

Public Alerts

317.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for alerting the public to important information and soliciting public aid when appropriate.

317.2 POLICY

Public alerts may be employed using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television and press organizations and other groups to notify the public of incidents, or enlist the aid of the public, when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community. Various types of alerts may be available based upon each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

317.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

317.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Franklin Community Schools Police Department should notify a supervisor or Chief of Police as soon as practicable upon learning of a situation where public notification, a warning or enlisting the help of the media and the public could assist in locating a missing person, apprehending a dangerous person or gathering information.

317.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor apprised of the need for a public alert is responsible for making the appropriate notifications based upon the circumstances of each situation. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Chief of Police or the authorized designee when any public alert is generated. The Chief of Police or authorized designee shall coordinate with the Superintendent any needed media or public information release.

The supervisor in charge of the investigation to which the alert relates is responsible for:

- (a) Updating alerts.
- (b) Canceling alerts.
- (c) Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed.
- (d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Chief of Police

317.4 AMBER™ ALERTS

AMBER™ Alerts are used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding abducted children (I.C. § 10-13-5-1).

317.4.1 CRITERIA

The following criteria are utilized to determine if an AMBER™ Alert should be requested (I.C. § 10-13-5-4):

- (a) An officer has a reasonable belief that an abduction has occurred.
- (b) An officer believes that a child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- (c) An officer believes the victim meets the definition of a missing child under I.C. § 10-13-5-4.
- (d) Enough descriptive information exists about the victim and the abductor for this department to request that the superintendent of the Indiana State Police (ISP) issue an AMBER™ Alert.
- (e) The victim of the abduction is a child less than 18 years of age.
- (f) The victim is a temporary or permanent resident of the state of Indiana.

317.4.2 PROCEDURE

The following procedures for initiating an AMBER™ Alert are used when a member of the Franklin Community Schools Police Department receives a report from a parent or guardian that a child is missing:

- (a) The member receiving the information shall notify all on-duty officers of the existence of a missing child report.
- (b) The member receiving the information shall communicate the report to all adjoining and regional law enforcement agencies.
- (c) To initiate an alert, contact the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children, Missing Veterans at Risk, and Missing Endangered Adults for alert request forms and applicable procedures for completing those forms.

317.5 BLUE ALERTS

Blue Alerts are used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding specific incidents relating to law enforcement officers (I.C. § 10-13-8-1).

317.5.1 CRITERIA

The following criteria are circumstances warranting a Blue Alert (I.C. § 10-13-8-8):

- (a) A law enforcement officer has been killed or seriously injured while in the line of duty.
- (b) The suspect has not been apprehended and may be a serious threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.
- (c) Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the suspect.
- (d) If a law enforcement officer is missing while in the line of duty, sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the law enforcement officer.

317.5.2 PROCEDURE

The following is the procedure for initiating a Blue Alert:

- (a) Before requesting activation of the Blue Alert system, this department shall verify the criteria for activating the Blue Alert System has been met (I.C. § 10-13-8-8).

- (b) To initiate an alert, contact the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children, Missing Veterans at Risk, and Missing Endangered Adults for alert request forms and applicable procedures for completing those forms (I.C. § 10-13-8-10).
- (c) An officer shall, as soon as practicable, notify the superintendent of the ISP upon locating the suspect or the missing law enforcement officer (I.C. § 10-13-8-13).

317.6 SILVER ALERTS

Silver Alerts are used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing endangered adult, missing endangered child, missing child, or high-risk missing person (I.C. § 10-13-5-4.6).

317.6.1 CRITERIA

A Silver Alert should be activated when:

- (a) An officer believes that a missing person meets the criteria for being a missing endangered adult, a missing endangered child, a missing child, or a high-risk missing person (I.C. § 12-7-2.1-227; I.C. § 12-10-18-0.5; I.C. § 12-10-18-3; I.C. § 10-13-5-4.4; I.C. § 5-2-17-1).

317.6.2 PROCEDURE

To initiate an alert, contact the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children, Missing Veterans at Risk, and Missing Endangered Adults for alert request forms and applicable procedures for completing those forms.

317.7 GREEN ALERTS

Green Alerts are used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding missing at-risk veterans and active-duty military members (I.C. § 10-13-5-3.5; I.C. § 10-13-5-4.5; I.C. § 12-7-2.1-346).

317.7.1 CRITERIA

The following criteria are utilized to determine if a Green Alert should be activated (I.C. § 12-10-18-1; I.C. § 12-10-18-3):

- (a) An officer receives a report that an at-risk veteran or active-duty military member is missing and they meet the criteria for the alert (i.e., they may not be able to return home without assistance).
- (b) The officer reasonably believes that public notification may help in locating the missing person.

317.7.2 PROCEDURE

To initiate an alert, contact the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children, Missing Veterans at Risk, and Missing Endangered Adults for alert request forms and applicable procedures for completing those forms.