

**334 PUBLIC ALERTS****334.1 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

**334.2 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.

**334.3 RESPONSIBILITIES****334.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Members of the Columbia Police Department should notify their supervisor, Watch Commander or Investigation Unit 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.

**334.3.2 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 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:

1. Updating alerts
2. Canceling alerts
3. Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed
4. Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Bureau Commander

**334.4 MISSOURI AMBER™ ALERTS**

The Missouri AMBER Alert program coordinates the efforts of law enforcement, the media, and the public in an effort to safely recover abducted children. In the event of a suspected child abduction, a local AMBER Alert should be generated first, and, if the facts warrant, the alert should be expanded beyond the local plan to a Missouri AMBER Alert.

## **334.4.1 CRITERIA**

A Missouri AMBER Alert is warranted when (11 CSR 30-10.020; § 210.1012, RSMo):

- a. The missing child qualifies as an abducted child (11 CSR 30-10.010):
  1. A child age 17 or under whose whereabouts is unknown and who has been determined by local law enforcement to be:
    - I. The victim of kidnapping as defined by § 565.110, RSMo.
    - II. The victim of the crime of child kidnapping as defined by § 565.115, RSMo, the statutory age limit notwithstanding.
- b. The child is in the custody of someone other than a parent, guardian, or other official custodial entity or sufficient evidence exists to indicate that harm may come to a child from a parent, guardian or other official custodial entity, and
- c. Sufficient descriptive information exists to enhance the possibility of recovery, such as:
  1. The time and location of the incident.
  2. A physical description of the abducted child and his/her clothing, if known.
  3. A physical description and identity, if known, of the abductor and whether the abductor is armed.
  4. A vehicle description and direction of travel.

## **334.5 ENDANGERED SILVER ADVISORIES**

An Endangered SILVER Advisory accomplishes the following:

- a. All Missouri law enforcement agencies are notified through MULES and Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) e-mail alert.
- b. Broadcasters and media are notified.
- c. The MSHP Missing Persons Unit will be notified for support and resources.
- d. The Department of Health and Senior Services Hotline will be notified.
- e. The Missouri Department of Transportation will be notified to activate message signs, if practicable.

### **334.5.1 CRITERIA**

An Endangered SILVER Advisory is warranted when:

- a. A missing person is 60 years of age or older and believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment.
- b. A legal custodian of the missing person has submitted a missing person's report to the local law enforcement agency where the person went missing.
- c. There is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing adult.

## COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy Manual

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**334.6.1 CRITERIA**

An Endangered Person Advisory is warranted when (RSMo § 650.025):

- a. The circumstances do not meet the criteria for a Missouri AMBER Alert (if they meet the criteria for a Missouri AMBER Alert, immediately follow the protocol to issue a Missouri AMBER Alert).
- b. The person is missing under unexplained, involuntary or suspicious circumstances.
- c. The person is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, and environment or weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person in peril.
- d. There is information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the missing person.