

**James W. Johnson**  
Chief of Police

**Baltimore County Police Department**  
Headquarters  
700 E. Joppa Road  
Towson, MD 21286  
(410) 887-2214  
Fax (410) 887-8887



**"INTEGRITY...FAIRNESS...SERVICE"**

**SPECIAL ORDER # 2015-08**

**DATE: December 10, 2015**

**TO: All Police Department Personnel. To be Announced at Roll Call and a Copy Posted on the Department's Intranet Site.**

**RE:** Yellow Alert Program.

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately.

**BACKGROUND:** Maryland has a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in cases of critically missing juveniles (i.e., Amber Alert Plan), vulnerable adults (i.e., Silver Alert Program) and serious attacks on law enforcement officers (i.e., Blue Alert Program).

These alerts involve the use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), State Highway Administration's (SHA) overhead Dynamic Message Signs, and notifications to local 9-1-1 centers and the media to air a description of the known facts.

To expand on this partnership, Maryland Senate Bill 86 established a statewide Yellow Alert Program to provide a system for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating and apprehending a "missing suspect" who is suspected of failing to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in "serious bodily injury" or death.

**PURPOSE:** To establish procedures for use of the Yellow Alert Program.

**RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENTAL VALUES:** The Yellow Alert Program supports the Department value of **SERVICE** by ensuring members have access to this resource for attempting to apprehend subjects involved in serious hit and run accidents.

**POLICY:** Department members wishing to use the Yellow Alert Program will comply with the regulations developed by the Maryland State Police (MSP).

**PROCEDURES:**

**DEFINITIONS**

- **Missing Suspect** - an individual whose whereabouts are unknown; who is suspected of a violation of the Transportation Article relating to failing to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death; and whose vehicle is able to be described to include any information about the vehicle's registration plate.
- **Serious Bodily Injury** - an injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious permanent or serious protracted disfigurement; causes serious permanent or serious protracted loss of the function of any body part, organ, or mental faculty; or causes serious permanent or serious protracted impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

## **SPECIAL ORDER #2015-08 (Continuation)**

### **YELLOW ALERT PROGRAM USE**

- To apprehend a missing suspect for a hit and run accident that might result in:
  1. Serious bodily injury.
  2. Death.

**NOTE:** If the missing suspect or vehicle has not been located within 24 hours the alert is self-cancelling.

### **ACTIVATION CRITERIA**

- Sufficient descriptive information is known about the missing suspect's vehicle to enable law enforcement to assist in the suspect's apprehension.

### **ACTIVATION PROHIBITION**

- When releasing information to the media/public would compromise the integrity of an investigation.

### **INVESTIGATING OFFICERS**

- Verify the activation criteria have been met.
- Notify their supervisor to request activation of the program.
- Complete the appropriate report whether a Yellow Alert is utilized or not.

### **SHIFT COMMANDERS**

- Request the activation of the Yellow Alert Program by contacting the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer, upon confirmation of the activation criteria.
- Provide the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer with callback information and a point of contact.
- Notify the Media & Communications Section, in addition to all other required Department notifications.
- Contact the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer to cancel the Yellow Alert when the subject of the alert has been located.
- Make notification to the activating agency and the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer, in the event another law enforcement agency activated the alert and the subject is located in Baltimore County.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This Special Order will be distributed electronically to all Department members. Shift/Unit supervisors will be responsible for the referencing of this Special Order.

By order of,

James W. Johnson  
*Chief of Police*