

**CHAPTER 5**  
**YELLOW ALERT**  
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## CHAPTER 5

### YELLOW ALERT

1. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures associated with a Yellow Alert. The goal of a Yellow Alert is to provide immediate information to the public via media broadcasts and other notification resources, to solicit help from the public in the safe and swift apprehension of a suspect, in a hit-and-run crash involving a fatality.
  
2. **GENERAL**. Assembly Bill 1732 established California Government Code (GC) Section 8594.15, which states if a hit-and-run incident is reported to a law enforcement agency, and that agency determines the requirements are met, the agency may request the CHP to activate a Yellow Alert. If the CHP concurs the requirements are met, it may activate a Yellow Alert within the geographic area requested by the investigating law enforcement agency.
  
3. **YELLOW ALERT CRITERIA**. In accordance with GC Section 8594.15, a law enforcement agency may request a Yellow Alert be activated if the agency determines the following conditions are met:
  - a. **A person has been killed due to a hit-and-run incident.**
  
  - b. **There is an indication that a suspect has fled the scene utilizing the state highway system or is likely to be observed by the public on the state highway system.**
  
  - c. **The investigating law enforcement agency has additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle, including, but not limited to, any of the following:**
    - (1) **The complete license plate number of the suspect's vehicle.**
  
    - (2) **A partial license plate number and additional unique identifying characteristics, such as the make, model, and color of the suspect's vehicle, which could reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.**
  
    - (3) **The identity of a suspect.**
  
  - d. **Public dissemination of available information could help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of a suspect based on any factor, including but**

**not limited to, the time elapsed between a hit-and-run incident and the request for an activation would reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.**

4. PROCEDURES. All requests for a Yellow Alert activation or assistance shall be forwarded to the Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC).  
**Department personnel shall not activate a Yellow Alert without the approval of ENTAC.**

5. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Departmental Employees. Departmental personnel investigating a hit-and-run traffic crash that meets the Yellow Alert criteria should continue to use normal local investigative procedures. However, the investigating officer, sergeant, or officer-in-charge should consider if a Yellow Alert would benefit the investigation and assist with suspect apprehension. After consideration and determining the criteria have been met, the investigating officer, with the concurrence of a sergeant or officer-in-charge, should contact ENTAC as soon as practical to request activation of a Yellow Alert.


b. Supervisors. Upon notification of an incident that meets the conditions for a Yellow Alert, supervisors should consider contacting ENTAC if the activation of the alert would benefit the investigation.

c. Area Commanders.

(1) Area commanders shall ensure all personnel are made aware of Yellow 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 Yellow Alert criteria, notification processes, and departmental resources available for a Yellow Alert.

d. Communications Centers.

 This phone number shall only be provided to law enforcement personnel.

(2) **Under no circumstances shall a communications center initiate a Yellow Alert without the express approval of ENTAC.**

(3) During a Yellow 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 Center will coordinate with the local California Department of Transportation district for the activation/deactivation of Changeable Message Signs (CMS) in conjunction with a Yellow 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 the Department may assist local law enforcement with dissemination of Yellow 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:

- a. Changeable Message Signs
- b. Social media posts

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