
Purpose

To establish policy for the activation of a bulletin in the YELLOW Alert Program.

Policy

It is the policy of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office to ensure proper operating procedures during the activation of an urgent bulletin in the Maryland State Police Yellow Alert Program, for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating and apprehending a missing suspect who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death.

Definitions

MISSING SUSPECT: an individual whose whereabouts are unknown; who is suspected of a violation of the Transportation Article relating to failing to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death; and whose vehicle the reporting law enforcement agency is able to describe, including any information about the vehicle's registration plate.

SERIOUS BODILY INJURY: an injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious permanent or serious protracted disfigurement; causes serious permanent or serious protracted loss of the function of any body part, organ, or mental faculty; or causes serious permanent or serious protracted impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

A. What is the Yellow Alert Program?

1. Maryland has a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in cases of critically missing juveniles (AMBER Alerts), vulnerable adults (Silver Alerts) and serious attacks on law enforcement officers (Blue Alerts).
2. Such alerts involve the use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), State Highway Administration (SHA) overhead Dynamic Message Signs, notification to local 911 centers and the media to air a description of the known facts.
3. Expanding on this partnership, and to assist in the investigation of certain hit and run accidents, Maryland has enacted a Yellow Alert Program.

B. Requesting an Alert

1. Law enforcement agencies investigating hit and run accidents involving a missing suspect who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death will promptly request an activation of a Yellow Alert.

2. Requests for an activation of a Yellow Alert will be routed through the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer at 410-653-4200.
3. Yellow Alerts will only be activated when there is enough descriptive information about the missing suspect's vehicle to enable law enforcement to assist in the suspect's apprehension.
4. A Yellow Alert will not be activated when releasing information to the media/public would compromise the integrity of the investigation.

C. Duty Officer's Responsibilities on Yellow Alert Plan Activation

1. During the contact with the Maryland State Police, the Duty Officer will furnish phone numbers of the conference room of the Department of Emergency Services.
2. Conference Room numbers are (410) 392-2060, 392-2061, 392-2062 and 392-2063.
3. The Duty Officer will notify the Criminal Investigations Supervisor.
4. The Duty Officer will notify the Dispatch Manager of the Yellow Alert.
5. The Criminal Investigations Supervisor will notify the on-call Investigator.
6. The Duty Officer may assign necessary deputies as needed to the conference room to handle the influx of calls.

D. MSP Headquarters Duty Officer's Responsibilities (**Per General Order**)

1. The Headquarters Duty Officer will initiate Yellow Alert activation for any qualifying incident.
2. When there is a missing suspect of a hit and run accident, involving serious bodily injury or death, the Headquarters Duty Officer will promptly gather the information and complete a Yellow Alert activation request using the Yellow Alert Notification Form.
3. The Yellow Alert Notification Form is automatically emailed to the following:
 - a. Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC) at mjoc.mema@maryland.gov.
 - b. Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) at mdwatch@leo.gov.
 - c. MSP Office of Media Communications at msp.media@maryland.gov.
 - d. SHA Statewide Operations Center at sha_sochot@sha.state.md.us.
4. Immediately after submitting the form, the Headquarters Duty Officer will call:
 - a. the barrack where the incident occurred (if the barrack is not the

investigating agency);

- b. MJOC at 877-636-2872 to confirm activation of the Yellow Alert.
- c. MCAC at 800-492-8477 to ensure registration information is entered into the License Plate Reader (LPR) database, if applicable.

E. Local MSP Barrack Duty Officer's Responsibilities (**Per General Order**)

1. Barrack duty officers will ensure the Headquarters Duty Officer is promptly notified of all qualifying incidents investigated by MSP.
2. Duty officers will provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, as necessary, to assist in the location and apprehension of a missing suspect.
 - a. A BOLO will be broadcast on the local barrack's radio channel/talk group.
 - b. If available, troopers will be dispatched to the area to assist with the apprehension of the missing suspect.

F. Deactivating an Alert

1. A law enforcement officer or agency that locates a missing suspect or vehicle that is the subject of a Yellow Alert will immediately notify the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer that the missing suspect or vehicle has been located.
2. Upon learning a Yellow Alert should be cancelled, the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer will immediately complete a cancellation request using the Yellow Alert Notification Form.
3. If the missing suspect or vehicle has not been located within 24 hours, the alert is self-canceling; however, the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer will be required to submit a Yellow Alert Notification Form to ensure the alert has been cancelled.