



## NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



#### BLUE ALERT 300.30

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-16-21

APPROVED:

  
Chief of Police

SUPERSEDES: n/a

CFA: 15.20

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#### I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the activation and use of the Blue Alert System.

#### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the North Miami Police Department to issue a Blue Alert when a law enforcement officer is killed, has suffered serious bodily injury, has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, is missing while in the line of duty, and the suspect is still at large, or there is an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause serious injury or death to a law enforcement officer.

**CFA 15.20**

#### III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the Department.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS

Blue Alert System – An emergency alert system utilized when a law enforcement officer has been killed, has suffered serious bodily injury, has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, is missing in the line of duty and the suspect is still at large, or there is an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause serious injury or death to a law enforcement officer.

Emergency Alert System – A means of disseminating information to the public via television, radio, dynamic message signs along highways, or any other authorized means.

## V. ACTIVATION CRITERIA

Prior to the activation of a Blue Alert, the Uniform Patrol Supervisor on the scene must ensure all of the following criteria are met:

- A. A law enforcement officer has been killed, has suffered serious bodily injury, or has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, **OR**
- B. A law enforcement officer is missing, while in the line of duty, under circumstances evidencing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.
- C. The suspect has fled the scene of the offense.
- D. A determination has been made that the suspect poses an imminent threat to other law enforcement officers.
- E. A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or other means of escape, or the license plate of the suspect's vehicle is available for broadcasting, as dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect.
- F. If a law enforcement officer is missing, there must be sufficient information available relating to the officer's last known location and physical description, and the description of any vehicle involved, including the license plate number or other identifying information, to be broadcast to the public and other law enforcement agencies, which could assist in locating the missing law enforcement officer.

## VI. PROCEDURES

- A. If the Blue Alert criteria is met, the Uniform Patrol Supervisor shall notify the Shift Commander of the incident. In the case that a Uniform Patrol Supervisor is killed, incapacitated, or missing, and no other supervisor is available to immediately respond to the incident, the primary officer assigned to the incident shall notify the Shift Commander.
- B. The Shift Commander, or his/her designee, shall:

1. Contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Florida Fusion Center (FFC) - Intelligence Watch and Warning (IWW) at:

**850-410-7645**

This phone line is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

2. An FDLE Supervisor will work with the Department to ensure the activation criteria have been met and offer assistance, if necessary.
3. IWW will work with the involved investigators to prepare information for public release, including suspect and/or vehicle information, as well as agency contact information. This includes:
  - a. Notifying law enforcement agencies throughout the state.
  - b. Displaying Blue Alert information on road signs, lottery machines, and the 511 System.
  - c. Activating the Emergency Alert System on the radio and television in the surrounding area.

## **VII. ALERT UPDATES & CANCELLATION**

Responsibility for Blue Alert updates will transfer from the Shift Commander to the Investigative Section Commander, or his/her designee, once the Investigative Section arrives on scene and assumes control of the investigation. Any necessary updates required prior to the Investigative Section taking control of the investigation will remain the Shift Commander's responsibility.

- A. In the event that information disseminated via Blue Alert must be updated, or the Blue Alert's broadcast area must be changed, the same procedure as outlined in Section VI will be utilized to request the update.
- B. In the event that the suspect is taken into custody, or if the investigation concludes that cancellation of the Blue Alert is beneficial to the continuation of the investigation, the Investigative Section Commander will notify the Chief of Police, via the chain of command, and upon approval, will follow the procedure outlined in Section VI to request the cancellation of the Blue Alert.