countries around the world. It is clear that an AMBER Alert plan coupled with an effective and efficient comprehensive child recovery strategy saves the lives of children.

In an effort to build on the success of AMBER, every state has implemented additional alerts to help expand recovery efforts to locate children and adults who may go missing for reasons or circumstances not previously covered. More than 50 additional types of alerts exist across our country and this report will provide an overview of the strategies used to protect vulnerable populations and individuals that are in harm's way. Much work has been done to develop consistency within AMBER Plans by developing a national template of critical components that should be contained in each plan. While no two AMBER plans are exactly alike, the consistency and details of the plans across the United States has improved dramatically since the first AMBER Plan Report in 2002/2003.

Given the additional alerts that exist today, little uniformity exists across our country relating to the content in the plans. While many plans carry a title that is only slightly different from a neighboring state, the criteria can vary significantly. One example is in August 2020 - one state issued separate silver alerts for 2 ten-year-olds, a fourteen-year-old, 2 fifteen-year-olds, a forty-five-year-old, as well as a ninety-one-year-old who were missing.

Alerts can serve children who do not meet the AMBER criteria, missing adults under suspicious circumstances that place them at risk, and/or developmentally disabled individuals regardless of age. Additional alerts can be used to help locate suspects who have killed or seriously injured law enforcement officers (Blue Alert), caused serious injury or death in a hit-and-run incident, and even alert citizens to an impending earthquake. With the adoption of the **Ashanti Alert Act of 2018** and the **National Blue Alert in 2015**, to include federal oversight and guidance similar to the National AMBER Alert strategy outlined in the Protect Act of 2003, the use of public alerts has become a significant tool used by law enforcement. Additionally, public health alerts, weather advisories, transportation alerts, marine weather advisories, dam failure alerts, and nuclear power plant alerts can create a challenging environment for our citizens to navigate. As citizens gain awareness and understanding for the alerts and realize their importance, they will be more likely to embrace the various methods of alert activations.

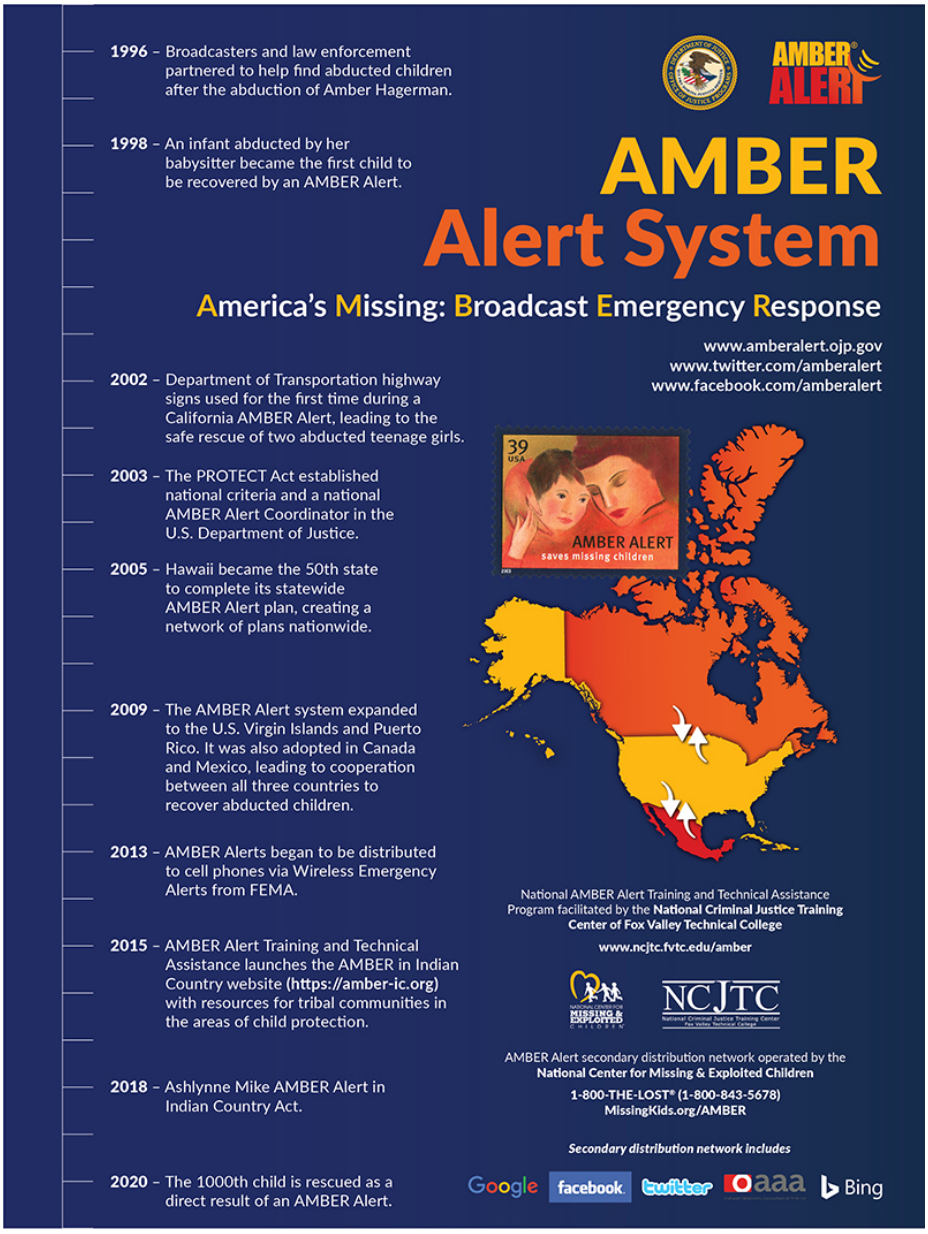
This report will explore the states' use of alerts and other summary data from several states to include some recommendations that may help us maximize our abilities to protect vulnerable populations.

1000 Children Saved Due to AMBER Alert

The 1,000th successful recovery came when the Fremont County Sheriff's Office in Wyoming requested an AMBER Alert for four missing children, ages 5, 6, 11 and 14, from the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation. Their non-custodial mother had taken them from a home outside the reservation where they had been placed by the tribe for protection.

The alert generated a lead when the mother, stopped at a glass company to have a rear-window of the vehicle replaced and, with no money, offered to sell some guns in exchange for the work. She left her phone number with the clerk, who turned it over to law enforcement. Another tip came when a homeless man saw the vehicle described in the alert at a truck stop. He watched the driver swapping her vehicle with someone she appeared to know in another vehicle.

Using the phone number the mother gave the store clerk, investigators were able to track her movements to the Denver area. At Fremont County's request, Colorado issued an AMBER Alert in that state with the updated vehicle information. That prompted a call from someone who saw a vehicle matching that description parked at a Motel 6. Using the motel's surveillance tape, the children were found safe, but the mother had disappeared. She was later found, arrested on felony charges and extradited back to Wyoming.



The full article can be found at ***https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2020/1000-success-stories***

History of AMBER Alert

The AMBER Alert system began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. **AMBER, which stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response**, was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Soon other states and communities set up their own AMBER Alert plans as the idea was adopted across the nation.

As of August 2020, AMBER Alert programs have been credited with helping bring 1000 abducted children home safely. There are approximately 85 plans operating across the United States currently.

The Protect Act of 2003

Passed in 2003, the **Protect Act** helped to establish AMBER Alert systems nationally by strengthening kidnapping statutes, lengthening the statute of limitations for sex crimes against children, and requiring child pornographers to register as sex offenders. It also improved law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute suspects accused of child abduction, and established Department of Transportation state grant programs across the country. This legislation's directive to appoint a National AMBER Alert coordinator to spearhead the coordinated effort nationally had a significant impact on bringing a National AMBER Alert Initiative to life.

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006

Passed in January 2006, the **Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act** is intended to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, to promote internet safety and to honor the memory of Adam Walsh and other child victims of crime. Its fundamental focus is to strengthen sex offender registration and notification requirements as well as provide enhanced penalties when sex offenders fail to register. Additionally, it mandates a two-hour limit for entry of all missing juveniles into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which is critically important to law enforcement's ability to execute swift and effective investigative methods and comply with the DOJ recommended AMBER Alert criteria regarding NCIC entries. This Act also establishes mechanisms for increased tracking and monitoring of sex offenders, as well as education and training for law enforcement and other child protection officials.

AATTAP Mission and Program Facts

The mission of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) is to safely recover missing, endangered, or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation and other partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities and increase public participation.

For more information from the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program, visit **https://www.amberadvocate.org/about/**.

AMBER Alert Plan Review History

Since 2002, the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) has undertaken a concerted effort to identify and assess the evolution of AMBER Alert plans in the United States and its territories, as well as international plans. As a core component of assessment, AMBER Alert plans are reviewed in light of the 12 primary elements identified, defined, and established as essential to an efficient and effective plan.

These components are defined beginning on page 8 of this report.
For quick navigation to any component's description, use the hyperlinks in this table.

12 Necessary Components: AMBER Alert Plans		
Clear/Effective Plan Title Established and Promoted for Awareness	Stakeholders / Partners Identified and Engaged	Memoranda of Understanding Established to Support Policy and Operations
Activation Criteria Clearly Established and Promoted for Awareness	Activation Authority Clearly Established	After-Action Reporting Process and Format/Forms Established and in Place
Tools to Activate and Manage Alerts Identified and in Place	Technology to Activate and Manage Alerts Identified and in Place	Phone Bank Planning and Operations Established and in Place
Training Developed, Deployed and Training Cycle/Approach Established	Quality Control Measures and Processes Established and in Place	Oversight Committees Established and Members are On Board and Engaged

The mission of AATAP has been demonstrated through a variety of actions focused on the collection of available AMBER Alert plans with a goal to review each and identify best practices. Additionally, several meetings have been held with AMBER Alert Coordinators (AACs) to share lessons learned. As a result of coordinated efforts between state stakeholders at all levels, with the inclusion of local and federal partners, best practices have emerged and have been assessed in terms of how they were applied within different plans. At the outset, plans were placed into three categories: state, regional and local.

In 2020, as a result of the success of the AMBER Alert Program, it has now become our endeavor to apply those same critical components to the more than 50 additional alerts being used across our country.

Synopsis of AMBER Alert Plan Reviews: 2002-2020			
Year	**State Plans Reviewed**	**Regional, Local, Territorial and/or International Plans Reviewed**	**Outcomes**
2002	43	22	65 total plans were reviewed. During this review, plans were still being developed, as was the general determination and consensus on best practices. Throughout this and subsequent reviews, findings indicated that all states were operating differently to some degree in developing and executing their plans; what worked in one state or jurisdiction might not be functional as a best practice in another.
2005	30	7	37 total plans were reviewed. New plans developed after 2002 were reviewed. A 2005 comparative report was developed to highlight progress made and areas of improvement needed.
2007	50	63	113 total plans were reviewed. This report examined state, regional and local plans, along with 1 U.S. territory plan and 7 Canadian plans.
2010	50	64	114 total plans were reviewed. All U.S. state plans were included in this report, along with 55 regional and local plans, 2 U.S. territories and 9 Canadian plans.
2014	38	30	68 total plans were reviewed, to include 2 U.S. territories and 5 Canadian plans. This effort resulted in fewer plans reviewed than in previous years following the initial 2002 review.
2016	50	10	60 total plans were reviewed, including all U.S. state plans and 10 additional regional and local plans (including the District of Columbia). Plans were found to show continued improvement. In this review, AATTAP focused on assessing plans in relation to their incorporation of a Comprehensive Child Recovery Strategy.
2017	50	9	59 total plans were reviewed. This year's report explored the progress and current assessment of the National AMBER Alert Initiative to indicate progress not only in the quality of the AMBER Alert network, but also in an increased capacity and competency in protecting children by adopting the proven Comprehensive Child Recovery Strategy. Plans have adopted many of the best practices established and promulgated since 2002.
2018	50	1	All 50 state plans were reviewed as well as the plan for the District of Columbia. Local or regional plans were not reviewed in 2018 due to difficulties in retrieving accurate and updated information from those plan coordinators/points of contact.
2019	50	1	The 2019 review focused on the other types of alerts utilized by all 50 states to include the District of Colombia. Very few AMBER Plans had significant changes from 2018 to 2019. AMBER Plans were revisited as appropriate.
2020	50	1	The 2020 review focused on other types of alerts being used by all 50 states to include the District of Columbia. AMBER Plans were not addressed in 2020 review

Best Practices Recommendations for AMBER Alert Plans

To accurately gauge the evolution of AMBER Alert plans, it is helpful to understand the 12 recommendations for best practices which comprise the model plan. The **Best Practices Model Plan** was created by AMBER Alert Coordinators across the United States, in cooperation with the US-DOJ and the National AMBER Alert Working Group. *The components are applicable to the additional alerts as well.*

Clear and Effective Plan Title

The name "AMBER" should be part of the title of every AMBER Alert plan. National name recognition is critical for the public to identify and understand the significance of an AMBER Alert, regardless of where it occurs. In places where an AMBER Alert plan has been named in honor of another child who was missing or abducted, it is recommended that the term "AMBER" simply be added to the plan title.

