



Apex Police Department General Order



Title NC Blue Alert Notification System		Order Number 713-20
Effective Date: September 29, 2020	Amends: 713-16	
CALEA Standard:	Rescinds:	
Reference:	Pages: 3	
Forms: TDEM-52 - Blue Alert Request Form		

NC Blue Alert Notification System

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish procedures for the use of the NC Blue Alert Notification System.

Policy

It is the policy of the Apex Police Department to use the Blue Alert Notification System to aid in the apprehension of violent criminals who kill or cause serious bodily injury to departmental officers.

Definitions

Blue Alert – A nationwide alert system established in 2015 and signed into federal law as a measure that requires instant nationwide "Blue Alerts" to warn about threats to police officers and help track down the suspects who carry them out.

Blue Alert Notification System – The notification system North Carolina implemented in 2016 to help protect the law enforcement community by establishing a notification process to aid in the apprehension of violent criminals who kill or cause serious bodily injury to local, state, or federal law enforcement officers. The Blue Alert System is modeled after the AMBER and Silver Alert systems that are currently in place in North Carolina and the rest of the nation [SOURCE: North Carolina Department of Public Safety. (NCDPS)]

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Serious Bodily Injury – Is defined as bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, permanent or enduring condition that causes extreme pain, permanent or enduring loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization. [**SOURCE:** NCGS 14-32.4(a)]

Procedures

General

1. The NC Blue Alert System is a voluntary cooperative effort among North Carolina radio and television broadcasters, local and state law enforcement, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons.

Blue Alert Activation Criteria

1. In accordance with NCGS 143B-1023, a Blue Alert can only be issued if all of the following criteria is met:
 - A law enforcement officer is killed or suffers serious bodily injury as defined in NCGS 14-32.4(a)
 - A determination that the suspect poses a threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel, and the department possesses information that may assist in locating the suspect, including information regarding the suspect's vehicle, complete or partial license plate information, and a detailed description of the suspect, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on-duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety
 - The Chief of Police or his/her designee authorizes the issuance of the Blue Alert to the NC Center for Missing Persons

Blue Alert Activation Procedures

1. If through the investigation it is determined that it is necessary to activate the NC Blue Alert Notification System, the following procedures will be followed:
 - The Chief of Police or his/her designee will ensure all criteria is met to activate a Blue Alert
 - If the activation criteria is met, the Chief of Police or his/her designee will call the NC Center for Missing Persons at 1(800) 522-5437 to request a Blue Alert
 - **NOTE:** Sufficient information such as suspect's vehicle, complete or partial license plate information, and a detailed description of the suspect, or that a law enforcement officer is missing while on duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety must be provided in order to issue the alert
 - The NC Center for Missing Persons will review the case and either approve or deny the request

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- **NOTE:** The NC Center for Missing Persons is the only agency who can authorize a Blue Alert
- If approved, the Chief of Police or his/her designee will submit the NCDPS form, TDEM-52 – *Blue Alert Request Form* via email to TroopCComm@ncshp.org or fax , (919) 715-1682 to the NC Center for Missing Persons for review and processing
 - The form can be located on the NCDPS’s website at <https://bluealert.ncdps.gov/docs/NCDPSBlueAlertform.pdf>
 - Contact should be made with the NC Center for Missing Persons at 1(800) 522-5437 to verify receipt of the request
- Once the request form is received, the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons will contact the North Carolina State Highway Patrols “Troop C” Communications Center with instructions to issue an Emergency Alert System (EAS) message
 - Through the EAS system, television and radio stations will broadcast the tone signal that indicates an emergency message will follow
 - Descriptive information about the assailant will be announced in a pre-recorded message or displayed as a ‘crawl’ message across the bottom of the television screen
 - The NCDOT will activate the electronic message signs on the highways and display the Blue Alert message
- The Blue Alert will be active for a period of 24 hours
 - Once this period has expired, the alert may be extended for an additional 24-hour period at the request of the Chief of Police or his/her designee and after review by the NC Center for Missing Persons
- In addition to the procedures outlined above, the following procedures must be performed:
 - Telecommunicators will enter appropriate information into NCIC in accordance with applicable rules and regulations and initiate a statewide “Be on the Look Out” (BOLO) bulletin through DCI to all appropriate law enforcement agencies
 - Provide a 24-hour phone number to receive calls during the investigation

Text in “Green” denotes a significant change in policy

BY ORDER OF:



John W. Letteney
Chief of Police