

## Public Alerts

### 319.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for alerting the public to important information and soliciting public aid when appropriate.

### 319.2 POLICY

Public alerts may be employed using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television and press organizations and other groups to notify the public of incidents, or enlist the aid of the public, when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community. Various types of alerts may be available based upon each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

### 319.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 319.3.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees of the Urbana Police Department should notify their supervisor, shift supervisor, or Criminal Investigation Division Supervisor as soon as practicable upon learning of a situation where public notification, a warning or enlisting the help of the media and public could assist in locating a missing person, apprehending a dangerous person or gathering information.

#### 319.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor apprised of the need for a public alert is responsible to make the appropriate notifications based upon the circumstances of each situation. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Chief of Police, the appropriate Division Commander and the Public Information Officer when any public alert is generated.

The supervisor in charge of the investigation to which the alert relates is responsible for the following:

- (a) Updating alerts
- (b) Canceling alerts
- (c) Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed
- (d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Division Commander

### 319.4 AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert Notification Plan is a tool for law enforcement to promptly notify the media of a confirmed abduction so the information can be broadcast to the public for assistance in locating the child and/or abductor.

# Urbana Police Department

## Urbana PD Policy Manual

### Public Alerts

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#### 319.4.1 CRITERIA

An AMBER Alert should only be implemented when all of the following criteria are met (20 Ill. Adm. Code 1292.30):

- (a) A confirmed abduction.
- (b) The child must be under the age of 16 or have a proven mental or physical disability.
- (c) The agency has a belief the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- (d) There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

#### 319.4.2 PROCEDURE

In the event a confirmed child abduction meeting the Illinois AMBER Alert criteria has occurred the following procedures designed to alert the media shall be followed:

- (a) Notify the nearest ISP district or call the Illinois State Police Communication Center (SCC) (217) 786-6677, or fax the AMBER Fax Packet (217) 786-7191.
- (b) Include detailed information which could be helpful to the public in identifying the child.
- (c) Designate a department contact for the ISP SCC (include a name and telephone number).
- (d) Designate a secondary number (PIO) for media contacts.
- (e) Follow department policy regarding the actual investigation process involving any abducted/kidnapped child incident which takes place within this department's jurisdiction.
- (f) Disseminate necessary abduction information via a LEADS/NLETS message (sent ISPERN messages shall be coordinated through the ISP district of occurrence).
- (g) If a current portrait of the child is available, forward it electronically along with a copy of all abduction details/summaries to the ISP Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children Manager ( [missing@isp.state.il.us](mailto:missing@isp.state.il.us) ).
- (h) The individual responsible for making notifications shall also consider the following resources as the circumstances dictate:
  - 1. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI Local Office).
  - 2. Prompt entry of information into the Missing Person System (LEADS/NCIC).
  - 3. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (800) 843-5678.
- (i) The Criminal Investigation Division investigator or other individual responsible for making notifications shall prepare and fax to the previously described locations, follow-up press releases with updates regarding the search and investigation, or immediately upon locating the abducted child.

# Urbana Police Department

## Urbana PD Policy Manual

### Public Alerts

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- (j) The Criminal Investigation Division investigator or other individual responsible for making notifications shall, immediately upon locating the abducted child, ensure that updated releases to all previous distributions are sent notifying of the recovery and cancellation of the missing alerts.

#### **319.5 ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON ADVISORY**

The Endangered Missing Persons Advisory is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and local media to notify the public about a missing and endangered person.

##### 319.5.1 CRITERIA

The advisory is initiated by the department utilizing the criteria established in the definitions section of the Missing Persons Policy (50 ILCS 722/10).

##### 319.5.2 PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of a missing person report and using the above criteria, the Criminal Investigation Division investigator or other individual assigned to the investigation shall promptly determine if there is a basis to classify the missing person as high-risk and endangered and, following approval by a supervisor:

- (a) Immediately enter the missing person information, including any vehicle information, into the LEADS and the NCIC databases.
- (b) Complete the Endangered Missing Person Advisory available on the Amber Alert Task Force website ([www.amberillinois.com](http://www.amberillinois.com)) and fax the completed form to the Illinois State Police district of occurrence.
- (c) If appropriate, coordinate an ISPERN message through the Illinois State Police District of occurrence.
- (d) Upload DNA profiles as determined by the State Police into the State DNA Index System and the National DNA Index System.
- (e) Submit relevant information to the FBI Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP).
- (f) Notify department employees to be on the lookout for the high-risk missing person and/or suspected abductor.
- (g) Follow department policy regarding missing persons reporting and documentation, required notifications, conduct of the investigation and follow up investigation.
- (h) Immediately upon locating a missing high-risk individual, ensure that updated releases to all previous distributions are sent notifying of the recovery and cancellation of the missing advisory.

# Urbana Police Department

## Urbana PD Policy Manual

### *Public Alerts*

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#### **319.6 CRIMES AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS ADVISORY**

The Crimes Against Police Officers Advisory provides a regional system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a person who is suspected of committing or attempting to commit certain crimes against a peace officer (20 ILCS 2605/2605-600).

##### **319.6.1 CRITERIA**

A Crimes Against Police Officers Advisory may be initiated under the following circumstances (20 ILCS 2605/2605-600):

- (a) The Department believes that a suspect has committed one or more of the following offenses against a peace officer:
  - 1. First degree murder
  - 2. Second degree murder
  - 3. Involuntary manslaughter
  - 4. Reckless homicide
  - 5. Concealment of a homicidal death
- (b) The Department believes that the suspect may be a serious threat to the public.
- (c) Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the suspect.

##### **319.6.2 PROCEDURE**

The Illinois Department of State Police will be contacted with a request to initiate a Crimes Against Police Officers Advisory (20 ILCS 2605/2605-600).