Stakeholders and Partners

When the AMBER Alert Program began, law enforcement and the media were the primary stakeholders. However, as funding for the plans has improved and the technology has changed, additional stakeholders and partners have become involved. For example, State Departments of Transportation now play a significant role in alerting the public when an AMBER Alert is issued, primarily through changeable message signs and highway advisory radio.

Increased emphasis has also been placed on developing and identifying 911 centers and emergency management agencies to serve as primary stakeholders in the AMBER Alert system. Also, as the presence of AMBER Alert programs has expanded across the country, additional partners such as lotteries and cell phone providers have become important partners in AMBER Alert systems. As these and other stakeholders become critical in the development, implementation, and issuance of AMBER Alerts, they should be formally recognized as stakeholders in the official AMBER Alert plans and related documentation. Additionally, secondary methods of AMBER Alert information distribution are rapidly evolving. Wireless AMBER Alert notifications are now available through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) **http://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/amber**.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a type of operating agreement between stakeholders and partners, has been a cornerstone of AMBER Alert's long-term strategy. MOUs define the roles, responsibilities, and authority of all stakeholders and partners and are critical in establishing the ground rules governing the development, implementation, and issuance of an AMBER Alert. These detailed, task-driven, non-binding agreements address many of the critical operational issues contained in AMBER Alert plans. Important elements which should be established and clearly defined through MOU(s) can include:

- Personnel roles and responsibilities
- Resource management to include utilization of shared resources
- Command and control
- Creation and distribution of an after-action report
- Joint training
- Jurisdictional issues

Criteria for Activation

The U.S. Department of Justice recommends AMBER Alert plans nationwide adhere to the following AMBER Alert criteria.

- Law enforcement officials have a reasonable belief that an abduction has occurred.
- Law enforcement officials believe that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and/or suspect for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The abducted child is 17 years of age or younger.
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Quality Control Measures and Processes

The quality of the program should be ensured through testing of the entire AMBER Alert process to determine how well it will function during an actual alert. After an alert has been issued, it is recommended that the decision-making process be evaluated, and the resulting actions assessed. Additionally, flow charts and checklists should be developed and included as referenced components within this area.

Activation Authority

In this area, an MOU should clearly define who within the law enforcement agency has authority to approve the issuance of the AMBER Alert; that individual is recommended to have the highest level of decisional authority in order to avoid unnecessary delays related to chain of command issues. Because the decision to deny or issue an AMBER Alert can be very difficult - and can have irreparable consequences - only command-level personnel should shoulder the responsibility for alert activation. Proactive training, delivered early and refreshed often, is critically important for individuals responsible for alert activation; supporting them and those they lead through the AMBER Alert process in making the best decisions possible.

Tools to Activate and Manage Alerts

A number of tools and technologies can be used to issue an AMBER Alert. More important than the specific technology used is its functionality and reliability. Media partners can often assist in identifying which tools will work best in a particular area (e.g., the Emergency Alert System [EAS] versus the National Weather Service [NWS]). Primary platforms and methods for activation should be complemented by secondary distributors of AMBER Alerts, such as cellular service providers, social media providers and national industry associations. NCMEC administers an MOU with a number of secondary service providers and serves as the primary liaison in assisting state AMBER Alert systems with the Wireless Emergency Alert Program and any needed information or coordination assistance with other secondary distribution partners.

Technology to Support Activation and Management of Alerts

As AMBER Alert Program administrators work to determine the platforms and technologies that will best work for their plan, some specific guidelines should be carefully noted to ensure all AMBER Alerts are released in a timely and accurate manner. Anytime a secondary technology (i.e., a vendor-driven process) is used to disseminate AMBER Alert information, the issuing agency must have complete control over the information that is released. NCMEC is recommended to assist in the process of issuing alerts through secondary sources, as they can work

from signed MOUs with vendors who have agreed to issue an alert in a particular geographic area, in a timely manner, without changes to the content of the information, with deactivation of the alert to occur promptly when requested by the issuing agency.

Training

Training plays a critical role in ensuring the full resources of the law enforcement community are utilized when an AMBER Alert is issued; and that the services provided by law enforcement and other partner agencies are of the highest-possible quality. Annual in-service training is a must for AMBER Alert Coordinators, call-taker/telecommunicators, patrol/field first responders, supervisors, forensics personnel, command staff, and anyone else involved in child recovery operations.

Specialized training for stakeholders and partners, including media personnel, department of transportation staff, and others who provide a critical link in recovering missing and abducted children will also safeguard and promote both effective and efficient AMBER Alert processes. A thorough review of the criteria for issuing an AMBER Alert should be on every training agenda.

Community education is another essential element in a comprehensive AMBER Alert training program. The centerpiece of the AMBER Alert mission is dissemination of information that will enable the public to participate in the safe recovery of abducted children. Members of the community need to understand the significance of an AMBER Alert, how the system operates, the circumstances surrounding the issuance of an alert, and the critical role they can play in the recovery of a child.

For a complete listing of training offered by the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program and the National Criminal Justice Training Center, **click here to view the current training catalog**.

Phone Bank Planning and Operations

Many law enforcement agencies use phone banks to receive and process information directly from the public when an emergency or other troubling event, such as an AMBER Alert activation, takes place. Effective phone bank operations emphasize leads management, tracking, and prioritization. Adequate training for call-takers, as well as the use of scripted questions and intake protocols which support the development of complete and accurate lead sheets, is considered best practice. Individuals who work the phone bank should have specific training in investigative strategies and lead processing. Phone banks should be equipped with the most current and functional equipment running on the most stable technology platform possible. Phone bank systems should include recording of all phone lines (with immediate playback, ample data storage and established retention policy) and line rollover capability to ensure all calls are received and processed.

The use of impromptu volunteers who are not experienced and/or well-trained in call intake is discouraged. Also discouraged is the use of existing communications center personnel who are already working regular/live phone lines and console operations – those who are responsible for active incidents and officer safety.

The best practice approach is to plan for, test and be ready to activate phone bank operations that are supported through staffing by trained off-duty law enforcement workers skilled in call intake; volunteers specifically vetted and trained for call intake and leads sheet development in these emergency incidents can also be utilized with phone banks.

After-Action Reporting

After-action reports represent the single best opportunity for all stakeholders and partners to strengthen their ability to safely recover missing and abducted children. To ensure the entire process was effective and to address any concerns or issues that might have arisen during the incident, the after-action review should include a thorough examination of agency and organization roles and responses, decision-making processes and technology performance. Call intake, initial field response and investigative steps, as well as issues relating to the issuance of the alert can be addressed and deficiencies or shortcomings corrected. The result should be a critique that serves as a catalyst for improving each agency/partner's roles and responsibilities in the AMBER Alert process and plan.

Oversight Committees

Oversight committees are comprised of AMBER Alert stakeholders who improve AMBER Alert plans by thoroughly reviewing all alert activations and denials to ensure the established criteria for activation are followed, and that assignments and timelines are established to correct any deficiencies. Oversight committees also identify areas that require revision in an AMBER Alert plan. It is recommended the oversight committee conduct its review at least once a year and that a written report with specific recommendations be submitted to the designated lead agency (i.e., to the AMBER Alert Coordinator).

The 2018 Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act

A law born out of the tragic abduction and murder of 11-year-old Ashlynne Mike of the Navajo Nation endeavors to bring increased law enforcement coordination, new and expanded resources, and renewed hope for solid protection of children living on tribal lands. The Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act was passed in April 2018, nearly two years after Ashlynne was kidnapped and killed on May 2, 2016, near the town of Shiprock on the Navajo Nation Reservation. The Act expands the original PROTECT Act that started the National AMBER Alert Program in 2003, and offers help for tribes by allowing for integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into state AMBER alert systems, making Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants, permitting the use of grant funds to integrate state or regional AMBER Alert communication plans with an Indian tribe, and waiving the matching funds requirement for grants awarded to Indian tribes. In 2019, The Navajo Nation developed and implemented an AMBER Alert Program specific to the Navajo Nation.

Communication and Coordination Initiative

To continue to enhance the coordination between AMBER Alert Coordinators, Missing Persons Clearinghouse Managers and other key entities involved in the AMBER Alert strategy, the AATTAP Regional Liaison initiative has been expanded. All states, the District of Columbia, Federally Recognized Tribes and all U. S. Territories have been grouped into five regions. Each region has been assigned a regional liaison to facilitate more targeted and regular communication and coordination between AATTAP and AMBER Alert partners across the nation.

Regional Liaisons

(https://www.amberadvocate.org/about/)

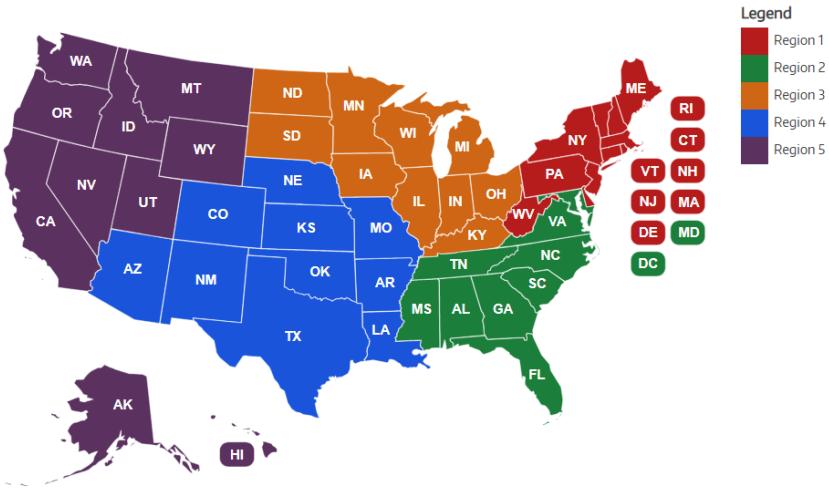
Region 1
Connecticut
Delaware
Pennsylvania
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
New York
Maine
New Jersey
Maine
Vermont
West Virginia
Puerto Rico
Canada
U. S. Virgin Islands

Region 2
Alabama
Georgia
Florida
Mississippi
South Carolina
North Carolina
District of Columbia
Tennessee
Virginia
Maryland

Region 3
North Dakota
South Dakota
Minnesota
Iowa
Indiana
Illinois
Kentucky
Ohio
Michigan
Wisconsin

Region 4
Arizona
Colorado
New Mexico
Nebraska
Kansas
Oklahoma
Texas
Missouri
Arkansas
Louisiana
Mexico

Region 5
California
Washington
Oregon
Idaho
Nevada
Utah
Montana
Wyoming
Alaska
Hawaii
Guam



Comprehensive Child Recovery Strategies

In 2019, the components of a **Comprehensive Child Recovery Strategy** were revisited and adjusted to meet the ever-changing dynamic that we face as we work to protect children. The strategy is highlighted below and can be explored further in the recently published document entitled: **AMBER Alert Best Practices**. Many of these same areas of focus can also be applied to current practices relating to the recovery of other vulnerable populations, not just abducted children.

Comprehensive Child Recovery Strategy

Building relationships, identifying resources, and establishing agreements, training, and continuous improvement – *ALL ARE CRITICAL* in being ready to respond to missing child incidents.

PROGRAM STRATEGY: Agreements and Policy	OPERATIONAL READINESS: Procedures and Field Resources	COMPETENCY AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: Training, After-Action, and Process Work
• Stakeholders/Outcome Contributors Identified • Interagency Agreements MOUs* • Technology Support and Infrastructure (Communications, Mapping, Data Sharing, etc.) • Equipment Use and Deployment Policy, Agreements and Resource Inventories • Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Request and Call-Out Policy • Child Abduction Verification Criteria for Critically Missing Children • Missing Child Alerting Policy and Agreements for Messaging Type, Technology/Platform Utilization, and Activation • Broadcast and Social Media Plans • Continuous Improvement: After-Action Debrief and Reporting, System Analysis • Annual Review of Policies and Overall Plans (e.g., AMBER Alert, EMA**, etc.)	• Intake and Interview Protocols » Telecommunications » Patrol » Investigations • Staffing and Call Out • Equipment Request and Deployment • Initial and Ongoing Interagency Notifications • Command Post Operations • Canvass, Search, and Recovery • Leads/Tips Intake and Management • Public Alerting (e.g., AMBER Alert): Requesting, Approval/ Denial, Activations, Updates, and Cancellations • Public Information Management: Websites, Broadcast Media, and Social Media • Debriefs and After-Action Participation	• Training First Responders » Telecommunications, Patrol • Training Investigators » Initial Response and Ongoing Case Management • Multi-disciplinary/Full-Response System Training » Mock Calls, Tabletop Exercises, and Field Exercises • Equipment Tests » Mobile Equipment, Computer Systems, and Infrastructure • Public Alerting (AMBER Alert): Training Across All Areas of the Life Cycle » Requesting, Approval/Denial, Activations, Updates, and Cancellations • Public Education » Awareness, Updates, Volunteer Training • Leadership and Advisory Education » Committee Updates, Process and Technology Demonstrations, Process Improvement Work

*MOU: Memorandums of Understanding
**EMA: Endangered Missing Advisory
Source: AMBER Alert Best Practices – Process Resources: https://www.amberadvocate.org/best-practices/#process

Outcome Contributors

Each of these roles contribute to AMBER Alert's work to recover the missing child or adult.

