

# SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Guideline

<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/11/2018	<b>Supersedes Policy Dated:</b> 12/15/2017	<b>Rescinds:</b>	<b>SOG Number:</b>  <b>409.10</b>
<b>Accreditation Index:</b>			
<b>Part Title:</b> Operations	<b>Chapter Title:</b> Emergency Operations		
<b>Chief of Police:</b>			

## Blue Alert System

### I Policy

It is the policy of the Springfield Police Department to utilize the Missouri Blue Alert System to rapidly disseminate information to other law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent threat to law enforcement.

### II Definitions

**Blue Alert System** – A state-wide system to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of any individual(s) suspected of killing or seriously wounding any local, state, or federal law enforcement officer. The Blue Alert System uses public safety communication networks, radio and television broadcasts through the Emergency Alert System, text messages, MoDOT message boards, and other technology to quickly disseminate pertinent information to other law enforcement agencies and the public.

### III Procedure

#### 1 CRITERIA

1.1 The criteria for initiating a Blue Alert are as follows:

- 1.1.1 A law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; OR
- 1.1.2 An officer is missing in connection with official duties; OR
- 1.1.3 There is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer; AND
- 1.1.4 There is actionable information known about a suspect for a public notification to be helpful to law enforcement; AND

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1.1.5 The law enforcement agency involved requests or approves the alert being issued.

## **2 IMPLEMENTATION**

2.1 Once it has been determined that the Blue Alert criteria have been met, a Patrol Supervisor or their designee will contact the Records Section and provide the information needed to initiate the Blue Alert process.

2.2 Records personnel will complete the Missouri State Highway Patrol Blue Alert form (SHP-721) located on the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) website at <http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/DDCC/BlueAlert/SH P-721.pdf>.<sup>1</sup>

2.2.1 Records personnel will enter the name of the authorizing Patrol Supervisor or designee in the appropriate space on the form.

2.3 Records personnel shall send the completed Blue Alert form along with any attachments (e.g. photographs, maps, etc.) to Missouri State Highway Patrol – Troop F Headquarters via email ([TroopF.Radio@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:TroopF.Radio@mshp.dps.mo.gov)) or fax (573-751-6814). Email is the preferred method to receive the forms.

2.4 If an officer is missing, Records personnel shall create an NCIC entry using the Endangered Missing (EME) code through MULES.

2.5 The on-duty Records Supervisor will contact MSHP Troop F Headquarters by telephone (573-751-1000) to verify the Blue Alert was received and entered.

2.6 The authorizing Patrol Supervisor will contact the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to issue a full media alert.

## **3 CANCELLATION**

3.1 Cancellation of a Blue Alert must be authorized by a supervisor or the follow-up investigator assigned to the case.

3.2 A Blue Alert form must be completed with the “Cancellation” box marked and a brief description of the cancellation details in the “Brief Circumstances” box. The form may be completed by the person authorizing the cancellation or by Records personnel.

3.3 Records personnel shall email or fax the completed form to MSHP Troop F Headquarters and then call to verify the form was received (contact information is listed above).

3.4 If an officer who had been entered as a missing person was located, Records personnel shall cancel the missing person entry in MULES/NCIC.

3.5 The supervisor or follow-up investigator authorizing the Blue Alert cancellation shall notify the PAO to close the media alert.

## **IV Attachments**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2.2 revised, form number and website link corrected, per Policy Change Order 18-023.