

CHAPTER 7
EBONY ALERT
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CHAPTER 7

EBONY ALERT

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures associated with an Ebony Alert. The goal of an Ebony Alert is to provide information to the public, via media broadcasts and other notification resources, to solicit help from the public in the safe recovery of the missing person.

2. **BACKGROUND.** Senate Bill 673, later amended by Assembly Bill 173, established California Government Code (GC) Section 8594.14, which states if a person is reported missing to a law enforcement agency and that agency determines that the requirements are met, the law enforcement agency may request the Department to activate an Ebony Alert. If the CHP concurs that the requirements have been met, it shall activate an Ebony Alert within the appropriate geographical area requested by the investigating law enforcement agency.

3. **EBONY ALERT CRITERIA.** In accordance with GC Section 8594.14, a law enforcement agency may request that an Ebony Alert be activated if that agency determines that there is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person, and the following conditions are met regarding the investigation of the missing person:
 - a. **The missing person is between 12 to 25 years of age, inclusive.**
 - b. **The investigating law enforcement agency has used all available local resources and at least one of the following conditions are met.**
 - (1) **The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained circumstances or suspicious circumstances, including circumstances that indicate any of the following:**
 - (a) **The missing person's physical safety may be endangered.**
 - (b) **The missing person may be subject to trafficking.**
 - (2) **The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environmental or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.**

c. **Subparagraphs (1) and (2) of paragraph (b) shall be broadly construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent of this section.**

4. **PROCEDURES.** All requests for an Ebony Alert activation or assistance, shall be forwarded to the Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC).

Department personnel shall not activate an Ebony Alert without the approval of ENTAC.

5. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

a. **Departmental Employees.** Any on-duty employee who receives an initial report of a missing Black youth, including a young women or girl, 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 Ebony 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 all personnel are made aware of Ebony Alert policies, as well as any related local standard operating procedures.

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

d. **Division Commanders.**

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

e. Communications Centers.

_____ This
_____ telephone number shall only be provided to law enforcement agencies.

(2) Under no circumstances will a communications center initiate an Ebony Alert without the express approval of ENTAC.

f. 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 an Ebony 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 Ebony 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. Wireless Emergency Alerts
- b. Social media posts
- c. Changeable Message Signs

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