

Public Alerts

315.1 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.

315.2 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.

315.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

315.3.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Fresno State Police Department should notify their supervisor, Shift Sergeant, or Investigations 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.

315.3.2 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 Lieutenant 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
- (d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Lieutenant

315.4 TIMELY WARNING

The University will issue a timely warning as soon as pertinent information is available when a Clery reportable crime is reported to Fresno State PD or a designated campus security authority, occurred in a Clery defined geographical area, and a case by case analysis of pertinent facts is known is completed, and a determination is made that an on-going or continuing threat to the community exists.

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The Chief of Police is responsible for the decision to issue a timely warning (or a management designee in the absence of the Chief) and will confer with the Clery Director if available, upon receiving a report of an incident reported to a CSA and/or Fresno State Police. The Chief of Police, with the Clery Director if available, will complete a case by case analysis utilizing open communication and collaboration analyzing the reported crime, the known pertinent facts of a reported incident, and determine whether the incident meets all of the following factors:

1. Is a Clery reportable crime;
2. Occurred in Clery defined geography; and
3. Poses a serious or ongoing threat to the community

If it is determined that any of the three factors are not met, then no timely warning will be issued.

If it is determined that all three factors are met, the Chief of Police (or management designee in the absence of the Chief) will determine the content of the timely warning bulletin, disseminate the timely warning expeditiously in a manner likely to reach the entire campus community utilizing one or more, and not limited to, the following methods to issue the timely warning bulletin:

1. All employee and student e-mail distributions
2. University website

For clarity to the community when a timely warning is issued it will be titled "Timely Warning Crime Bulletin" and include the following:

1. A statement that the Timely Warning Crime Bulletin is being issued in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act and the purpose is to provide preventative information to the campus community to aid members from becoming the victim of a similar crime.
2. The Clery Act reportable crime that occurred.
3. The date, time, and location the crime occurred.
4. The date the Timely Warning Crime Bulletin is issued.
5. A description of the suspect, and name if known, when the suspect is at large and evading apprehension and/or law enforcement is seeking assistance from the public to locate.
6. Preventative information specifically related to the type of crime which occurred that could help others from becoming the victim of a similar crime.

The Timely Warning Crime Bulletin will not include, under any circumstances, the name of the victim, or information so specific that would or likely could identify the victim of the crimes of sexual violence to include rape, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Issuance of timely warnings will be delayed only if the issuance would compromise the apprehension of the suspect or compromise the ability of law enforcement to investigate the crime.

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315.5 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

The University will issue emergency notifications in response to a confirmed significant emergency or a dangerous situation, occurring in the Clery defined "on-campus" geography that, in the judgment of the University, constitutes an immediate threat to the health or safety of members of the on-campus community

Once the Fresno State Police Department has received the report, the Chief of Police, (or management designee in the absence of the Chief), will confer with the appropriate public official (e.g., fire chief, health department) and any campus officials responsible for managing the on-campus emergency, if available, to confirm both: 1. and emergency or dangerous situation in fact exist in on-campus geography; and 2. the emergency or dangerous situation poses an immediate or imminent threat to members of the on-campus community. If both of the factors are not met, no emergency notification will be issued.

If it is determined that both of the above factors are met, then an emergency notification will be issued to the community. The Chief of Police (or management designee in the absence of the Chief), will confer with the Clery Director if one is designated and if available, to prepare the content of the notification taking into account the safety of the on-campus community. They will also determine, based on the confirmed facts of the emergency, if the entire campus community or only a specific segment of the on-campus community is threatened and need to be notified. Examples of emergencies where only a segment might be alerted would be a fire contained in a dorm laundry room where only the residents of that one dorm floor or of that one dorm building are at risk and need to evacuate, or a chemical spill in a lab where only the one room, floor, or the occupants of that one building are at risk and need to evacuate.

Once the notification is prepared, the Chief of Police or the Clery Director if one is designated, or in their absence, the management designee(s) will, without delay and taking into account the safety of the community, transmit the emergency notification unless doing so would delay the ability to mitigate and/or contain the emergency, including the ability to provide immediate, life saving measures.

Distribution methods of emergency notifications may include but are not limited to one or more of the following methods:

- The campus mass notification system, including but not limited to phone, campus email, or text messaging
- Audio/visual message boards
- Audible alarms/sirens
- Campus public address systems
- In-person or door-to-door notifications in a building or residence halls
- Other means appropriate under the circumstances

In addition, emergency information may be available to the greater community using local and regional media, social media (Facebook, Twitter), the University web page, or the

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University Emergency Hotline. Communication using these means is coordinated by University Communications.

The Chief of Police or the Clery Director if one is designated, or in their absence, the management designee(s) will provide follow-up notifications and information until the emergency is mitigated and no longer poses a threat.

If an Emergency notification is issued, a timely warning will not be issued to the community for the same incident.

The only reason the University will delay the issuance of a notification for a confirmed significant emergency or dangerous situation would be if issuance of the notification would compromise efforts to assist a victim or contain, respond to, or mitigate the emergency.

