

GENERAL ORDERS | SOUTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT



G.O. Number: 33.4	Subject: Florida Alert Notification System	
Chapter: 33 Communications	Number of Pages: 12	
CFA Standard(s): 15.20M	Effective: 10/18/2021	
By Order of Chief of Police: Rene G. Landa Chief of Police		Revised: 05/03/2022 Status: Revised

SECTIONS:

- 33.4.1** **Definitions**
- 33.4.2** **Amber Alert**
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- 33.4.4** **Missing Child Alert**
- 33.4.5** **Purple Alert**
- 33.4.6** **Silver Alert**

RESCINDS: Any other existing orders in conflict.

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for the activation of the Florida Alert Notification System by the South Miami Police Department. The Florida Alert Notification System is a cooperative effort by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

SCOPE: All Departmental personnel.

POLICY: It will be the policy of the South Miami Department to activate the Florida Alert Notification System, whenever the statutory activation criteria for the Amber, Silver, Blue, Purple and/or the Missing Child Alert has been met and is warranted. The South Miami Police Department is also committed to the safe return of missing/endangered persons, abducted children and runaways. The safety of our officers and citizens are paramount in accomplishing our mission.

33.4.1 DEFINITIONS

- A. **AMBER ALERT:** An Amber Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods whenever a child abduction occurs.
- B. **BLUE ALERT:** A Blue Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured, killed by a subject(s); or become missing while in the line of duty under circumstances causing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.
- C. **MISSING CHILD ALERT:** A Missing Child Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods when a child is missing and believed to be in life-threatening danger, but there is no indication that the child has been abducted.
- D. **PURPLE ALERT:** A Purple Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods when an endangered adult goes missing with a mental or cognitive disability, a brain injury or another physical, mental or emotional disability and meets the activation criteria.
- E. **SILVER ALERT:** A Silver Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods to locate missing persons suffering from an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties.

33.4.2 AMBER ALERT PROCEDURES

- A. An Amber Alert is broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods whenever a child abduction occurs.
- B. Authorization:

If circumstances occur that meet the criteria for the activation of the Amber Alert Notification System, the shift supervisor will notify and discuss the circumstances with the appropriate command staff member. The determination to activate or not activate will be made in accordance with the ongoing situation.

C. Activation Criteria:

To activate an AMBER Alert the following five (5) criteria must be met:

1. The child must be under 18 years of age;
2. There must be a clear indication of an abduction;
3. The law enforcement agency's preliminary investigation must conclude that the child's life is in danger;
4. There must be a detailed description of the child, abductor and/or vehicle to broadcast to the public;
5. The activation must be recommended by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

D. Activation Procedures:

1. The local law enforcement agency will call the FDLE Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) at 1-888-356-4774;
2. FDLE will work in conjunction with the law enforcement agency to determine if BOLO information is to be broadcast on a regional or statewide level;
3. FDLE will work in conjunction with the law enforcement agency to prepare information for public distribution;
4. FDLE will ensure that the information is broadcast through the Emergency Alert System, dynamic highway message signs, lottery machine terminals, text messages and emails. *(In conjunction with the Targeted Interstate Photo Sharing (TIPS) initiative of Lets, the Amber Alert with Image (AAI) message key was developed in order to attach an image to this administrative message.)*

E. Deactivation:

1. Upon recovery (in jurisdiction), communications will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the child has been found, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert.

33.4.3 BLUE ALERT PROCEDURES [15.20M]

A. The Florida Blue Alert Plan is a cooperative effort by FDLE, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). The Blue Alert Plan, Florida Statute 784.071, was created in response to the increasing number of law enforcement officers in the state who were killed, injured or abducted in the line of duty. Under this plan, when specified criteria are met, FDLE and DHSMV will activate dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods to immediately broadcast important information about the offender(s) and vehicle(s) involved in an incident.

B. Authorization:

If circumstances occur that meet the criteria for the activation of the Blue Alert Notification System, the shift supervisor will notify and discuss the circumstances with the appropriate command staff member. The determination to activate or not activate will be made in accordance with the ongoing situation.

C. Activation Criteria:

To activate a Blue Alert the following four (4) criteria must be met:

1. A law enforcement officer must have been seriously injured or killed by an offender(s) or is missing while in the line of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.
2. The investigating law enforcement agency must determine that the offender(s) poses a serious risk to the public or to other law enforcement officers and dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect(s).
3. A detailed description of the offender's vehicle or other means of escape, including vehicle tag or partial tag, must be available to broadcast to the public.
4. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend using the Blue Alert.

