

**CHAPTER 1**  
**AMBER ALERT**  
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# CHAPTER 1

## AMBER ALERT

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures associated with an AMBER Alert. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to provide immediate information to the public via media broadcasts about the most serious child abduction cases through multiple notification resources to solicit help from the public in the safe and swift return of the child.

2. GENERAL.

a. Background. Assembly Bill 415, later amended by Assembly Bill 535, and codified in Section 8594 of the California Government Code (GC), requires the activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in response to a child being abducted or taken under qualifying circumstances, commonly referred to as an AMBER Alert. The law requires the CHP to activate an AMBER Alert in response to a qualifying request from a law enforcement agency.

b. Emergency Alert System. The EAS is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service providers, and direct broadcast satellite providers to make available the communications capability to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER Alerts, to targeted areas.

3. AMBER ALERT CRITERIA. In accordance with Section 8594 GC and to prevent potential misuse of the system, specific alert criteria have been established for activation of the EAS in response to a taken or abducted child. Under no circumstances will an AMBER Alert be initiated by the Department for an incident that the investigating agency has not determined to meet all criteria listed below.

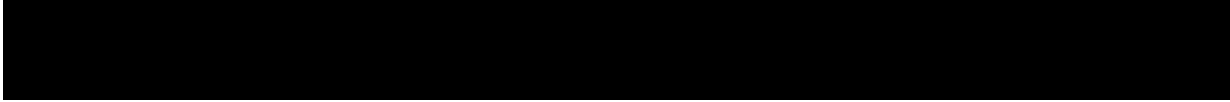
a. **Confirmation that an abduction has occurred or that a child was taken by anyone, including, but not limited to, a custodial parent or guardian.**

b. **The victim is 17 years of age or younger, or an individual with a proven mental or physical disability.**

c. **The victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.**

d. **There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the victim.**

4. PROCEDURES. All requests for AMBER Alert activation or assistance, or EAS broadcasts, shall be forwarded to the Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). **Department personnel shall not activate an AMBER Alert or initiate EAS broadcasts without the approval of ENTAC.**



5. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Departmental Employees. Any on-duty employee who receives an initial report of an actual or possible child abduction or a taken child shall immediately report it to their supervisor.

(1) Department employees should follow policy and procedures for missing persons outlined in Highway Patrol Manual 100.69, General Law Enforcement Policy Manual, Chapter 6, Missing Persons.

b. Supervisors. Upon notification of an incident that meets the criteria for an AMBER Alert, supervisors shall notify the appropriate CHP communications center and request ENTAC be notified. If the incident occurred in another CHP Area, the on-duty supervisor for the CHP Area in which the incident occurred shall also be notified.

(1) Supervisors shall ensure that the appropriate law enforcement agency with investigative authority is notified immediately.

c. Area Commanders.

(1) Area commanders shall ensure the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, ENTAC, and all on-duty employees within their command are notified in a timely manner when a child is abducted or taken.

(2) Area commanders shall ensure all personnel are made aware of AMBER Alert policies, as well as any related local standard operating procedures.

(3) Area commanders shall meet with their counterparts in local allied law enforcement agencies to discuss AMBER Alert criteria, notification processes, and departmental resources available to assist during an AMBER Alert.

d. Division Commanders.

(1) Division commanders shall ensure all employees within their command are familiar with the policy and notification procedures associated with AMBER Alerts.

e. Communications Centers.

(1) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This telephone number shall only be provided to law enforcement agencies.

(2) **Under no circumstances will a communications center initiate an AMBER Alert or activate the EAS without the express approval of ENTAC.**

f. Transportation Management Centers. At the direction of ENTAC, appropriate Transportation Management Centers will coordinate with the local California Department of Transportation district for the activation/deactivation of Changeable Message Signs (CMS) in conjunction with an AMBER Alert activation. **A CMS activation shall not be initiated without the approval of ENTAC.**

6. DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES.

a. To provide the highest level of public broadcast and maximum dissemination, in addition to the EAS broadcast, the Department may assist local law enforcement with dissemination of AMBER Alert information through secondary notification systems. These notification systems are discretionary and activated at the discretion of ENTAC with input from the investigating agency. Some of these systems include:

- (1) Changeable Message Signs
- (2) Wireless Emergency Alerts
- (3) California Lottery kiosk displays
- (4) Social media

b. Endangered Missing Advisory. Incidents involving a taken or abducted child that do not meet all criteria required for an AMBER Alert may qualify for an Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA). An EMA allows the Department to utilize additional resources to assist the investigating agency in the safe recovery of the

child. Available resources include wireless emergency alerts and social media posts via X (formally known as Twitter).

7. TRAINING. All uniformed and appropriate nonuniformed personnel shall receive initial training in the contents of this chapter from their respective command. Training shall be recorded in the employee's departmental training records. Refresher training shall be conducted annually.