

POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order

Effective Date	Number
AMBER Alert Activation	

Policy

It is the policy of this Department to initiate an AMBER Alert for serious cases of child abduction, where the child’s life is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death and specific criteria supporting the AMBER Alert Activation have been met.

AMBER Alert Criteria

The AMBER Alerts shall only be activated when:

- A child, 17 years of age or younger has been abducted;
- The child is in danger of serious bodily harm, injury or death; and
- There is enough descriptive information to believe an AMBER Alert may help locate the child.

Note: AMBER Alerts are not intended for missing child incidents, runaways, or child custody situations.

Activation Procedures Duties / Responsibilities

Position	Responsibilities
Primary or Secondary Jurisdiction Responding Officer	The Responding Officer to a scene of a possible child abduction shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an initial scene assessment to determine if the AMBER Alert Criteria has been met; • Verify witnesses’ observations to the abduction; • Verify with the witnesses the actual time of the child’s abduction; • Notify the Dispatcher and/or Desk Officer with specific information and request an immediate AMBER Alert Activation; and • Remain at the scene until properly released or relieved. • Provide secure and dedicated phone number of requesting officer/agency.
Dispatcher or Desk Officer	On receiving a request for an AMBER Alert Activation, immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the Commanding Officer of an AMBER Alert Activation request; • Ensure specific information for the AMBER Alert Activation is conveyed; • Dispatch area patrols as appropriate; and • Broadcast specific information over radio communications - "BOLO".
Commanding Officer	The Commanding Officer shall immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Massachusetts Child AMBER Alert Activation Form; • Telephone (508.820.2121) and fax (508.820.2150) the Massachusetts AMBER Alert Activation Form to the Massachusetts State Police General Headquarters Communications Section OIC; • Dispatch a Supervisor to the scene of the abduction; and • Notify the Chief of Police.

Issued by:	Date:
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