D. Activation Procedures:

In addition to the criteria being met, the following steps must occur in order to activate the Blue Alert:

1. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction calls FDLE's Florida Fusion Center Watch Desk at (850) 410-7645 or (800) 342-0820, which is manned 24/7.
2. FDLE's on-call supervisor will work with the investigating agency to offer assistance, ensure the activation criterion have been met, and determine if the alert will be displayed regionally or statewide.
3. The FDLE Fusion Center will send out a Blue Alert FAM either regionally or statewide depending on the circumstances.
4. FDLE will work with the investigating agency to prepare information for public release, including suspect and/or vehicle information as well as agency contact information.
5. FDLE will contact the DHSMV Regional Communications Center to send the Blue Alert. The communications supervisor will relay that information to other regional communication centers where the activation is taking place.
6. FDLE will contact FDOT's Regional Transportation Management Center to develop the message content using the FDOT approved template which includes vehicle information, tag number and other descriptive data.
7. FDOT will display the message until the offender(s) is captured or for a maximum of six hours. The alert will be displayed on dynamic highway message signs on all requested highways unless a traffic emergency occurs. FDOT also will record a Blue Alert message of the 511 system when the Blue Alert is activated.
 1. NOTE: The FDLE watch desk will facilitate the broadcasting of the alert to the public via television and radio through the Emergency Alert System. Law enforcement agencies will receive a FAM through FCIC.
 2. Upon activation of a Blue Alert, E-agent application operators will receive an audible signal and a pop-up banner containing the following language:

FL BLUE ALERT ACTIVATION***FL BLUE ALERT ACTIVATION***FL BLUE ALERT ACTIVATION*** THIS IS AN OFFICER SAFETY MESSAGE PERTAINING TO THE ACTIVATION OF A BLUE ALERT. THIS ALERT HAS BEEN ACTIVATED REGARDING THE DISSAPPEARANCE, ASSAULT OR DEATH OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. RECEIVING AGENCIES ARE ASKED TO PROMPTLY REVIEW THIS MATERIAL AND NOTIFY ALL SHIFTS AND IN-COMING SHIFTS FOR APPROPRIATE MEASURES.

8. The same activation steps will be used if there is revised vehicle information or a broadcast area is changed.
9. Once FDLE is notified that the offender(s) have been captured, FDLE will contact the appropriate parties to cancel the alert.
 1. When the Blue Alert has been cancelled, E-Agent application operators will receive the following cancellation banner: FL BLUE ALERT CANCELLATION***FL BLUE ALERT CANCELLATION***FL BLUE ALERT CANCELLATION*** THE BLUE ALERT HAS BEEN CANCELLED. RECEIVING AGENCIES ARE ASKED TO PROMPTLY REVIEW THIS MATERIAL AND NOTIFY ALL SHIFTS AND IN-COMING SHIFTS FOR APPROPRIATE MEASURES.
10. Each Blue Alert activation is reviewed by a committee of state agency partners and law enforcement representatives to ensure that the criteria and goals are met, and that each activation took place in a timely fashion.

E. Deactivation:

1. Upon apprehension (in jurisdiction), communications will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the subject has been apprehended, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert. Upon apprehension, (other jurisdiction) the investigating agency will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the offender(s) has been captured, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert.

33.4.4 MISSING CHILDREN ALERT PROCEDURES

- A. The missing Child Alert system was established to provide law enforcement a tool to quickly disseminate information when a child is missing and believed to be in life-threatening danger, but there is no indication that the child has been abducted. The Missing Child Alert is a media focused emergency broadcast designed to engage the public in the search for the missing child.

A Missing Child Alert may evolve into an AMBER Alert if the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction reveals an indication that the child has been abducted. In these instances, the Missing Child Alert can serve as a mechanism to begin releasing information to the public while law enforcement continues to investigate.

- B. Authorization:

If circumstances occur that meet the criteria for the activation of the Missing Child Alert Notification System, the shift supervisor will notify and discuss the circumstances with the appropriate command staff member. The determination to activate or not activate will be made in accordance with the ongoing situation.

- C. Activation Criteria:

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

1. The child must be under 18 years of age;
2. The law enforcement agency's preliminary investigation must conclude that the child's life is in danger;
3. Descriptive information AND a photograph of the child must be available;
4. The agency of jurisdiction must approve the issuance of the Missing Child Alert.

D. Activation Procedures:

Missing Child Alert activation process:

1. The law enforcement agency of jurisdiction will contact the FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) at 1-888-356-4774;
2. FDLE, working in conjunction with the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction will prepare information for public distribution;
3. FDLE will ensure that the information is distributed to the media as well as to the public that have signed up for Missing Child Alerts through text message and/or email.

E. Deactivation

1. Upon recovery (in jurisdiction), communications will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the child has been found, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert.