Source: AMBER Alert Best Practices – Process Resources: https://www.amberadvocate.org/best-practices/#process

911/Telecommunications – The 1st First Responder | The information gathered, supplemented, and maintained by the telecommunicator forms the foundation of the incident information acted on by patrol officers and investigators arriving on the scene.

Patrol – First on scene: Secure, assess, classify, and mobilize | Patrol officers identify circumstances that lead them to believe the child is critically missing; their proper incident evaluation and escalation of the response is vital.

Investigations – Expand response, build information | Trained investigators build upon initial interviews, leverage specialized resources, and drive response and updates. Investigations support can involve local, state, and federal law enforcement resources.

AMBER Alert Coordinator – Engage and engineer | The AMBER Alert Coordinator collaborates with on-scene law enforcement to drive a rapid, comprehensive alert engagement to empower the public with actionable knowledge in the effort to safely recover the child.

Public Information Officer – A conduit for understanding | The Public Information Officer conveys accurate and timely information from the law enforcement agency to the public via the media and works to keep the child's image and the story in the news.

Command Post – Coordinate and control | The command post serves to unify multiple resources to manage expansive operations efficiently and effectively.

Media – Foundational ally in reaching the public | The media distributes information through an array of systems and platforms.

Public – Eyes and ears | Sparked by alerts and updates, the public engages with a desire to help locate and recover the missing child.

Family – A critical focal point | Family involvement can be varied and complex but is always important.

AMBER Alert Program Leadership – Drive change, empower action | Executive leadership is a powerful catalyst for vision, advocacy, and strategic support.

Legislative – Authority and funding | State and federal lawmakers codify the AMBER Alert Program framework, establish operational and training mandates, and authorize the allocation of resources.

AMBER Alert Activation Data

*	Activations Total	FA	NFA	LIMS	ER	Total of Children
2005	275	127	101	27	6	338
2006	261	113	115	31	2	316
2007	227	106	94	25	2	278
2008	194	100	70	21	3	256
2009	207	124	61	19	3	263
2010	173	80	74	16	3	211
2011	158	80	56	20	2	197
2012	167	90	61	16		204
2013	194	110	63	18	3	243
2014	186	116	60	10		239
2015	182	121	47	8	6	224
2016	179	107	60	6	6	231
2017	195	128	50	10	7	263
2018	161	97	56	6	2	203
2019	145	82	47	9	7	180
As of August 2020: 1000 children saved by utilization of an AMBER Alert activation						

All AMBER Alert activation data is extracted from annual reports compiled by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): http://www.missingkids.com/gethelpnow/amber.

Family Abduction (FA) - A family abduction is defined as the taking, retention, or concealment of a child, younger than 18 years of age, by a parent, other person with a family relationship to the child, or his or her agent, in violation of the custody rights, including visitation rights of a parent or legal guardian.

Nonfamily Abduction (NFA) – A nonfamily abduction is defined as the unauthorized taking, retention, luring, confinement, or concealment of a child younger than the age 18 by someone other than a family member.

Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing (LIM) – Lost, injured or otherwise missing is defined as any missing child younger than the age of 18 when there are insufficient facts to determine the cause of the child's disappearance or any child 10 years of age or younger who is missing on his or her own accord.

Endangered Runaway (ERU) – Any missing child between 11 and 17 years of age who is missing of his or her own accord and whose whereabouts are unknown to his or her parent(s) or legal guardian.

Child Abduction Response Teams (CART)

Child Abduction Response Teams are multi-agency, often multi-jurisdictional teams comprised of community professionals who are trained and equipped to respond in the search for and recovery of an abducted or endangered child. The goal is to ensure a rapid and comprehensive community response to a child abduction. The CART strategy incorporates three elements: trained individuals with established roles and assignments; a readymade list of equipment that is available to aid in the search; and a network of nontraditional community resources the team can activate and utilize to assist in the investigation. Like AMBER Alert, CART is a useful tool that agencies can employ in a child abduction incident, or in situations where a child is missing and is believed to be in danger.

In 2019, an initiative was undertaken to determine how many CARTs were fully functional and operating within their jurisdiction. As of August 2020, 131 CARTs were determined to be operational and active. This represents 27 certified CARTs, plus 104 CARTs that are operational but not yet certified.

CART Certification

The Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Certification Program has been developed to assist local, tribal, and state jurisdictions in the creation and implementation of CART programs. The certification process includes compliance with best practice standards in 12 main areas including: Response Criteria; Team Composition; Notification Protocol; Communications; Command and Control; Search, Canvas and Rescue Operations; Training; Legal Issues; Equipment Inventory; CART Protocols; Victim Assistance and Reunification; and Community. Within these operational topics are 47 specific standards with which CART programs must demonstrate compliance to become certified. Teams must also conduct a mock scenario during the certification process while being observed by AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program CART Assessors. As stated above, there are currently 27 certified teams in addition to 104 non-certified teams.

Click here to view a current listing of Certified CART Programs across the U.S.

For more information on the CART program and the certification process, as well as to find an array of downloadable CART resource materials, visit the CART Resources area of the AMBER Advocate website at: **https://www.amberadvocate.org/cartresources.**

Additional Alerts

The below list contains a snapshot of different alerts used by our states to address missing children, adults, and vulnerable populations. Every state has an AMBER Alert and at least 35 states have a Blue Alert. Additionally, examples of alerts used to help capture hit-and-run drivers have been listed.

AMBER Alert
Ashanti Alert
Blue Alert
Brittany Alert
Camo Alert
CARE Alert
CLEAR Alert
Critically Missing Adult
Developmental Disabilities Alert
Emergency Missing Child Alert
Endangered Child Alert
Endangered Missing Adult Alert
Endangered Missing Advisory
Endangered Missing Alert - Adult
Endangered Missing Alert - Child
Endangered Missing Child Advisory Level II
Endangered Missing Child Alert
Endangered Missing Person Advisory
Endangered Person Notification System
Endangered Persons Advisory
Endangered Silver Advisory
Enhanced Missing Child Alert
Gold Alert
Golden Alert
Green Alert
Kimberly's Call
Levi's Call (AMBER Alert)
Maile Alert (AMBER Alert)
Matties Call
Media Alert / Missing Endangered
Medina Alert
Missing and Endangered Persons Advisory
Missing and Endangered Person Alert
Missing Child Alert
Missing Child with Autism Alert
Missing College Student Alert
Missing Endangered Child Alert
Missing/Endangered Child Media Advisory
Missing Endangered Older Persons Alert
Missing Senior Alert
Missing Senior Citizen Alert
Missing Vulnerable Adults Alert
Missing Vulnerable Persons Alert
Mozelle Alert
Public Threat Alert
Senior Alert
Shake Alert
Silver Alert
Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert
Yellow Alert
Zack Alert

It is important to note that most of this information was extracted from online research and reflects written documentation from state agencies that are tasked with managing the various alerts used within their state. The interpretation and/or application of the alert utilization can change based on unique circumstances involved in missing persons incidents.

General Definitions of Some Uniquely Named Alerts

Brittany Alert – Used by New Mexico for individuals who are missing and there is a clear indication that the person has a developmental disability.

Clear Alert – Used by Texas to locate missing, kidnapped, or abducted adults or adults who are in immediate danger of injury or death.
Gold Alert – Used by Delaware to locate individuals who are missing with a disability, a senior citizen, or a suicidal person.

Golden Alert – Used by Kentucky for missing persons with some level of medical or cognitive disability.

Green Alert – Used by Wisconsin for veterans or active duty military personnel who are missing due to their physical or mental health condition resulting from their service.

Kimberly's Call – Used by Georgia to alert the public about violent criminals who are at large and pose a serious threat to the public.

Levi's Call & Maile Alert – AMBER Plans for Georgia and Hawaii

Mattie's Call – Used by Georgia as an alert for a missing disabled or elderly person. Disabled adult is defined as individuals who are developmentally impaired or who suffer from dementia or some other cognitive impairment.

Medina Alert – Used by Colorado to alert the public to a hit and run accident that caused death or serious bodily injury.

Mozelle Alert – Used by Michigan for adults at least 60 years of age who are missing and incapable of returning to their residence without assistance.

Shake Alert – Used by California to warn residents of impending earthquakes or aftershock.

Yellow Alert – Used by California and Wisconsin for drivers who have killed or caused serious bodily injury in a hit-and-run accident.

Zack Alert – Used by New Jersey to locate hit-and-run drivers who have caused serious bodily injury or death.

State Listing of Additional Alerts

The below listed information on states and their alert systems, in the majority of cases, was obtained from online research and was not provided by personnel from the individual state.

State	Types of Alerts Utilized
Alabama	Blue Alert, Emergency Missing Child Alert, Missing and Endangered Person Alert
Alaska	Silver Alert
Arizona	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Arkansas	Missing/Endangered Child Media Alert, Silver Alert
California	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Advisory, Silver Alert, Shake Alert, Yellow Alert
Colorado	Blue Alert, Medina Alert, Developmental Disabilities Alert, Media Alert/ Missing Endangered, Missing Senior Citizens Alert
Connecticut	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Delaware	Blue Alert, Gold Alert
District of Colombia	Silver Alert
Florida	Blue Alert, Missing Child Alert, Enhanced Missing Child Alert, Silver Alert
Georgia	Blue Alert, Kimberly's Call, Levi's Call (AMBER), Mattie's Call
Hawaii	Maile Alert (AMBER), Silver Alert
Idaho	Blue Alert
Illinois	Blue Alert, Silver Alert, Endangered Missing Person Advisory
Indiana	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Iowa	*Pending Blue Alert Legislation*
Kansas	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Kentucky	Blue Alert, Golden Alert
Louisiana	Silver Alert, Endangered Missing Child Advisory Level II
Maine	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Massachusetts	Silver Alert
Maryland	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Michigan	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Advisory, Public Threat Alert, Mozelle Senior Alert or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert
Minnesota	Blue Alert
Mississippi	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Missouri	Blue Alert, Endangered Silver Advisory, Endangered Person Advisory
Montana	Blue Alert, Missing and Endangered Person Advisory
Nebraska	Endangered Missing Advisory
Nevada	Silver Alert
New Hampshire	Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert, *Pending Legislation on Blue Alert*
New Jersey	Blue Alert, Silver Alert, Missing Vulnerable Persons Alert, Zack Alert
New Mexico	Brittany Alert, Silver Alert
New York	Missing Child Alert, Missing College Student Alert, Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert, *Pending Legislation on Blue Alert*
North Carolina	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
North Dakota	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Ohio	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Child Alert, Endangered Missing Adult Alert
Oklahoma	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Oregon	Silver Alert
Pennsylvania	Missing and Endangered Advisory, *Pending Legislation on Blue Alert*
Rhode Island	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
South Carolina	Blue Alert, Endangered Person Advisory
South Dakota	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Advisory
Tennessee	Blue Alert, Endangered Child Alert, CARE Alert
Texas	Blue Alert, Silver Alert, Clear Alert, Camo Alert, Endangered Missing Persons Alert
Utah	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Advisory
Vermont	Blue Alert
Virginia	Blue Alert, Ashanti Alert, Senior Alert, Endangered Child Alert, Missing Child with Autism Alert
Washington	Blue Alert, Endangered Missing Person Advisory, Senior Alert
West Virginia	Blue Alert, Silver Alert
Wisconsin	Green Alert, Missing Endangered Person Alert, Silver Alert, Yellow Alert
Wyoming	Endangered Persons Advisory

Application of 12 Components to Additional Alerts

Plan Title

There are only two states, Hawaii, and Georgia, that use a variation of the AMBER Alert name in their plans. Both states do include AMBER in their plan title in conjunction with the name of a child who did not survive an abduction. With more than 50 types of additional alerts across our states, name recognition and familiarity is lacking. Current circumstances do not provide for citizen understanding of the alerts from one state to the other.

Stakeholders and Partners

Many of the stakeholders and partners who are critical in the success of the AMBER Alert are also heavily involved in the additional alerts. However, their role is different for every state and some alerts which target special populations attract partners that do not serve children as part of their core function. The role of the Alzheimer's Association and the Silver Alerts is one example.

Memorandum of Understanding

No evidence was found that MOUs played a critical part in the development and implementation of additional alerts.

