AMBER

AMBER Alerts notify the public of abducted children, meeting the below criteria:

- Is this child 17 years of age or younger, whose whereabouts are unknown, and whose disappearance law enforcement has determined to be unwilling which poses a credible threat to the child's safety and health; and if abducted by a parent or legal guardian, was the abduction in the course of an attempted murder or murder?

  OR

- Is this child 13 years of age or younger, who was taken (willingly or unwillingly) without permission from the care and custody of a parent or legal guardian by:
  - ♦ someone unrelated and more than three years older,

    OR
  - ♦ another parent or legal guardian who attempted or committed murder at the time of the abduction?
- Is this child in immediate danger of sexual assault, death or serious bodily injury?
- Has a preliminary investigation verified the abduction and eliminated alternative explanations for the child's disappearance?
- Is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public to help locate the child, a suspect, or the vehicle used in the abduction?

Silver

Silver Alerts notify the public of missing older adults with a mental condition, meeting the below criteria:

- Is the missing person 65 years of age or older or been diagnosed with Alzheimer's?
- Does the senior citizen have a diagnosed impaired mental condition, and does the senior citizen's disappearance pose a credible threat to the senior citizen's health and safety? (Law enforcement shall require the family or legal guardian of the missing senior citizen to provide documentation* from a medical or mental health professional of the senior citizen's condition).
- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place verifying that the senior citizen's disappearance is due to his/her impaired mental condition, and alternative reasons for the senior citizen's disappearance have been ruled out?
- Is the Silver Alert request within 72 hours of the senior citizen's disappearance?
- Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the senior citizen? (Highway signs will be activated only if accurate vehicle information is available AND it is confirmed that the senior citizen was driving the vehicle at the time of the disappearance).

** It is recommended to obtain a physician's letterhead indicating the mental condition, date of diagnosis, patient's name, with physician's signature, prior to a wandering incident.*

Blue

Blue Alerts notify the public of suspects who have either killed or seriously injured a peace officer, meeting the below criteria:

- A law enforcement officer must have been killed or seriously injured by an offender.
- The investigating law enforcement agency must determine that the offender poses a serious risk or threat to the public and other law enforcement personnel.
- A detailed description of the offender's vehicle, vehicle tag, or partial tag must be available for broadcast to the public.
- The investigating law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend activation of the Blue Alert to the State Operations Center (Texas Division of Emergency Management).

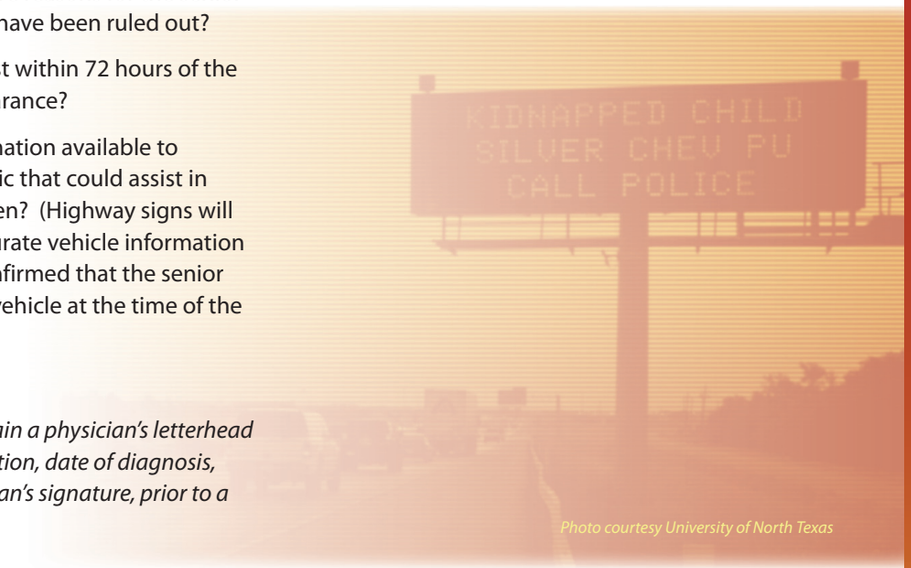

Photo courtesy University of North Texas

Endangered Missing Persons

Endangered Missing Persons Alerts notify the public of missing individuals with an intellectual disability, meeting the below criteria:

- Has the missing person been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability and/or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, including Asperger's Disorder, Autistic Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (Not Otherwise Specified)? If the missing person has been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability, law enforcement shall require a written diagnosis* from a physician or psychologist licensed to practice within Texas, or certified by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and/or Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place, verifying that a reasonable explanation for the missing person's disappearance has been ruled out and that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the missing person?
- Is the Endangered Missing Persons Alert request being made within 72 hours of the missing person's disappearance?
- Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing person? (Highway signs will be activated only if accurate vehicle information is available AND it is confirmed that the missing person was in the vehicle at the time of the disappearance).

** It is recommended to obtain a written diagnosis from a physician or psychologist, prior to a wandering incident.*

History & Purpose

Local community reaction to the brutal kidnapping and death of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman of Arlington, TX (1996), prompted local media and law enforcement to create the nation's first AMBER Alert program in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area. AMBER Alerts inform the public of serious child abductions, in an effort to promote tips and leads to law enforcement. In memory of the tragic death of Amber Hagerman, the letters of her name can be seen within the title of the program, **A**merica's **M**issing: **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse (AMBER).

In 2002, Governor Rick Perry created the state's AMBER Alert network per Executive Order RP-16, later codified through legislation in 2003. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) was given legislative authority to coordinate the state's AMBER Alert network, which has served as the role model for the subsequent Silver, Blue and Endangered Missing Persons alert programs.

State Network

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), coordinates the dissemination of qualifying missing person advisories involving the below resource partners, known as the State Network:

- Texas Department of Transportation;
- National Weather Service*;
- Law Enforcement;
- Media;
- Texas Lottery Commission;
- Independent Bankers Association of Texas;
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*; and
- Texas Department of Public Safety.

∗ *AMBER Alert Resources Only.*

Only a law enforcement agency can make a request to activate the State Network. Each alert program has a specific set of criteria designed to ensure network integrity and prevent public desensitization. Alerts can be issued within any Texas geographical area, including statewide.

AMBER
SILVER
BLUE
ENDANGERED
MISSING PERSONS

Receive Alerts

Twitter:
Texas Alerts@TX_Alerts
https://twitter.com/TX_Alerts

Missing Person Flyer Subscription:
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):
https://txsubscribealerts.dps.texas.gov/

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)
Secondary Distribution Partners:
http://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/amber

Cell Phone Notifications

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
AMBER & Wireless Emergency Alerts
http://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/amber

State Alert Program Website

Texas Department of Public Safety
https://www.dps.texas.gov/intelligenceCounterTerrorism/Alerts/index.htm

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLEASE STAND BY

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS CAPABLE

ICT-3 (Rev. 7/19)

AMBER
SILVER
BLUE
ENDANGERED
MISSING PERSONS

State of Texas AMBER Silver Blue Endangered Missing Persons Alert Programs

Department of Public Safety · Texas · Courtesy · Service · Protection

Texas Department of Public Safety · Intelligence & Counterterrorism Division