

INFORMATION BULLETIN



December 4, 2024

EBONY ALERT PROGRAM

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to provide law enforcement agencies with information about the Ebony Alert program.

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 673, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom, later amended by Assembly Bill 173, established 8594.14 of the Government Code (GC) and authorizes an Ebony Alert program beginning January 1, 2024. An Ebony Alert is activated when a Black youth, including young Black women and girls, who are reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, at risk, developmentally disabled, or cognitively impaired, or who have been abducted.

Government Code 8594.14(c) specifies a law enforcement agency may request an Ebony Alert be activated if they determine 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:

- (1) The missing person is between 12 to 25 years of age, inclusive.
- (2) The investigating law enforcement agency has used all available local resources and at least one of the following conditions are met.
 - (A) 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:
 - (i) The missing person's physical safety may be endangered.
 - (ii) The missing person may be subject to trafficking.
 - (B) 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.
- (3) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall be broadly construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent of this section.



TOOLS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AN EBONY ALERT

The CHP has designated the Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC) as the alerting authority for all Ebony Alerts. Law enforcement agencies can contact ENTAC directly or via their local CHP Area or communications center.

Based on the specific circumstances of the incident, ENTAC may provide the following assistance:

- Social Media Flyer Distribution.
- Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) – When appropriate, WEA capable devices within a targeted geographic area would receive an emergency alert message with an embedded hyperlink to additional information and photographs.
- California Law Enforcement Telecommunications Center Broadcast.
- Changeable Message Signs (CMS) – In cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, CMS may be activated within limited geographic regions, when appropriate.
- Investigative Assistance.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Law enforcement agencies should establish policies and procedures for requesting activation of an Ebony Alert by the CHP. Some of the items for inclusion in agency-specific policies and procedures are:

- The GC conditions for when an Ebony Alert can be activated.
- The contact information for ENTAC.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Counterterrorism and Threat Awareness Section, ENTAC, at (916) 843-4199.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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