Criteria

Uniformity of criteria within the AMBER Plans is now a strength of the AMBER initiative. It is the heart and soul of any activation strategy. While there are still some unique criteria components in AMBER Plans, the core elements are relatively consistent from one state to another. However, given the independent nature of our states, coupled with the wide range of alerts and special populations they serve, criteria uniformity within the additional alerts is lacking.

Quality Control

Checklists, decision trees, and operational matrices have become common in AMBER plans and are used in many additional alert strategies. This is primarily true in alerts that address children who do not qualify for an AMBER Alert.

Activation Authority

The process to activate an additional alert for a vulnerable population is not as clearly defined as it is for AMBER Alerts. While AMBER Alerts are generally activated at the state level, many of other types of alerts are activated locally and thus specific detail in this area is lacking.

Tools to Activate

Tools used to activate an additional alert are less extensive than used in AMBER Alerts. Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Weather Service (NWS) alerts are not authorized, and in many states, highway signs, highway advisories (511), lottery machines, and other strategies are not utilized extensively.

Technology Management

While the technology management for AMBER Alerts is continuously improving and evolving, additional alerts are not utilizing many of the same strategies. Thus, the technology being used to issue additional alerts are much simpler and straight forward.

Training and Development

While many states specifically reference training in their AMBER Plans, it is not clear how much effort is being given to both law enforcement and citizen awareness training regarding additional alerts. State POST Commissions must stay current on requiring agencies to keep their officers informed on changing alert types and strategies. Citizen awareness is just as critical because communities must be familiar with the different alert types to take appropriate actions, when necessary.

Phone Bank Operations

Generally, only AMBER Alerts require a formal and extensive phone bank and lead tracking process. Additional alerts are generally handled through traditional 911 processes. Lead tracking is not referenced in most additional alert strategies.

After Action and Oversight Committees

It is not clear how after-action reporting is utilized when additional alerts are issued. Additionally, oversight committees, while common in AMBER Plans, are not a key player in additional alerts. It is important to note that after action reporting and an aggressive oversight committee strategy are critical needs to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of any initiative.

Other Key Issues

Cross State Activations – Cross state activations are common in AMBER Alert activations; however, it is not extensively used in the initiation of additional alerts and is not referenced in most alert strategies.

Coordinator Relationship – Much work has been done to promote productive relationships between the state AMBER Coordinators. However, given that many additional alerts are managed at the local level, there is limited interaction between the authorities tasked with the management of additional alerts. Cross state activation and uniformity of criteria are two areas that could be improved if individuals tasked with managing additional alerts developed relationships. Relationship building requires significant effort but also coordination and planning so that it is focused and results oriented.

Tracking of Alerts – Indiana and Florida are two examples of states that track the activations of at least some of the additional alerts. However, states and local authorities should monitor the use of alerts and most importantly, recoveries of individuals who are saved because of the alert activation.

Detailed Plans and Strategies – The data retrieved on additional alerts was much more limited than the information available on AMBER Plans. It is unclear the depth of state and local policy as well as procedure development and implementation for additional alerts. Some states did have detailed procedures for additional alerts but access to these procedures was, in many cases, limited.

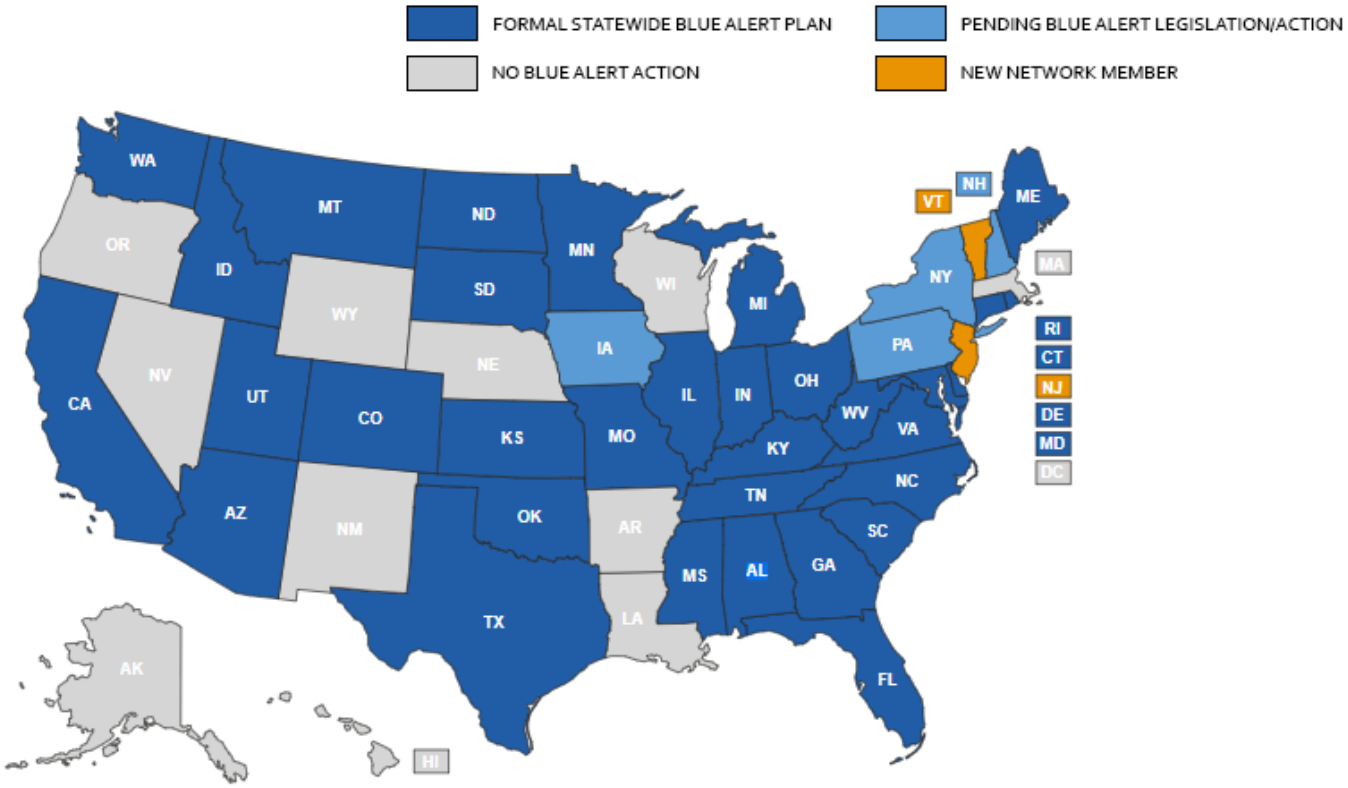
Blue Alert

History

In 2015, Congress passed the **Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act**, named in honor of two New York City police officers killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014. The Act establishes a voluntary nationwide system to give police an early warning of threats against police officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was asked to implement the Blue Alert Act and establish a National Blue Alert Network.

Overview of Blue Alerts

Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The National Blue Alert Network works to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.



Blue Alert Activation

Criteria for Blue Alerts may be issued in any of the following circumstances, provided there is actionable information known about a suspect (e.g., name, physical description, or vehicle description):

- When a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty
- When an officer is missing in connection with official duties
- When there is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer

All the above Blue Alert information was extracted from reports produced by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, for more information on the National Blue Alert Network, visit **https://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert**

As of August 2020, 35 states had a Blue Alert program. An additional 4 states have pending legislative action regarding Blue Alerts. The criteria for activation of a Blue Alert has been established by Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) as a guide for states to assist with implementation.

However, there are some minor deviations across the states (some examples are listed below). It is important to note that 26 states had a Blue Alert prior to the congressional action of 2015.

Alabama

Required criteria for the issuance of a Blue Alert (all criteria must be met):

- A suspect is involved in the death or serious injury of a peace officer.
- The suspect has not been apprehended and is believed to be a serious threat to the public AND/OR
- There is a peace officer missing while in the line of duty under circumstances warranting concern for the safety of the officer.
- There is sufficient information available to help locate the suspect or peace officer.
- The requesting law enforcement agency has jurisdiction over the search for a suspect or peace officer.

*Source: **https://www.alea.gov/***

California

In accordance with Government Code 8594.5, and to prevent potential misuse of the system, specific alert criteria have been established in law. Under no circumstances will a Blue Alert be initiated by the California Highway Patrol for an incident that does not meet all the criteria listed below.

- A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffers serious bodily injury, or is assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense.
- A law enforcement agency investigating the offense has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.
- A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast.

*Source: **https://www.chp.ca.gov/news-alerts/blue-alert***

Delaware

The following excerpt from Delaware Code Title 11, Chapter 85, Subchapter VIII outlines the activation of a Blue Alert Program:

(a) The Blue Alert Program shall be activated when a suspect for a crime involving the death or serious injury of a law-enforcement officer has not been apprehended and may be a serious threat to the public. Upon notification by an investigating law enforcement agency that a suspect in a case involving the death or serious injury of a peace officer has not been apprehended and may be a serious threat to the public, the investigating law enforcement agency shall activate the Blue Alert system and shall notify appropriate participants in the Blue Alert system, as established by regulations promulgated pursuant to this subchapter, when the investigating law enforcement agency believes that:

1) A suspect has not been apprehended;
2) A suspect may be a serious threat to the public; and
3) Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating and apprehending the suspect.

(b) When a Blue Alert is activated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the investigating law enforcement agency shall provide the descriptive information to the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System and the National Crime Information Center system. The investigating law enforcement agency shall also notify the Delaware Information Analysis Center, which shall make all necessary notifications and provide appropriate assistance to the investigating law enforcement agency.

(c) When an investigating law enforcement agency receives notice that a law enforcement officer has been seriously injured or killed, the agency shall send an alert to designated media outlets in Delaware. The alert must include all appropriate information that may assist in the speedy apprehension of the suspect, including a statement instructing any person with information relating to the incident causing the serious injury or death of the law enforcement officer to contact the investigating law enforcement agency.

(d) The investigating law enforcement agency shall assess the appropriate boundaries of the Blue Alert based on the nature of the suspect and the circumstances surrounding the crime. The Blue Alert area may be less than statewide if the investigating law enforcement agency determines that the nature of the event makes it probable that the suspect did not leave a designated geographic location.

*Source: **https://delcode.delaware.gov/title11/c085/sc08/index.shtml***

Colorado

BLUE Alert Process:

1. Local law enforcement agencies, operating under their individual policy and procedures, involving an investigation, and upon verifying a peace officer has been killed or received a life-threatening injury and the suspect(s) have fled the scene of the offense may notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the main number and request the information be conveyed for a BLUE Alert broadcast.
2. The CBI will verify the accuracy of the information based on personal contact with a representative from the law enforcement agency. The verification of information provided by the law enforcement agency will include but is not limited to:
   - Confirming the identity of the law enforcement agency and the reporting law enforcement official.
   - All appropriate information the reporting law enforcement agency has that may assist in the apprehension of the suspect(s).
   - Verify the information being reported meets the definition of "peace officer" and "life-threatening injury" as defined in the rule.
3. The CBI will then forward the information on to participating radio stations, television stations, and other media outlets in Colorado.
4. The BLUE Alert may be broadcast to the public as often as possible, however, it is recommended to rebroadcast every 15 minutes the first two hours, then every 30 minutes. The update of information is at the request of state or local law enforcement; this includes additional information, revisions, or investigative changes.

*Source: **https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/blue-alert***

Texas

The below represents Blue Alert criteria for the state's network:

- A law enforcement officer must have been killed or seriously injured by an offender.
- The investigating law enforcement agency must determine that the offender poses a serious risk or threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel.
- A detailed description of the offender's vehicle, vehicle tag, or partial tag must be available for broadcast to the public.
- The investigating law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend activation of the Blue Alert to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

*Source: **https://www.dps.texas.gov/intelligenceCounterTerrorism/Alerts/BlueAlertOverview.htm***

Summary of Content within Blue Alerts

As stated previously, of all the various alerts that are utilized across our country, the Blue Alert criteria is generally the most consistently applied. The 2018 data contained in the **Report to Congress** from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual Report indicates the following:

- The COPS Office has established an Advisory Group of 9 members from the following organizations, which meet on a quarterly basis.
    - Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
    - National Associations of Police Organizations (NAPO)
    - Blue Alert Foundation, Inc.
    - International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
    - National Sheriff's Association (NSA)
    - National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)
    - Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
    - National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)
    - First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)
- The COPS Office has issued "Alert Guidelines" to provide general information to states regarding the utilization of a Blue Alert. Guidelines can be accessed via **https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/blue-alert/blue_alert_guidelines.pdf**.
- The voluntary guidelines address two types of Blue Alerts - public alerts and law enforcement sensitive (LES) alerts.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established an Emergency Alert System (EAS) code to be utilized by agencies to broadcast a Blue Alert.

