

CHAPTER 3
BLUE ALERT
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CHAPTER 3

BLUE ALERT

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures associated with a Blue Alert. The goal of a Blue Alert is to provide immediate information to the public via media broadcasts to solicit help from the public in the safe and swift apprehension of violent suspects that have killed or seriously injured law enforcement officers and continue to pose a threat to public safety.

2. GENERAL.
 - a. Background. Senate Bill 839 established Section 8594.5 of the California Government Code (GC), which requires the activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in response to a law enforcement officer being killed, seriously injured, or assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene. The law requires the CHP to activate a Blue 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 Blue Alerts, to targeted areas.

3. BLUE ALERT CRITERIA. In accordance with Section 8594.5 GC and to prevent potential misuse of the system, specific alert conditions/criteria have been established for the activation of EAS during a Blue Alert. Under no circumstances will a Blue Alert be initiated by the Department for an incident that does not meet all conditions listed below.
 - a. **A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffers serious bodily injury, or is assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense.**

 - b. **A law enforcement agency investigating the offense has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.**

 - c. **A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast.**

d. **Public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of the suspect.**

4. **PROCEDURES.** All requests for a Blue Alert activation or assistance, or EAS broadcasts, shall be forwarded to the Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). **Department personnel shall not activate a Blue 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 assault that killed, or seriously injured law enforcement officer(s) and the suspect continues to pose a threat to public safety, shall immediately report it to their supervisor.

b. **Supervisors.** Upon notification of an incident that meets the conditions for a Blue Alert, supervisors shall notify the appropriate CHP communications center and request ENTAC 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 all personnel are made aware of Blue Alert policies, as well as any related local standard operating procedures.

(2) Area commanders shall meet with their allied law enforcement agency counterparts to discuss Blue Alert criteria, notification processes, and departmental resources available for a Blue Alert.

d. **Communications Centers.**

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

(3) During a Blue Alert, communication centers shall ensure appropriate broadcasts are initiated to field units for which they have responsibility and information is provided to adjacent dispatch centers.

- e. Transportation Management Centers. At the direction of ENTAC, the 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 a Blue Alert activation. **A CMS activation shall not be initiated without the approval of ENTAC.**

6. DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES. 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 Blue Alert information through secondary notifications systems. These notification systems are discretionary and activated at the discretion of ENTAC with input from the investigating agency. Some of these systems include but are not limited to:

- a. Changeable Message Signs
- b. Wireless Emergency Alerts
- c. Social media posts

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