33.4.5 PURPLE ALERT PROCEDURES

A. The Legislature finds that a standardized state system is necessary to aid in the search for a missing adult identified in paragraph (C 1-4). The Legislature also finds that a coordinated local law enforcement and state agency response with prompt and widespread sharing of information will improve the chances of finding the person. The Purple Alert is to be implemented in a manner that, to the extent practicable, safeguards the privacy rights and related health and diagnostic information of such missing adults.

B. Authorization:

If circumstances occur that meet the criteria for the activation of the Purple Alert Notification System, the shift supervisor will notify and discuss the circumstances with the appropriate command staff member. The determination to activate or not activate will be made in accordance with the ongoing situation.

C. Activation Criteria:

To activate a Purple Alert the following four (4) criteria must be met:

1. A missing adult who has a mental or cognitive disability that is not Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related disorder; an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, as those terms are defined in s. [393.063](#); a brain injury; another physical, mental, or emotional disability that is not related to substance abuse; or a combination of any of these;
2. Whose disappearance indicates a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to himself or herself, as determined by the local law enforcement agency;
3. Who cannot be returned to safety without law enforcement intervention; and
4. Who does not meet the criteria for activation of a local Silver Alert or the Silver Alert Plan of the Department of Law Enforcement.

D. Activation Procedures:

Purple Alert activation process:

1. The law enforcement agency of jurisdiction will contact the FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) at 1-888-356-4774;
2. FDLE, working in conjunction with the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction will prepare information for public distribution;
3. FDLE will ensure that the information is distributed to the media as well as to the public that have signed up for Missing Child Alerts through text message and/or email.

E. Deactivation

2. Upon recovery (in jurisdiction), communications will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the person has been found, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert.

33.4.6 SILVER ALERT PROCEDURES

- A. The Florida Silver Alert is a tool designed to aid in the recovery of a missing elderly person who suffers from an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties (e.g., Alzheimer's or dementia). These alerts are pushed out to the public using dynamic highway message signs, email alerts and media alerts.

There are two (2) types of Silver Alert notifications, Local and Statewide. Local Silver Alerts primarily focus on those missing on foot, while the Statewide Silver Alert focuses on those missing in a motor vehicle. Local Silver Alerts are issued by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction to include contacting the media and issuing a BOLO. Statewide Silver Alerts are issued by the FDLE Missing and Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) to include utilizing highway message signs and Florida Lottery terminals, while the local law enforcement agency contacts the local media and issues the BOLO.

- B. Authorization:

If circumstances occur that meet the criteria for the activation of the Silver Alert Notification System, the shift supervisor will notify and discuss the circumstances with the appropriate command staff member. The determination to activate or not activate will be made in accordance with the ongoing situation.

- C. Activation Criteria:

To activate the Local Silver Alert (missing on foot) criteria recommendations:

1. The person is 60 years and/or older;
2. The person is 18-59 and law enforcement has determined the missing person lacks the capacity to consent and that a Local Silver Alert may be the only possible way to rescue the missing person;
3. The person has an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties.

Statewide Silver Alert (missing in vehicle) Criteria:

1. The person is 60 years and/or older;

2. The person is 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 way possible to rescue the missing person
3. The person must have an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties;
4. The person must be traveling by motor vehicle with an identified license plate number or other vehicle information that has been verified by law enforcement.

D. Activation Procedures:

Local Silver Alert (missing on foot) activation recommendations:

1. Conduct a preliminary investigation in which the agency has concluded that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety;
2. Enter the missing person into FCIC/NCIC and NamUS, and issue a local/regional BOLO FAM with subject code 34 "Silver Alert Activation."
3. Contact media outlets in the area and/or surrounding jurisdictions.
4. Once the person has been located, contact the local memory disorder clinic or provide the family with information regarding service and assistance and cancel the BOLO by sending a FAM using subject code 35 "Silver Alert Cancel".

Statewide Silver Alert (missing in vehicle) activation steps:

1. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must enter the missing person into FCIC/NCIC and NamUS.
2. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must notify the media in their area and/or surrounding jurisdictions;
3. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction may request the issuance of a statewide BOLO by contacting FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse at 1-888-356-4774;

4. The FDLE will ensure the information is broadcast through the FDOT dynamic highway message signs and the Florida Lottery terminals.

E. Deactivation

3. Upon recovery (in jurisdiction), communications will notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) that the person has been found, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert. Once the person has been recovered, the reporting agency will be contacted by the Department of Elder Affairs Memory Disorder Clinic. The clinic will request contact information so they can contact the person's family and provide assistance to help prevent future missing person occurrences.