Additional information from a review of Blue Alert plans for purposes of the 2019 and 2020 report shows that:

- At least 7 states require that the Blue Alert activation request come from the jurisdiction impacted by the event.
- At least 5 states reference assault, attempted assault, or the use of a deadly weapon as grounds to issue an alert.
- One state will activate if the law enforcement officer suffers permanent disfigurement, coma, extreme pain, or loss of function of any bodily member or organ.
- Several states reference the need to enter the suspect into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and obtain warrants.
- Several states referenced the utilization of highway message signs, the lottery signs and tickets, and 511.

This information represents a snapshot of information and obviously refers to the written criteria. However, the interpretation and utilization of the alert can vary slightly depending on the circumstances.

Ashanti Alert

History

On December 31, 2018, President Trump signed into law the **Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-401)**. The Ashanti Alert Act, named in honor of Ashanti Billie who was abducted and killed in 2017, establishes a voluntary nationwide communication network to aid in the search and recovery of missing persons between the ages of 18 and 64.

The Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has established the National Ashanti Alert Network to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States.

Overview of Ashanti Alerts

Ashanti Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media and the public about adults who have been reported missing along with suspect information in cases of suspected abduction. Ashanti Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Alert Activation Criteria

Ashanti Alerts may be issued when an adult between the ages of 18 and 64 has been identified as a missing individual; and,

- he or she suffers from a proven mental or physical disability; or
- he or she is missing under circumstances that indicate that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered; or
- that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.

All of the above Ashanti Alert information was extracted from documents and reports produced by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. For more information on the National Ashanti Alert Network, visit **https://bja.ojp.gov/program/national-ashanti-alert-network/overview**

Virginia State Police Ashanti Alert Plan

Since the establishment of the Ashanti Alert Act, to date, only one state has created an Ashanti Alert Plan. The Virginia Ashanti Alert for Abducted Adults (Ashanti Alert) Plan is available for use by all Virginia law enforcement agencies and can be used as their primary Ashanti Alert Plan or as a supplement to their existing plan. The Virginia State Police Ashanti Alert Plan can be found at **www.vasenioralert.com**, the plan is also downloadable at this **link**.

Examples of Additional Alerts and Criteria

The following states have been included in this report and the criteria for additional alerts are listed.

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Indiana
Maryland
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Texas
Tennessee
Utah
Wisconsin
Washington
Wyoming

Please note that in most cases, the specific state information was extracted from web resources. To ensure the original intent of the content was not changed, original formatting for each state's information was retained in the following sections. For additional details, please contact the appropriate agency.

Alabama

Emergency Missing Child Alert

Required criteria for the issuance of an Emergency Missing Child Alert (all criteria must be met).

- The child is 17 years of age or younger.
- Law enforcement reasonably believes that the child is missing.
- Law enforcement reasonably believes that the child is in danger.
- There is sufficient information available to help locate the child including a photograph.
- The child's name and other critical data elements have been entered into the NCIC system.

Missing and Endangered Person Alert

Required criteria for the issuance of a Missing and Endangered Person Alert (all criteria must be met).

- Law enforcement reasonably believes that the adult is missing.
- Law enforcement reasonably believes that the adult is at risk of bodily harm or death and is living with a mental or physical disability, Alzheimer's disease, or autism.
- There is sufficient information available to help locate the adult including a photograph.
- The adult's name and other critical data elements have been entered into the NCIC system.

*Source: **https://www.alea.gov/***

Alaska

Silver Alert

Activation Criteria

Silver Alerts will not be issued for every missing adult and will be issued only when specific requirements are met.

For a Silver Alert to be issued for a missing individual, the following criteria must be met:

- The individual is lost on foot or in some mode of transportation
- The individual is 18 years of age, or older
- There is a clear indication that the individual has a deterioration of intellectual faculties, a physical impairment or medical condition that makes them unable to meet their own needs or to seek help without assistance.
- Enough descriptive information on the missing individual and their last known location is available to assist with their safe recovery.
- Law enforcement verifies the criteria above and believes the missing individual is in danger and may come to serious harm if not located.

Program Requirements

1. Silver Alerts require a coordinated effort by law enforcement, emergency management, Alaska's broadcasters, and the private sector to ensure the alerts are appropriate and disseminated to the public.
2. Care givers and the public requesting Silver Alert activation must contact their local law enforcement agency or the Alaska State Troopers. Only a law enforcement agency within the State of Alaska may initiate a Silver Alert, in Alaska.
3. Initiation includes following the Silver Alert procedures listed in this plan, taking information from the public, providing media releases and photographs, and notifying the Alaska State Troopers (AST) who will coordinate notifications to other agencies. If a law enforcement agency is unable to fulfill some or all of the initiation responsibilities, they may contact AST who will initiate the Silver Alert for them and handle those responsibilities.
4. Participation in the Silver Alert program by Alaska's broadcasters and media is voluntary.

*Source: **http://silveralert.alaska.gov/Documents/State%20of%20Alaska%20SILVER%20Alert%20Plan%202019-web.pdf***

Arizona

Silver Alert

A Silver Alert is activated when a person with specific cognitive or developmental disabilities, as defined by statute, or a person the age of 65 or older goes missing. Prior to June 2018, this only applied to persons over 65.

The purpose of the Silver Alert program is to establish a notification system that provides immediate information to the public through issuing and coordinating alerts using various resources following a subject "gone missing" when specific criteria has been met.

The goal of the Silver Alert is to locate the missing person, when Silver Alert criteria is met, through efficient information dissemination and communication that results in safe and expedient recovery.

Arizona Silver Alert Criteria

As prescribed by A.R.S. 28-1728, specific criteria are established in statute, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will issue a Silver Alert when the following criteria has been met as listed below.

1. The investigating agency has taken a missing person report and determined all of the following:
    A. The person is 65 years of age or older or has been diagnosed with a developmental disability as outlined in ARS 36-551, Alzheimer's disease or dementia.
    B. All available local resources in locating the missing person have been exhausted (includes BOLO's, APB's, flyers with pictures of the missing person, bulletins, checked area hospitals and jails, contacted other family members and friends, checked in-vehicle location system, cellphone location tracking through carrier, and check other places of residence).
    C. Missing person disappeared under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, AND
    D. The missing person is in danger due to any one of the following:
        a. Age
        b. Health
        c. Mental or physical disability
        d. Environment or weather conditions
        e. In the company of a dangerous person
        f. Other factors that indicate peril
    E. There is enough information, if disseminated to the public, that could assist in a safe recovery.

Arizona Resource Activations

1. Emergency Alert System (EAS): There is no specific code for Silver Alert activations. However, FEMA has given DPS permission to activate a generic EAS coding that is sent to Arizona broadcasters who may interrupt normal broadcast programming.
2. Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA): There is no specific code for Silver Alert WEA activations. However, FEMA has given DPS permission to send alerts directly to a wireless phone or device when Silver Alert criteria has been met and the missing subject is in imminent danger of death. These types of alert activations will be rare and only sent in extreme situations to a small area or region where the subject went missing or was last known to be.
3. Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Vehicle Messaging System (VMS) Boards (only when missing person is believed to be in a vehicle).
4. All-Points Bulletin (APB): Regular broadcasts to law enforcement.
5. The DPS Alerts Website.
6. The Arizona DPS Mobile Application (for Apple and Android).
7. Social Media (Twitter and Facebook), Text, and Email.

*Source: **https://www.azdps.gov/safety/alerts/silver***

California

Endangered Missing Advisories

An Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA) is a tool that gives law enforcement a formal action plan to safely recover a child that is missing under suspicious circumstances, however, the agency determines that all of the AMBER Alert criteria has not been met. It also provides a way to help recover missing adults in cases where no systematic recovery plan exists.

An EMA is designed to provide a rapid response to safely recover missing persons who may be in danger. Many missing children do not fit the criteria for an AMBER Alert but may, nonetheless, be endangered.

EMA Activation Guidelines

There are guidelines for EMA activation; however, not all the following needs to be met:

- Do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert?
- Is the person missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances?
- Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, and the environment or weather conditions; is he or she in the company of a potentially dangerous person; or is there any other factor that may put the person in peril?
- Is there information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person?

Once it is determined the case meets the above criteria, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will activate an EMA utilizing the following systems:

- CHP will issue Be-On-the-Lookouts.
- CHP will send out flyers to law enforcement agencies and businesses throughout California and surrounding states.
- Media outlets will also post alerts on their websites.
- NCMEC will disseminate the alerts through secondary distributors, i.e. Internet providers, Facebook, trucking associations, airport security, etc.

Silver Alert

The purpose of the Silver Alert program is to establish a quick response system designed to issue and coordinate alerts following the unexplained or suspicious disappearance of an elderly person, or a person who is developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired. The goal of a Silver Alert is to provide immediate information to the public about the missing person, including images or descriptions and the time and location last seen to speed the process to locate the person and return them to safety.

Silver Alert Criteria

In accordance with Government Code 8594.10, the Silver Alert system will be coordinated by the California Highway Patrol. Upon activation of a Silver Alert, the California Highway Patrol will assist the investigating law enforcement agency by activating changeable message signs, issuing be-on-the-lookout alerts, sending Emergency Digital Information Service Messages and posting electronic flyers.

A Silver Alert will not be initiated by the California Highway Patrol unless it meets all the following criteria:

- The missing person is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired.
- The investigating agency has utilized all available local resources.

- The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- The law enforcement agency 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.
- There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

Source: **https://www.chp.ca.gov/news-alerts/amber-alert**

Colorado

Developmental Disabilities Alert

1. Criteria must be met to activate a Developmental Disabilities Alert.
2. An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing person meets the definition of "verified developmental disabilities" MAY REQUEST a "Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities Alert".
    - Verify the information meets the definition of "Missing Person with Developmental Disabilities":
    - He or she went missing while in Colorado;
    - Verification from the law enforcement agency that the missing person has a developmental disability:
        - Signed statement from a family member, close friend, caregiver, doctor or medical facility that verifies the missing person has a disability(ies) that is manifested before the person reaches twenty-two years of age, which constitutes a substantial disability to the affected individual, and is attributable to mental retardation or related conditions which include:
            - cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or other neurological conditions when such conditions result in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of a person with mental retardation. The federal definition of "developmental disability" found in 42 U.S.C. sec. 15001 et seq. shall not apply.
        - Their disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person.

The investigating agency needs to enter the missing person into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as a missing endangered person.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will forward the information on to participating radio stations, television stations and other media outlets in Colorado. If there is a plate number associated with a vehicle, the Department of Transportation Traffic Operation Center may post the plate number on the Variable Message Signs (VMS) on Colorado highways.

Medina Alert

On March 25, 2014, Governor John Hickenlooper signed **HB14-1191**, which created the Medina Alert Program. The program went into effect on December 30, 2014.

History

In 2011, a hit-and-run driver killed 21-year-old valet driver Jose Medina. A taxi driver witnessed the event, followed the driver and provided the license plate number to police which led to the capture and arrest of the suspect who was sentenced to the maximum penalty of 12 years for a hit-and-run resulting in death.

Criteria

The criteria are as follows:

Verify that the information being reported meets the definition of "Hit and Run" and "Serious Bodily Injury" as defined in this rule;

- "Hit And Run" - means an incident when the driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident fails to stop at the scene of the accident as required by section 42-4-1601, C.R.S
- "Serious Bodily Injury" – injury that involves, either at the time of the actual injury or at a later time, a substantial risk of death, a substantial risk of serious permanent disfigurement, or a substantial risk of protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part or organ of the body, or breaks, fractures, or burns of the second or third degree. (42-4-1601 (4) (b))

Law enforcement has sufficient additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle, including but not limited to:

- A complete license plate number of the suspect's vehicle and the make, style, and color of the suspect's vehicle; *or*
- A partial license plate number and the make, style, and color of the suspect's vehicle; *or*
- The identity of the suspect

Media Alert Missing/Endangered

A Media Alert Missing/Endangered is a notification to the media and public containing information about a missing person, abductor and/or suspect, circumstances surrounding the case, mode of transportation and/or direction of travel, and any additional information pertaining to the investigation. Media Alerts Missing/Endangered do not meet criteria established in statute or applicable rules for AMBER Alert, Missing Senior Citizen Alert, Developmental Disabilities Alert or Blue Alert.

Senior Alert

On April 4, 2006, the Governor signed **SB 06-057**: Colorado Missing Senior Citizen Alert Program. This bill defines a missing senior citizen and creates the Missing Senior Citizen Alert Program to broadcast notices of missing senior citizens.

It requires the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to create the program to include:

- A procedure for law enforcement agencies to verify a senior citizen is missing;
- A procedure to verify the senior citizen has an impaired mental condition;
- Requires the CBI to issue an alert to media outlets in Colorado for broadcast of specific information to the public.

Criteria

Criteria must be met to activate a Missing Senior Citizen Alert.

1. "Missing Senior Citizen Alerts" must be requested by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction;

- An investigating officer who has reason to believe a missing adult meets the definition of a "missing senior citizen" may request a "Missing Senior Citizen Alert".

