

OGDEN CITY POLICE

Office of the Chief

Policy No: 73

Subject Public Alerts	Effective Date May 13, 2025
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated September 29, 2023
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date September 2028
Authorized Signature 	

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

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

II. POLICY

Amber alerts, blue alerts, endangered missing advisory alerts, silver alerts, and other types of alerts will be used when necessary to enhance the safety of the community. The type of alert used will depend on each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Ogden City Police Department should notify their 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.

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 appropriate Bureau 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

IV. AMBER ALERTS

AMBER Alert is the recruitment of public assistance to locate an abducted child via a widespread media alert. Utilizing the assistance of local radio, television and press affiliates the public will be notified of the circumstances of a child's abduction and how they can assist law enforcement in the child's recovery. The goal of the AMBER Alert program is the safe return of an abducted child by establishing an effective partnership between the community, the media and law enforcement. The AMBER Alert Plan is tested every year on January 13th and August 26th.

The AMBER Alert does not preclude any law enforcement agency from utilizing or implementing in-house procedures, policies, or practices.

AMBER ALERT CRITERIA

AMBER Alerts are not to be used for cases involving custodial disputes or runaways that do not meet the criteria. The Department may consider issuing an Endangered Missing Advisory to inform law enforcement and the public about cases that don't meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert.

Required AMBER Alert criteria, in accordance with UCA 53-10-1002, is as follows:

- a) A confirmed abduction.
- b) The child is 17-years of age or younger.
- c) There is a credible threat of imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death to the child.

- d) There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, alleged abductor, or the circumstances surrounding the abduction to indicate that issuing an AMBER Alert will assist in the safe recovery of the child or the apprehension of the abductor.

PROCEDURE

A. AMBER Alerts are initiated solely by Utah law enforcement agencies utilizing the Utah AMBER Alert Information Form and by meeting the guidelines set forth on that form. The supervisor in charge of the investigation should ensure:

1. The Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is contacted at 801-503-5566 and informed an AMBER Alert is about to be sent.
2. The Utah AMBER Alert Form is prepared using the Utah Criminal Justice Information System (UCJIS) in full (UAA message). A Field AMBER Alert Information Form is available on the Utah Attorney General Office website to help you gather information.
3. The information (plus photo if available) is entered in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) using the AMBER Alert Flag (AA).
4. "Hotline" telephone banks are set up and staffed. Consider allocating additional resources from other law enforcement agencies.
5. A photograph of the abducted child and/or suspect is obtained and as soon as possible and emailed or faxed to Utah AMBER Alert
6. A Public Information Officer is appointed to handle the press. Once the alert has been activated, media coverage can be overwhelming. The Public Information Officer should be updated constantly to utilize the media as much as possible and receive the maximum exposure for the case.

B. The supervisor may also consider the following resources as the circumstances dictate:

1. The regional Child Abduction Response Team (CART).
2. The State of Utah CART.

3. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI Local Office).
 4. Prompt entry of information into the Department of Justice Missing Person System (MUPS/NCIC).
 5. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
 6. Regional dispatchers may notify law enforcement agencies within their jurisdiction.
 7. BCI can contact other states if an AMBER Alert needs to be broadcast outside of Utah. BCI can also provide training or training materials.
 8. The Utah Public Information Officer Association can provide assistance.
 9. A Child is Missing will contact residents and businesses in the area where the child was last seen by using an automated telephone system. The service is free.
 10. Team Adam Provides experienced child abduction investigators, technical assistance, and equipment for free of charge to agencies during child abduction and sexual exploitation investigations.
 11. Project Alert Provides retired federal, state, and local law enforcement officers who volunteer their time and expertise as unpaid consultants in missing or exploited child cases. All travel arrangements and costs are paid for by NCMEC.
 12. Laura Recovery Center will help organize community ground searches. The nonprofit organization offers its services for free.
- C. The supervisor shall ensure the assigned Public Information Officer is provided updates regarding the search and investigation and notified immediately upon locating the abducted child.

V. BLUE ALERTS

CRITERIA

The four criteria required for a BLUE Alert are as follows:

1. A law enforcement officer has been killed, seriously injured, or assaulted with a deadly weapon by the suspect.
2. The suspect is an imminent threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel.
3. There is information available for the public about the suspect, the suspect's vehicle,, and vehicle tag.
4. Public dissemination of available information will help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of the suspect.

PROCEDURE

BLUE Alerts are initiated solely by Utah law enforcement agencies through UCJIS and by contacting the BCI.

In the event of an assault with a deadly weapon, serious bodily injury or death of an officer, the following procedures designed to alert the media shall be followed.

- A. The Public Information Officer or Watch Commander will prepare an initial press release that includes all available information which might aid in locating the suspect:
 1. The license number and/or any other available description or photograph of the vehicle.
 2. Photograph, description and/or identification of the suspect.
 3. The suspect's identity, age, and description, if known.
 4. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known.
 5. Name and phone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison.
 6. A telephone number for the public to call in with leads/information.
- B. The press release should be sent to the local television and radio stations.

- C. The information in the press release should also be forwarded to the local emergency communications center so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.

VI. ENDANGERED MISSING ADVISORY

The Endangered Missing Advisory is a system to rapidly disseminate information about a missing and/or endangered person to law enforcement agencies and the media. The Endangered Missing Advisory is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and local broadcasters for notifying the public about a missing and endangered person. The advisories are initiated solely by Utah law enforcement agencies.

CRITERIA

The following criteria must be met to initiate an Endangered Missing Advisory:

- A. The person must be missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- B. The person is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, being in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or some other factor that may put the person in peril.
- C. There is information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person.

PROCEDURE

When the required criteria are met, the assigned officer should request that Dispatch activate an Endangered Missing Advisory by entering descriptive information and officer contact information into the appropriate UCJIS transaction and by contacting the Bureau of Criminal Identification. The assigned officer is responsible to ensure that information is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

VII. SILVER ALERTS

Silver Alerts are used to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing endangered adult (Utah Code 53-10-702).

CRITERIA

The following criteria must be met to initiate a Silver Alert:

- A. The person is reported missing.
- B. The person reported missing is 60 years of age or older or has some form of Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia resulting in continual loss of memory or awareness dementia (Utah Code 53-10-703).

PROCEDURE

When the required criteria are met, the assigned officer should request that Dispatch initiate a Silver Alert by contacting BCI through the UCJIS system and providing descriptive information, the specific area in which the missing person was last seen, and the officer contact information (UT ADC R722-400-4).

VIII. OTHER ALERTS

Other channels for alert such as the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television and press organizations, or social media may be used when necessary to notify the public of incidents or to enlist the aid of the public when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community.