



IR45

AMBER ALERT

IR45

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POLICY

1. The Delta Police Department (Department) will participate in AMBER Alert in a manner compliant with established AMBER Alert protocols, and activate AMBER Alert in child abduction cases which meet activation criteria.

REASON FOR POLICY

2. To manage public notifications of abductions in a manner that best ensures public safety.

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AMBER Alert

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RELATED POLICIES

CS32 – Protection of Children
IR46 – Kidnapping
IR47 – Missing Persons

DEFINITIONS

3. For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions will apply:

Abduction: an incident where a child is removed from their environment without the permission of the child's legal guardian or representative.

Activation Criteria: the following five minimum requirements to activate an AMBER Alert:

- a) the victim is under the age of 18;
- b) police have reasonable grounds to believe that the victim has been abducted;
- c) police have reasonable grounds to believe that the victim is in imminent danger;
- d) police have obtained enough descriptive information about the victim and either the abductor or an involved vehicle to believe that dissemination to the public could help to locate the victim; and
- e) police believe that the AMBER Alert can be issued in a time frame that would provide reasonable expectation that the child could be returned or the abductor could be apprehended.

Authorized Officer: the following officers with authority to activate an AMBER Alert when the activation criteria are met:

- a) during business hours, the Deputy Chief Constable, if immediately available, and otherwise the Chief Constable or any other Inspector immediately available; and
- b) during non-business hours, the Duty Officer.

Cancellation Criteria: one or more of the following criteria, allowing for the cancelling of an AMBER Alert:



- a) victim is recovered;
- b) the abductor and the victim have left the Lower Mainland;
- c) twenty-four hours have passed since the AMBER Alert was activated; or
- d) the Authorized Officer, for any reason, believes cancellation is appropriate.

PROCEDURES

Activation of AMBER Alert

5. An AMBER Alert may be activated by the Authorized Officer only when all of the Activation Criteria have been met. Where an agency outside the Lower Mainland requests that the Department activate an AMBER Alert within the Lower Mainland, it is the responsibility of the Authorized Officer to ensure that the Activation Criteria have been met.

Information to Support an AMBER Alert

6. Investigating members are to seek the following victim information and, if available, provide it to support the AMBER Alert:
- a) victim particulars;
 - b) location, date and time the child was last seen;
 - c) full name, nicknames, age, gender, race, height, weight, hair/eye colour;
 - d) description of child's clothing;
 - e) identifiable markings on the child that may assist in identifying the child;
 - f) medical issues the child has (e.g., need for prescription medication, allergies or other pressing medical conditions);
 - g) belongings in the child's possession when they were last seen (e.g., book bags, backpacks, game cases, notebooks); and
 - h) recent photograph(s), preferably a close-up of the child's face.



7. Investigating members are to seek the following victim information and, if available, provide it to support the AMBER Alert:
 - a) name (if known), age, gender, race, height, weight, hair/eye colour;
 - b) clothing, dress, jewelry, body piercing, facial hair, glasses or other identifying information;
 - c) last known direction of travel and possible destination; and
 - d) if traveling in a vehicle; the vehicle description, including year, make, model, colour, license plate, distinctive insignia, personalization or damage.

8. The following police information is to be provided to support an AMBER Alert:
 - a) telephone number to be given to the public (9-1-1); and
 - b) name and contact telephone number of the Department's Public Affairs Coordinator who will field media inquiries regarding the case.

Activation Protocol

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]



When Victim and Abductor Leave Jurisdiction

20. If the Authorized Officer has information that the abductor and the victim have left the Lower Mainland, but may still be in British Columbia, consideration will be given to requesting assistance from a law enforcement agency in the new area and to activate the AMBER Alert in that area.

Duties

Authorized Officer

21. The Authorized Officer will authorize the activation and cancellation of the AMBER Alert and will oversee the protocol for as long as it is in place.

Duty NCO

22. The Duty NCO will assist the Authorized Officer as required and may call out a replacement Duty NCO to assume responsibility for patrol members.
23. Once information is gathered from the officer at scene and the Duty NCO is satisfied the criteria have been met to request activation, the Duty NCO will contact the Deputy Chief Constable, during business hours, or the On Call Duty Officer outside of business hours and relay details with the view to obtaining authorization to activate an AMBER Alert.
24. Once authorization is obtained, the Duty NCO has the authority to maintain communications with E-Comm 911 and authorize updates to be sent to E DIV OCC and the Activation Team.
25. The Duty NCO will request Investigative Services to investigate the case.
26. The Duty NCO is to authorize CPIC Unit staff, or after hours E-Comm 911, to send CPIC fan-outs to E DIV OCC for province wide dissemination.
27. The Duty NCO is to contact the AMBER Alert Activation Team to initiate the activation to external partner agencies, including the Broadcast Media Coordinator.
28. If necessary, the Duty NCO may arrange for additional staff to handle increased workloads resulting from the AMBER Alert.
29. The Deputy Chief Constable or the on-call Duty Officer, as the case may be, will attend HQ to assist the Duty NCO during this activation.



30. The Duty NCO is to advise all members and broadcast to all units that there is an AMBER Alert in effect, and instruct members to maintain minimum radio transmissions, other than radio transmissions of an urgent nature, until such time as a dispatcher is assigned to handle communications, other than the AMBER Alert.

Investigating Member

31. The investigating member will attend the call of a missing or possible abducted child and establish the circumstances of the complaint. In consultation with the supervisor or in the absence of the supervisor, the Duty NCO, the investigating member and supervisor will determine if all AMBER Alert criteria are met.
32. If the criteria are met, the investigating member must make direct contact with the Duty NCO and relay the details as known and request authorization to activate AMBER Alert be obtained from the Authorizing Officer.
33. Once authorization is received, the investigating member will provide all relevant details to E-Comm 911 Dispatch Centre.
34. The investigating member will convey victim, suspect and/or suspect vehicle information to CPIC Unit staff, or after hours to E-Comm 911, in order for the information to be input into the AMBER Alert CPIC message template and sent to E DIV OCC for province wide dissemination.

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Public Affairs Coordinator

37. The Public Affairs Coordinator will field all inquiries from the media and may refer specific inquiries about AMBER Alert to official AMBER Alert spokespersons.

Investigative Services

38. The Inspector i/c Investigative Services will assign investigators to investigate the missing person, in accordance with major crime investigative procedures.
39. All in-progress and late report tip calls shall be immediately transferred to E-Comm 911.

AMBER Alert Review



Response to an Outside Agency's AMBER Alert

41. In the event of AMBER Alert activation from another agency, the Duty NCO is to ensure all members are aware of the Alert and actively engaged in searching for the victim and suspect.
42. Upon receipt of an AMBER Alert activation message issued by another agency, E-Comm 911 will:
- a) broadcast the AMBER Alert details to members, ensuring that all members acknowledge the transmission; and
 - b) send a copy of the CPIC message to all on duty members' MDT.
43. During regular business hours, the Duty NCO shall notify the Deputy Chief Constable for information purposes only, and after hours, the Duty NCO shall pass the information to the oncoming dayshift Duty NCO who shall advise the Deputy Chief Constable.



Delta Police Department Policy

*Revised Dates:
01 May 2008
16 February 2012
12 December 2013
23 May 2017