2. The subject must meet the definition of a "missing senior citizen":
   - He or she went missing while in Colorado;
   - The missing person is 60 years of age or older;
   - Confirmation law enforcement has received a signed statement from a family member, close friend, caregiver, doctor, or person at a medical facility that verifies the missing senior citizen has an impaired mental condition.
   - The subject's disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person.

The investigating agency needs to enter the missing senior citizen into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as a missing endangered person.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will forward the information on to participating radio stations, television stations and other media outlets in Colorado. If there is a plate number associated with a vehicle, the Department of Transportation Traffic Operation Center may post the plate number on the Variable Message Signs (VMS) on Colorado highways.

Source: ***https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/alerts-1***

Delaware

Gold Alert

Definitions

The following words, terms, and phrases when used in this subchapter have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

1. "ACIM Alert Program" or "ACIM" means "A Child is Missing Alert Program". The ACIM Alert Program is a national rapid-response communication network that offers free assistance to law-enforcement agencies to aid in the recovery, identity, or apprehension of missing persons through the use of immediate public notification and dissemination of information via telephone in a targeted community.
2. "Gold Alert Program" or "Program" means the procedures used to aid in the identification and location of a missing person as defined under paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of this section. Gold Alerts may be local, regional, or statewide. The initial decision to issue a local Gold Alert is at the discretion of the investigating law-enforcement agency.
3. "Investigating law-enforcement agency" means the law-enforcement agency which has primary jurisdiction in the area in which a missing person complaint has been filed.
4. "Missing person with a disability" means a person:
   a. Whose whereabouts are unknown;
   b. Whose domicile at the time that the person is reported missing is Delaware;
   c. Who has a disability; and,
   d. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the health or safety of the person, as determined by the investigating law-enforcement agency.
5. "Missing senior citizen" means a person:
   a. Whose whereabouts are unknown;
   b. Whose domicile at the time that the person is reported is missing is Delaware;

   c. Whose age at the time that the person is first reported missing is 60 years of age or older; and
   d. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the health or safety of the person, as determined by the investigating law-enforcement agency.
6. "Missing suicidal person" means a person:
   Whose whereabouts are unknown;
   a. Whose domicile at the time that the person is reported missing is Delaware;
   b. Whose disappearance is voluntary; and
   c. Whose statements, actions, or conduct indicate that the missing person may voluntarily cause or inflict harm on himself or herself, and whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the health or safety of the person, as determined by the investigating law-enforcement agency.

Establishment of the Delaware Gold Alert Program.

a. Each investigating law-enforcement agency shall implement an alert program, consistent with the ACIM Alert Program, for missing senior citizens, missing suicidal persons, and missing persons with disabilities, and may promulgate necessary rules and regulations for the program. The rules and regulations shall include the following:
   1. Procedures for the use of the Delaware Information Analysis Center (DIAC) to provide support to the investigating law-enforcement agency as a resource for the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of information regarding the missing person and the missing person's whereabouts;
   2. Procedures for the investigating law-enforcement agency to use to verify whether a senior citizen, a suicidal person, or a person with a disability is missing and the circumstances under which the agency must enter descriptive information of the missing person into the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. The investigating law-enforcement agency shall further notify the Delaware Information Analysis Center (DIAC), who shall make all the necessary notifications and assist the investigating law-enforcement agency; and
   3. The process for reporting the information to designated media outlets in Delaware.

b. The Delaware State Police shall adopt rules and regulations for the use of the DIAC to assist investigating law-enforcement agencies during their investigations as a resource for the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of information to those agencies that have a need and right to know about the missing person.

Activation of the Gold Alert Program.

a. When a law-enforcement agency receives notice that a senior citizen, a suicidal person, or a person with a disability is missing, the agency shall solicit information from the missing person's family or legal guardian to provide information regarding the missing person's physical or mental condition, or both. When the investigating law-enforcement agency verifies that the person is missing, the investigating law-enforcement agency shall enter the descriptive information of the missing person into the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. The investigating law-enforcement agency shall further notify the Delaware Information Analysis Center (DIAC), who shall make all the necessary notifications and assist the investigating law-enforcement agency.

b. When an investigating law-enforcement agency has verified that a senior citizen, a suicidal person, or a person with a disability is missing, the investigating law-enforcement agency shall send an alert to designated media outlets in Delaware. The alert must include all appropriate information that may assist in the safe return of the missing senior citizen, suicidal person, or person with a disability, along with a statement instructing anyone with information relating to the missing person to contact the investigating law-enforcement agency or a law-enforcement agency within their jurisdiction. Additionally, when an investigating law-enforcement agency has verified that a senior citizen, a suicidal person, or a person with a disability is missing, the investigating law-enforcement agency shall contact the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation shall adopt rules and regulations for the display on its variable message signs of appropriate information that may assist in the safe return of the missing senior citizen, suicidal person, or person with a disability consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and federal requirements.

Cancellation of a Gold Alert.

a. The investigating law-enforcement agency shall notify the designated media outlets when a Gold Alert has been cancelled.
b. A law-enforcement agency that locates a missing person who is the subject of a Gold Alert shall notify DELJIS, NCIC, and the DIAC as soon as possible that the missing person has been located.

*Source: **https://delcode.delaware.gov/title11/c085/sc07/index.shtml***

District of Columbia

Silver Alert

The Silver Alert Plan shall only be activated when **all** of the following criteria are met:

A. The individual reported as missing is sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
B. It is believed that the missing person is in imminent danger or at grave risk of bodily harm.
C. The responding member has completed a thorough preliminary investigation procedure (e.g., a foot canvass) to verify the missing person report and to eliminate alternative explanations for the person's absence.
D. The central complaint number (CCN) is provided to the Silver Alert Coordinator. The Silver Alert Coordinator may be contacted through the Command Information Center (CIC).

Source:
https://mpdc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dds/publication/attachments/Silver%20Alert%20Info%20Sheet%20and%20Consent%20Form_1.pdf

Florida

Silver Alert

The Florida Silver Alert is used to locate missing persons suffering from an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties. The Florida Silver Alert Plan outlines two levels of Silver Alert Activation: Local and State Silver Alerts engage the public in the search for the missing elderly person and provide a standardized and coordinated community response.

Law enforcement agencies must activate a local or regional alert as described below in an effort to locate the person prior to the issuance of a State Silver Alert.

Criteria for a Local/ Regional Activation

- The person must be 60 years and older; or, the person must be 18-59 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.
- Must have an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties (e.g. Alzheimer's disease or dementia) that has been verified by law enforcement.

Criteria for a Statewide Silver Alert

- In addition to the above criteria, the person must be traveling by motor vehicle with an identified license plate number or other vehicle information.
- Law enforcement must have activated a local Silver Alert by, at a minimum, completing the steps outlined above.

Missing Child Alert

To activate a Missing Child Alert, the following four (4) criteria must be met:

- The child is under the age of 18
- Law enforcement has a well-founded belief, based on an active investigation, that the child is in danger of death or serious bodily injury
- There is a detailed description or photograph of the child to broadcast to the public
- The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction recommends activation

Enhanced Missing Child Alert

To activate an Enhanced Missing Child Alert, the following four (4) criteria must be met:

- The child is under the age of 18
- 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
- There is a detailed description or photograph of the child to broadcast to the public
- The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction recommends activation

*Source: **http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Silver-Alert-Plan/Silver-Alert-Plan** and **http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/AMBER-Plan/Missing-Child-Alert***

Georgia

Kimberly's Call

Kimberly's Call, established by legislation in 2006, is an emergency alert issued by local law enforcement when violent criminals are at large and may be of serious threat to the public.

Criteria for Activation

The criminal has not been apprehended and may be of serious threat to the public.
Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the suspect.
If the criminal has been identified, arrest warrants have been obtained.

The criminal is entered into National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.
The law enforcement agency must issue a statewide broadcast to law enforcement/911 centers.

Mattie's Call

Established by the Georgia General Assembly in 2006, Mattie's Call is an emergency missing alert for disabled or elderly persons. The alert is an investigative tool that can be activated only by a local law enforcement agency.

Activation Criteria

Georgia law defines 'disabled adults' as individuals who are developmentally impaired or who suffer from dementia or some other cognitive impairment.

Criteria for Activation

- A local law enforcement agency believes a disabled person is missing and is in immediate danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- Through its own investigation, the law enforcement agency verifies the disappearance and eliminates alternative explanations for the disabled person's disappearance.
- Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the disabled person.
- The missing disabled person is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.
- The law enforcement agency must issue a statewide broadcast to law enforcement/911 centers and contact local media regarding the missing person.

Source: ***https://gbi.georgia.gov/georgias-public-alert-system***

Indiana

Silver Alert

The Indiana Silver Alert Plan criteria are:

1. The person must be a Missing Endangered Adult, Missing Endangered Child, High Risk Missing Person or have a mental impairment validated through a credible medical authority (Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner):
    a. Missing Endangered Adult, Indiana Code 12-7-2-131.3; or
    b. Missing Endangered Child, Indiana Code 10-13-5-4.4; or
    c. High Risk Missing Person, Indiana Code 5-2-17-1
2. There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help.
3. A request must be recommended by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.
4. Enter the missing endangered adult, and vehicle information (if applicable), into the Indiana Data and Communications System (IDACS) / National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

Source: ***https://www.in.gov/silveralert/2331.htm***

Maryland

Silver Alert

Only law enforcement agencies may request the issuance of a Silver Alert. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must first determine that the following criteria exist:

- The missing person is at least 60 years of age, AND
- The missing person suffers a cognitive impairment, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia, AND
- The missing person's disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual, AND
- The missing person is traveling in a vehicle and there is enough descriptive information about the missing person and the vehicle for law enforcement to issue an alert, AND
- The investigating agency has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlets in their jurisdiction, AND
- The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

*Source:**https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/CriminalEnforcementDivision/SilverAlert.aspx***

Michigan

Endangered Missing Advisory

The EMA is used for cases involving missing persons that DO NOT meet the AMBER Alert criteria. The EMA can be utilized for endangered missing persons of all ages. The EMA is a notification sent via email to media in the affected geographic region(s) with information about an endangered missing person, in hopes the media will publicize the information in an effort to enlist the public's help in locating the missing person.

An EMA can be issued when:

- The circumstances of the endangered missing person DO NOT meet the AMBER Alert criteria, but the person is missing under suspicious unexplained circumstances or the missing person is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather conditions, or in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may expose the person to serious harm or injury.
- Public information is available that could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

Mozelle Alert

The Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Act provides for public broadcasting of information regarding missing seniors and vulnerable adults.

"Missing senior or vulnerable adult" means a resident of this state who is one of the following:

- At least 60 years of age and is believed to be incapable of returning to his or her residence without assistance and is reported missing by a person familiar with that individual.
- A vulnerable adult, as that term is defined in Michigan penal code, who is reported missing by a person familiar with that individual.
- A person who is missing and suffering from senility or a physical or mental condition that subjects the person or others to personal and immediate danger.

Source: https://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,4643,7-123-1878_77949---,00.html

Mississippi

Silver Alert

The Silver Alert System, which is similar to the Amber Alert System for children, is designed to help spread the message about a missing person, 18 years or older with dementia or other cognitive impairment, in hopes to locate the person as quickly as possible.

The Silver Alert System increases public awareness on preparation, prevention and response to wandering behaviors of our state's most vulnerable adults. After a family member or caregiver files a missing persons report with local law enforcement, information will be entered into the National Crime Information Center and the Bureau of Investigation of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

If the person missing is believed to be in a vehicle, information and photos can be sent to statewide communication systems, news media and other public communication resources. The Silver Alert Training Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Alzheimer's Association Mississippi Chapter and Mississippi Nurses Association.

Training about prevention, preparation and response has been conducted across the state to educate the public about wandering and the Silver Alert System.

If your situation meets the criteria for activation of the Silver Alert System, first contact your local police or sheriff's department from where the person is missing. The required forms must be filed with local law enforcement and they will notify the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation.

Source: https://www.dps.ms.gov/investigation/silver-alert

Missouri

Endangered Silver Advisory

The Endangered SILVER Advisory is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and local broadcasters to rapidly disseminate information about a missing and endangered adult to law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and the public. The following are criteria for the Endangered Silver Advisory:

- The person is 60 years of age or older and believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.
- A legal custodian of the missing person has submitted a missing person's report to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing.
- There is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing adult.

Endangered Person Advisory

Endangered Person Advisory is initiated solely by Missouri law enforcement agencies using the following criteria:

1. Do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert? (If they do meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, immediately follow the protocol to issue an AMBER Alert)
2. Is the person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances?
3. Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person in peril?
4. Is there information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person?