315.6 AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert™ Program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless industry, to activate urgent bulletins in child abduction cases.

315.6.1 CRITERIA FOR AMBER ALERT

The following conditions must be met before activating an AMBER Alert (Government Code § 8594(a)):

- (a) A child has been abducted or taken by anyone, including but not limited to a custodial parent or guardian.
- (b) The victim is 17 years of age or younger, or has a proven mental or physical disability.
- (c) The victim is in imminent danger of serious injury or death.
- (d) There is information available that, if provided to the public, could assist in the child's safe recovery.

315.6.2 PROCEDURE FOR AMBER ALERT

The supervisor in charge will ensure the following:

- (a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that might aid in locating the child:
 - 1. The child's identity, age and description
 - 2. Photograph if available
 - 3. The suspect's identity, age and description, if known
 - 4. Pertinent vehicle description
 - 5. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
 - 6. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison

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7. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information
- (b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center should be contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast, following any policies and procedures developed by CHP (Government Code § 8594).
- (c) The press release information is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.
- (d) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS).
- (e) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Department of Justice Missing and Unidentified Persons System (MUPS)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- (f) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:
 1. The local FBI office
 2. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

315.7 BLUE ALERTS

Blue Alerts may be issued when an officer is killed, injured or assaulted and the suspect may pose a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.

315.7.1 CRITERIA FOR BLUE ALERTS

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Blue Alert (Government Code § 8594.5):

- (a) A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffered serious bodily injury or has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense.
- (b) The investigating law enforcement agency has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.
- (c) A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast.
- (d) Public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of the suspect.

315.7.2 PROCEDURE FOR BLUE ALERT

The supervisor in charge should ensure the following:

- (a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that 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

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4. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
 5. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison
 6. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information
- (b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center is contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast.
- (c) The information in the press release is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.
- (d) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:
1. Entry into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS)
 2. The FBI local office

315.8 SILVER ALERTS

Silver Alerts® is an emergency notification system for people who are 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired and have been reported missing (Government Code § 8594.10).

315.8.1 CRITERIA FOR SILVER ALERTS

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Silver Alert (Government Code § 8594.10):

- (a) The missing person is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired.
- (b) The department has utilized all available local resources.
- (c) The investigating officer or supervisor has determined that the person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- (d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- (e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

315.8.2 PROCEDURE FOR SILVER ALERT

Requests for a Silver Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.10).

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315.9 MUTUAL AID

The experiences of other law enforcement jurisdictions that have implemented similar plans indicate a public alert will generate a high volume of telephone calls to the handling agency.

The Sheriff's Department emergency communications facilities and staff can be made available in the event of a high call volume.

If the Shift Sergeant or Investigations Supervisor elects to use the services of the Sheriff's Department, the following will apply:

- (a) Notify the Sheriff's Department Shift Sergeant of the incident and the request for assistance. The Shift Sergeant will provide a telephone number for the public to call.
- (b) In the press release, direct the public to the telephone number provided by the Sheriff's Department Shift Sergeant.
- (c) The Public Information Officer will continue to handle all press releases and media inquiries. Any press inquiries received by the Sheriff's Department will be referred back to this department.

The Fresno State Police Department shall assign a minimum of two detectives/officers to respond to the Sheriff's Department emergency communications facility to screen and relay information and any clues received from incoming calls. As circumstances dictate, more staff resources from the handling law enforcement agency may be necessary to assist the staff at the emergency communications facility.

315.10 YELLOW ALERT

A Yellow Alert may be issued when a person is killed due to a hit-and-run incident and the department has specified information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle (Government Code § 8594.15).

315.10.1 CRITERIA FOR YELLOW ALERT

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Yellow Alert (Government Code § 8594.15):

- (a) A person has been killed due to a hit-and-run incident.
- (b) There is an indication that a suspect has fled the scene utilizing the state highway system or is likely to be observed by the public on the state highway system.
- (c) The department has additional information concerning the suspect or the suspect's vehicle including but not limited to the following:
 1. The complete license plate number of the suspect's vehicle.
 2. A partial license plate number and additional unique identifying characteristics, such as the make, model, and color of the suspect's vehicle, which could reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.
 3. The identity of a suspect.

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4. Public dissemination of available information could either help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of a suspect based on any factor, including but not limited to the time elapsed between a hit-and-run incident and the request or the likelihood that an activation would reasonably lead to the apprehension of a suspect.

315.10.2 PROCEDURE FOR YELLOW ALERT

Requests for a Yellow Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.15).

315.11 FEATHER ALERT

A Feather Alert may be issued when an indigenous person is reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances (Government Code § 8594.13).

315.11.1 CRITERIA FOR FEATHER ALERT

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Feather Alert (Government Code § 8594.13):

- (a) The missing person is an indigenous person.
- (b) The Department has utilized local and tribal resources.
- (c) The investigating officer has determined the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- (d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- (e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

315.11.2 PROCEDURE FOR FEATHER ALERT

Requests for a Feather Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.13).