*Source: **https://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/Root/index.html***

Montana

Missing and Endangered Person Advisory

A MEPA Advisory is initiated solely by Montana law enforcement agencies using the following criteria:

1. Do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert? (If they do meet the criteria, immediately follow the AMBER Alert protocol.)
2. Is the person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances?
3. Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, or environmental or weather conditions; to be in the company of a potentially dangerous person; or is there some other factor that may put the person in peril?
4. Is there information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person? The initial advisory will include any available information, like name, age, physical description, date of birth and where the person was last seen. It might also include information about whether the person has a health condition or physical or mental disability.

*Source: **https://dojmt.gov/missing-persons/missing-and-endangered-person-advisory-mepa/***

Nebraska

Endangered Missing Advisory

The Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA) is a secondary alert that can be issued if circumstances do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert. Please consider the following criteria, designated for issuing an EMA.

1. Do the circumstances meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert? If they do, immediately follow the protocol to issue an AMBER Alert.
2. Is the person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances? Cases of runaways or suicidal parties are not the intended use for an EMA.
3. Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, cognitive, or physical disability, environmental or weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person at risk for serious bodily injury or death?
4. Is there enough descriptive information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the endangered person?
5. Is it within 72 hours of when the person first went missing?

*Source: **https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/services/endangered-missing-advisory/ema-criteria***

Nevada

Silver Alert

There are six (6) standards that must be met for a Nevada Silver Alert activation:

1. Is the person 60 years of age or older and whose whereabouts are unknown: AND
2. Is diagnosed with a medical or mental condition that places the older citizen in danger of serious physical harm or death; OR, who is missing under suspicious or unexplained circumstances that place the person in danger of serious physical harm or death.
3. Is the older citizen's domicile in Nevada: AND
4. An investigation by the local law enforcement department has taken place verifying that the disappearance is due to his/her impaired mental condition, and alternative reasons for the older person's disappearance have been ruled out: AND
5. The Silver Alert activation request has been made within 72 hours of the older citizen's disappearance: AND
6. There is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the older citizen.

Source: ***https://dps.nv.gov/alerts/***

New Mexico

Brittany Alerts

New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) will participate in the Brittany Alert to assist in the search for a person that has a developmental disability. A Brittany Alert Advisory will be issued after review and investigation of a missing person report of a person meeting Brittany Alert guidelines. After an independent determination has been made that the missing person is a person subject to the alert, a notification relating to a Brittany Alert will be made.

General Guidelines for a Brittany Alert

- The individual is a missing person whose whereabouts are unknown to the person's custodian or immediate family member.
- There is a clear indication that the person has a developmental disability.
- The person's health or safety is at risk

Silver Alert

DPS will participate in the Silver Alert to address missing endangered adults meeting criteria specific to this alert. A Silver Alert Advisory will be issued after review and investigation of a missing person report of a person meeting Silver Alert guidelines. After an independent determination has been made that the missing person is a person subject to the alert, a notification relating to a Silver Alert will be made.

General Guidelines for a Silver Alert

- The individual is a missing person whose whereabouts are unknown to the person's custodian or immediate family member.
- The individual is fifty (50) years or older.

- There is clear indication that the individual has an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties such as Alzheimer's disease, dementia or another degenerative brain disorder or a brain injury.

Source: ***https://www.dps.nm.gov/index.php/public-information/dps-policies***

New York

Missing Child Alert

Activated when a child younger than 21 is missing and believed to be in danger due to special circumstances, such as a cognitive impairment or medical condition, that place them at serious risk of harm or death.

Missing College Student Alert

Activated when a college student of any age is missing and is deemed to be at credible risk of harm or death.

Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert

Activated when an individual who is 18 or older; has a cognitive disorder, brain injury or mental disability; is reported missing; and is at credible risk of harm. This includes individuals with autism, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease.

Source: ***https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/who-we-are.html***

North Carolina

Silver Alert

All the following statutory criteria must be met before the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons will activate a Silver Alert:

- The person is believed to be missing.
- The person is believed to be suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease, or a disability that requires them to be protected from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation.
- A legal custodian of the missing person has submitted a missing person's report to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing.
- Law enforcement reports the incident to the NC Center for Missing Persons.

The North Carolina Center for Missing Persons is the only agency that can activate a Silver Alert and will do so only at the request of an investigating law enforcement agency. It is then the responsibility of the center to determine whether there is sufficient identifying data to justify a Silver Alert activation.

Source: ***https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/law-enforcement/state-highway-patrol/silver-alert***

North Dakota

Silver Alert

Initiated by the passage of House Bill 1359, Silver Alert legislation was signed by Governor Doug Burgum on May 3, 2017. The Silver Alert system's purpose is to locate an individual identified as a disabled adult, or vulnerable elderly adult, or a minor who has a developmental disability and has been reported to law enforcement

authorities as missing. Based upon the national success of AMBER and Blue Alert plans, and using the same notification systems, Silver Alerts provide a quick response system designed to receive, analyze and coordinate dissemination of identifying information to the public about a vulnerable individual that is missing. The broadcasts will solicit public action to locate the individual, enabling safe and swift recovery of the individual by law enforcement officers. A strong plan provides protection to our vulnerable or disabled community by serving as a public safety plan of action.

Activation Criteria

Upon the request of a law enforcement agency that is investigating a missing person. To Activate a Silver Alert, this missing person report must meet the following criteria:

1. The missing person involves a disabled or vulnerable elderly adult who has been reported to law enforcement as missing; or
2. The missing person involves a minor who has developmental disabilities who has been reported to law enforcement as missing; and
3. There is descriptive information about the minor or adult and/or motor vehicle involved, to assist with the safe recovery of the person; and
4. There is enough usable information about the person and/or vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast will provide the public with enough descriptive information to help locate the person or vehicle.

Source: ***https://ndresponse.gov/alert/silver-alert***

Ohio

Endangered Missing Child Alert

The Endangered Missing Child Alert was created for missing children cases, where the missing circumstances do not meet the AMBER Alert criteria, but the child's life is still considered at risk of serious bodily harm or death if the child is not found quickly. The following criteria must be met to initiate the Endangered Missing Child Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms the child is under 18 years of age.
2. Law enforcement confirms the child is missing, such as lost, non-witnessed/non-confirmed abduction or the child's whereabouts are unknown.
3. Law enforcement believes the missing circumstances pose a credible threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
4. There is sufficient descriptive information about the child and the circumstances surrounding the disappearance that the alert activation will help locate the child.

Endangered Missing Adult Alert

The Endangered Missing Adult Alert was created to enlist the help of the public to find a missing adult, where the circumstances put the missing person's life at risk of serious bodily harm or death if they are not located quickly. The following criteria must be met to initiate an Endangered Missing Adult Alert:

1. Law enforcement confirms the individual is missing.
2. Law enforcement confirms the individual is 65 years of age or older or is an adult who has a mental impairment.
3. Law enforcement believes the disappearance of the individual poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the individual.

4. There is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the disappearance that the alert activation will help locate the individual.

This alert is most commonly issued for a missing elderly person (65 year old or older) who suffers from Alzheimer's or other related illness. The alert is also issued for any age missing adult who suffers from serious mental illness to such extent they cannot take care for themselves.

Source: ***https://www.ohioamberplan.org/Home***

Pennsylvania

Missing Endangered Person Alert (MEPA)

Pennsylvania's Missing Endangered Person Advisory System (MEPAS) is a method of alerting citizens that a person is missing who is at special risk of harm or injury. An alert is sent to local media for distribution to the public, and also to local law enforcement, to assist in the recovery of the missing person.

MEPA criteria include the following considerations:

- The incident circumstances do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, and
- The person(s) are missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances, or
- The persons age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, places the missing person in peril of serious bodily injury or death, and
- If information is distributed to the public, it could assist in their safe recovery.

Other relevant factors:

- Quality/quantity of descriptive information
- Time elapsed since last seen
- Reliability of witnesses

Source: ***https://www.psp.pa.gov/amber-alert/Pages/amber-alert.aspx#:~:text=Pennsylvania's%20Missing%20Endangered%20Person%20Advisory,recovery%20of%20the%20missing%20person.***

Rhode Island

Silver Alert

The following criteria must be met before a Missing Senior Citizen Alert, commonly known as Silver Alert can be activated. A Missing Senior Citizen;

1. Whose whereabouts are unknown;
2. Whose age at the time he or she is reported missing is sixty (60) years of age or older, or is a person with a diagnosis of dementia;
3. Who has an impaired mental condition;
4. Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the missing person, as determined by State Police;
5. The impaired condition(s) shall be demonstrated by the appropriate documentation presented by the missing senior citizen's family, legal guardian, long-term care ombudsman, or long-term care facility where person resides

Source: ***https://risp.ri.gov/safety/missing/silveralert.php***

South Carolina

Endangered Person Advisory

The purpose of the Endangered Person Notification System is to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person who is believed to be suffering from dementia or some other cognitive impairment.

Activation Criteria

Endangered Person Notification System (EPNS) activation shall be based on the following criteria:

- Law Enforcement confirms that the missing person is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.
- Law Enforcement concludes that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety, or a threat to the public's safety.
- A legal custodian of the missing person has submitted a missing person's report to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing.

Source: ***https://www.sled.sc.gov/endangered.html***

South Dakota

Endangered Missing Advisory

The Activation of the Endangered Missing Advisory plan can only be requested by South Dakota law enforcement agencies using the following criteria:

- Do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert? (If they do meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, immediately follow the protocol to issue an AMBER Alert).
- Is the person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances?
- Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person at risk for serious bodily injury or death?
- Is there enough descriptive information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the endangered person?

Source: ***https://sd.gov/ema/***

Texas

CLEAR Alert

The state's Coordinated Law Enforcement Adult Rescue (CLEAR) Alert program, created by 2019 Texas legislation, is designed to close the gap between missing children and senior citizens. The CLEAR alert assists law enforcement in locating and rescuing missing, kidnapped, or abducted adults or adults who are in immediate danger of injury

or death, as well as aid in locating any potential suspects. The name of the CLEAR Alert also in part honors victims of violence which led to the CLEAR Alert legislation: **C**ayley Mandadi; D'**L**isa Kelley; **E**rin Castro; **A**shanti Billie and the **R**est.

The below represents CLEAR Alert criteria for the state's network:

- Is the individual 18 to 64 years of age, whose whereabouts are unknown?
- Has a preliminary investigation verified the adult is in imminent danger of bodily injury or death or is the disappearance involuntary such as an abduction or kidnapping?
- Is the clear alert request within 72 hours of the individual's disappearance?
- Is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public to help locate the individual, a suspect, or the vehicle used in the incident?

Silver Alert

Wandering impacts families and caregivers statewide, affecting those who suffer with various mental conditions, to include Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The state's Silver Alert program was created by Texas legislation in year 2007, designed to notify the public of missing older adults with a documented mental condition.

The below represents Silver Alert criteria for the state's network:

- Is the missing person 65 years of age or older or been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease?
- Does the senior citizen have a diagnosed impaired mental condition, and does the senior citizen's disappearance pose a credible threat to the senior citizen's health and safety? (Law enforcement shall require the family or legal guardian of the missing senior citizen to provide documentation from a medical or mental health professional of the senior citizen's condition).
- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place verifying that the senior citizen's disappearance is due to his/her impaired mental condition, and alternative reasons for the senior citizen's disappearance have been ruled out?
- Is the Silver Alert request within 72 hours of the senior citizen's disappearance?
- Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the senior citizen? (Highway signs will be activated only if accurate vehicle information is available AND it is confirmed that the senior citizen was driving the vehicle at the time of the disappearance).

Note: A physician's letterhead, indicating the impaired mental condition, date of diagnosis, patient's name, with physician's signature is recommended to satisfy the documentation requirement.

Endangered Missing Persons Alert

Similar to wandering incidents in older adults with Alzheimer's and related dementias, those with intellectual disabilities (Autism, Developmental Disorders, etc.), are also prone to wandering into unsafe environments. In year 2011, Texas AMBER Alert legislation was updated to include alerts for missing persons (of any age) with an intellectual disability. In order to avoid public confusion with AMBER Alerts for abducted children, the name "Endangered Missing Persons Alert" was selected.

The below represents Endangered Missing Persons Alert criteria for the state's network:

- Has the missing person been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability and/or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, including Asperger's Disorder, Autistic Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Childhood

Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (Not Otherwise Specified)? If the missing person has been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability, law enforcement shall require a written diagnosis from a physician or psychologist licensed to practice within Texas, or certified by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and/or Texas Department of State Health Services.

- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place, verifying that a reasonable explanation for the missing person's disappearance has been ruled out and that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the missing person?
- Is the Endangered Missing Persons Alert request being made within 72 hours of the missing person's disappearance?
- Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing person? (Highway signs will be activated only if accurate vehicle information is available AND it is confirmed that the missing person was in the vehicle at the time of the disappearance).

Camo Alert

Current or former military members struggling with mental illness often times isolate themselves and disappear without notice. The state's Camo Alert program, created by 2019 Texas legislation, is designed to notify the public of a missing current or former member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard or a reserve or auxiliary unit of any branch of the armed forces.

The below represents Camo alert criteria for the state's network:

- Verification from the Texas Department of Public Safety that the missing military member is registered for the camo alert program.
- Confirmation the individual reported missing is a current or former member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard or a reserve or auxiliary unit of any branch of the armed forces and that the individual's location is unknown.
- Confirmation the missing person suffers from a mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury.
- Confirmation the disappearance poses a credible threat to the military member's health and safety or the health and safety of another.

Note: A physician's or psychologist's letterhead, indicating the impaired mental condition, date of diagnosis, patient's name, with physician's signature is recommended to satisfy the documentation requirement.

Source: ***https://www.dps.texas.gov/IntelligenceCounterterrorism/alerts/index.htm***

Tennessee

Tennessee Care Alert (Silver Alert)

Agencies are responsible for entering their own Care Alerts but the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) may assist as requested.

1. Determine if circumstances meet the threshold for a Care Alert:
    - At least 60 years old
    - Unknown whereabouts

- Any age who suffers from dementia
- Intellectual, developmental, or physical disability
- Believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance

2. Enter individual into NCIC as a missing/endangered person
3. Create a Locater Poster
4. Create and distribute a regional BOLO
5. Contact A Child is Missing at 888-875-2246 or 954-763-1288 for reverse 911
6. Media Release

*Source: **https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2018/title-38/chapter-6/part-1/section-38-6-121/***

Utah

Endangered Missing Advisory

The Endangered Missing Advisory is a system to rapidly disseminate information about a missing and/or endangered person to law enforcement agencies and the media. The Endangered Missing Advisory is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and local broadcasters for notifying the public about a missing and endangered person. The advisories are initiated solely by Utah law enforcement agencies.

The initiating agency must determine if the guideline for an Endangered Missing Advisory is met:

- Is the person missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances?
- Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, or weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person in peril?
- Is there information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person?

Do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert? (If they do meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, immediately follow the protocol to issue an AMBER Alert).

<u>What Happens When an Endangered Missing Advisory is Activated?</u>

- Law Enforcement enters information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- All Utah law enforcement agencies are notified with a statewide “Attempt to Locate”/Endangered Missing entry.
- Broadcasters and media are notified by email.

Note: Freeway signs will not be activated for an Endangered Missing Advisory. The purpose for the advisory is for media notification.

*Source: **https://bci.utah.gov/utah-amber-alert-and-missing-person-advisory/***

Virginia

Senior Alert

Criteria for the Senior Alert are:

- The missing senior adult whereabouts are unknown, is over 60 years of age and;

- Suffers a cognitive impairment to the extent that he or she is unable to provide care for their self without assistance from a caregiver, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, and;
- Whose disappearance poses a credible threat as determined by a law-enforcement agency to the health and safety of the adult and under such other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the Virginia State Police.
- A law enforcement investigation has taken place that verified the senior adult is missing and eliminated alternative explanations by a thorough search of the immediate area if vehicular travel is not involved as a mode of travel for the adult.
- Sufficient information regarding the missing senior adult is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing senior adult or their vehicle.
- The missing senior adult must be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN), the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person files and information reported to the Virginia Missing Person Information Clearinghouse in the prescribed format.
- A photograph of the missing senior adult must be provided to the Virginia Missing Person Information Clearinghouse on the prescribed forms or agency equivalent.

If all of the aforementioned criteria are not met, the Virginia "Senior Alert" Plan will not be activated; however, information can still be provided to the media.

Ashanti (Critically Missing Adult) Alert

- The Abducted Adult must be 18 years of age or older and the law enforcement agency believes the adult has been abducted (unwillingly taken from their environment without permission).
- The law enforcement agency believes the Abducted Adult is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- A law enforcement investigation has taken place that verified the abduction or eliminated alternative explanations.
- Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the Abducted Adult, suspect, and/or the suspect's vehicle.
- The Abducted Adult must be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person files.
- The Virginia Ashanti Alert Form authorizing release of information must be signed.

If all of the aforementioned criteria are not met, the Virginia Ashanti (Critically Missing Adult) Alert" Plan will not be activated; however, information can still be provided to the media.

Missing Child with Autism Alert

- The missing child's whereabouts are unknown, is 17 years of age or younger, or is currently enrolled in a secondary school in the Commonwealth, regardless of age and;
- Whose whereabouts are unknown and has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and;
- Whose disappearance poses a credible threat as determined by law enforcement to the safety and health of the child and under such other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the Virginia State Police.
- A law enforcement investigation has taken place that verified the child is missing and eliminated alternative explanations by a thorough search of the immediate area if vehicular travel is not involved as a mode of travel.

- Sufficient information regarding the missing child is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing child.
- The missing child must be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN), the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing children files and information reported to the Virginia Missing Children's Clearinghouse (VMCC) in the prescribe format.

If all of the aforementioned criteria are not met, the Virginia "Missing Child with Autism Alert" Plan will not be activated; however, information can still be provided to the media.

*Source: **https://www.vasenioralert.com/plan_components.html***

Wisconsin

Green Alert

2017 Wisconsin Act 175 requires the Wisconsin Department of Justice to allow law enforcement agencies to use its crime alert network to disseminate to broadcasters and outdoor advertisers reports of missing veterans at risk. A law enforcement agency that receives a report of a missing veteran at risk within 72 hours of the individual's disappearance must disseminate the report as quickly as practically possible if it determines that all of the following apply:

- There is reason to believe that the veteran at risk is missing due to his or her physical or mental health condition.
- There is sufficient information available to disseminate that could assist in locating the missing veteran.

For purposes of the Act, a "veteran at risk" is a veteran or an active-duty member of the armed forces, the national guard, or the military reserve forces of the United States who is known, based on the information provided by the person making the report, to have a physical or mental health condition that is related to his or her service.

Silver Alert

Criteria for Issuance of Silver Alert:

1. Is the missing person 60 years of age or older?
2. Is the missing person believed to have Alzheimer's, dementia, or other permanent cognitive impairment which poses a threat to their health and safety?
3. Is there reasonable belief that the missing person's disappearance is due to their impaired cognitive condition?
4. Is the Silver Alert request within 72 hours of the individual's disappearance?
5. Is there sufficient information to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing person?

If any of these are not present, a Missing/Endangered alert may be issued via the WI Crime Alert Network.

Source: **http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/lcactmemo/act175.pdf** and **https://silveralertwisconsin.org/default.aspx?menuitemid=537#SilverAlertCriteria**

Washington

Endangered Missing Persons Advisory

Criteria are as follows:

1. Person of any age who is missing and in danger because of age, physical or mental health, severe weather conditions and not able to return to safety without assistance.
2. Enough information available to assist in the recovery of the missing person
3. Reported to and investigated by law enforcement

Note: Vehicle information is required for activation through Washington State Patrol

Silver Alert

Criteria are as follows:

1. Person of any age who is missing and in danger because of age, physical or mental health, severe weather conditions and not able to return to safety without assistance.
2. Enough information available to assist in the recovery of the missing person
3. Reported to and investigated by law enforcement

Note: Vehicle information is required for activation through Washington State Patrol

Source: ***https://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/alerts-missing-persons/***

Wyoming

Endangered Person Advisory

The Missing and Endangered Person Advisory is a modified alert program designed to provide Wyoming law enforcement agencies another option to respond to the different types of missing persons which may include missing children and adults. Missing and Endangered Person Advisories can be used in situations that do not meet AMBER Alert criteria.

Criteria

- Incident has been reported and investigated by law enforcement.
- The missing person is under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances.
- The person is believed to be in danger of death or serious injury.
- There is enough information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person.

Criteria from the Department of Justice

- There is a reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred.
- The law enforcement agency believes that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The abduction is of a child aged 17 years or younger.
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been/or will be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Source: **http://www.whp.dot.state.wy.us/home/amber-alertendangered-person.html**

Summary and Recommendations

Summary

As we continue to develop strategies that provide effective tools for the recovery of individuals, both children and adults, coordinated efforts between our states will be instrumental to our success. As stated previously, all 50 states to include the District of Columbia, have an AMBER Alert Plan. At least 35 states have a Blue Alert with 4 states working on pending legislation. At least 45 states operate a Silver Alert or equivalent type of notification system for adults. The creation of the Ashanti Alert in December of 2018 was focused on adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who have been reported missing under suspicious circumstances that indicate that their physical safety may be endangered. The alert also allows for activation for adults who suffer from a proven medical or physical disability. The Ashanti Alert exists only in Virginia at the time of this report but has resulted in at least 10 activations since its creation. The AMBER, Blue, and Ashanti Alerts all have federal support and coordination.
At least 45 states operate alerts targeting older adults or individuals of any age that are missing and have some type of cognitive impairment, mental, or physical disability. The names of these alerts can be misleading in that some alerts mandate a specific age to be eligible for the alert but can be used for individuals of any age, to include children in some circumstances.

We currently have over 50 types of alerts utilized nationwide and the strategies utilized for each alert can vary significantly. Many alternative alerts, while receiving some direction and guidance from their state, are managed, and controlled at the local levels. This lack of state coordination can further blur the application of the alert as well as the other processes involved in the activation.

Two states have alerts addressing missing military veterans, Wisconsin, and Texas, with several additional states exploring a similar type of alert. At least four states - California, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Colorado - utilize alerts that assist authorities in locating individuals who have caused serious bodily harm or death in a hit-and-run incident.

Fourteen states have at least 4 types of alerts, if AMBER and Blue Alerts are included. Two states have 6 different types of alerts serving a variety of vulnerable populations. While many states operate alerts for individuals with cognitive impairment, at least one state specifically addresses autistic children.

The terminology can vary significantly from one state to another. This variance is most common in alerts that serve populations with cognitive impairment. Many of these types of alerts require some documented proof of the impairment.

Upon review of the AMBER Alert activations, 2019 had the lowest number of activations since 2006 when tracking of activations began. 2019 saw 145 AMBER activations. This decrease can be attributed to the improvements in law enforcement's ability to respond to missing and abducted children cases with a much broader range of investigative tools and resources. The continued evolution of comprehensive child recovery strategies allows law enforcement to utilize AMBER as a great tool but also provide much greater capacity and competency to protect children. Additionally, as this report illustrates, law enforcement has many more options available to alert the public and request assistance in looking for a missing child. We should not be surprised by the lower activation numbers. One of our underlying missions throughout the years regarding our training initiatives, has been focused on increasing law enforcement's ability to protect children. We have expanded their expertise in such a way that AMBER Alert is a component of their response, but not the most critical element.

Recommendations

As a result of the 2019 and 2020 review of additional alerts utilized by our states to serve vulnerable populations, we should consider developing and implementing strategies to maximize our efforts. The following recommendations offer some guidance on how to coordinate these efforts:

- States must work together to share their alert plans and strategies for activation with an emphasis on the criteria and how alerts are pushed out to include how resources are used.
- Regional work sessions, perhaps conducted by the AATTAP liaisons, can serve to bring AMBER Alert coordinators and clearinghouse managers together to discuss the various types of alerts and their utilization. The work at the regional level can serve as the framework for developing a national strategy.
- Identify and strengthen our partnership with various stakeholders and partners to allow us to be focused on how best to serve those vulnerable populations. Coordination with organizations that serve the elderly, our veterans, and cognitively impaired adults and children can strengthen and enhance our efforts.
- Best practices should be developed and shared at our national symposium to assist in creating next steps to be certain that a coordinated national effort is being implemented.
- Governors, legislative officials, and directors of state law enforcement agencies must be engaged and develop a thorough understanding of the scope and scale of the issue. State and federal legislation should be carefully drafted so that it does not hinder efforts to serve our targeted populations.
- Alert activation should be tracked and analyzed to gauge their frequency and effectiveness. Denial and recovery data should be components of this reporting system. For states in which certain alerts are managed at the local level, this record keeping process should be uniform across all jurisdictions.
- Cross state activations – Bordering states should have a strategy to manage cross state alert activations and how to communicate with each other when a subject of an alert is thought to be traveling to another state. A small number of states exercise different processes for individuals traveling in a car versus on foot.
- The activation of resources such as lottery, variable message boards, and highway advisory radio varies across states when addressing these alternative alerts. The role of the media and Departments of Transportation, two of our original stakeholders in the AMBER Alert initiative, should have significant and well-defined roles when pushing out alerts.

In conclusion, the AMBER Alert has been a great success in helping to recover our most critically missing children. As we continue to develop and implement strategies to serve our most vulnerable population, coordination among our states is critical to our success. Additional alerts can play a significant role in the efforts. However, we also must learn from the lessons learned from the AMBER Alert initiative. We should follow the template identifying the 12 critical components of AMBER plans and apply them to additional alerts. States must work together to ensure that alerts are an effective and efficient method to help serve vulnerable populations. The AMBER Alert model would certainly suggest that a well-developed alert program can save lives.