Florida's Silver Alert Plan
Policy

The Florida Chiefs and Sheriffs, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and Florida legislators have worked in conjunction with concerned citizens/organizations to develop Florida's Silver Alert Plan.

The Statewide Silver Alert is a plan to aid local law enforcement in the rescue or recovery of a missing elderly person who suffers from irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties. The Silver Alert Plan recognizes that the most effective response to a missing senior citizen leverages community resources for the search to augment the investigative response by the local law enforcement agency. The Plan further acknowledges Silver Alerts should be activated through the investigating local law enforcement agency which is in the best position to notify the media and disseminate the information through avenues such as neighborhood telephone alerts and other technologies the agency may have to communicate with its citizens.

Local agencies are encouraged to adopt the below standardized criteria and incorporate it into their local plan and to add any other specific community resources available in the event of an activation. Local law enforcement agencies should develop policies and procedures that will work best in their respective jurisdictions to broadcast information about missing endangered persons to the public and the media. As a part of our statewide initiative, the use of A Child is Missing, Inc. and Media Alert are available at no charge to local agencies for Silver Alerts. Additionally, the FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse may also be contacted for assistance and to open a case.

In the event that a vehicle is used in the Silver Alert incident, the statewide messaging system may also be activated. This is accomplished by using FDOT's highway dynamic message signs and other highway advisory methods. This Alert will enhance and supplement the local agency response by broadcasting vehicle information about the missing person to motorists and the general public.

CRITERIA

The standardized criteria for the Florida Silver Alert Plan are as follows:

1. **[1]Missing person must be 60 years or older and there must be a clear indication that the individual has an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties (i.e., dementia). This must be verified by law enforcement**
   or;
   under extraordinary circumstances when a person age 18 to 59 has irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties and law enforcement has determined the missing person lacks the capacity to consent, and that the use of dynamic message signs may be the only possible way to rescue the missing person.

The primary criteria for FDOT/FHP/FDLE dynamic message sign activation, in which all criteria must be met, in addition to the above are:

[1] Law enforcement shall require the parent, spouse, guardian, legal custodian, or person responsible for the supervision of the missing person to provide specific information which may, but not necessarily shall, include documentation from medical or mental health professional of the person's condition.

- **Local law enforcement has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlet in theirs and/or surrounding jurisdictions;**
- **The law enforcement agency's investigation must conclude that the disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety;**
- **There must be a description of the vehicle, and a tag number to display on the Florida Department of Transportation dynamic message signs;**
- **Local law enforcement must verify vehicle and tag information;**
- **Local law enforcement agency must have entered the missing person into the Florida Crime Information Center and issued a statewide BOLO to other law enforcement/911 centers**.

ACTIVATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. **The local law enforcement agency will call the FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) at 1-888-356-4774.**

2. **The FDLE will work in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction to determine if the information is to be broadcast regionally or statewide.**

3. **The FDLE will work in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction to prepare vehicle information using approved FDOT format(s).**

4. **The FDLE will contact FDOT's Orlando Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) by calling 407-736-1900 to alert staff of the Silver Alert. FDLE will email or fax the actual Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) form to the Orlando RTMC to 407-736-1918.**

5. **The FDOT Orlando RTMC staff will relay the request to appropriate RTMC staff in the State to activate the Florida Silver Alert. The FDOT will display the message until the missing elderly person is recovered/rescued or for a maximum of 6 hours. The FDOT will display the alert message on all requested DMSs and other highway advisory methods, unless a traffic emergency occurs that requires an individual or group of DMSs to display a motorist safety message.**

6. **The FDLE will contact the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Center in Orlando at 407-275-4167 in order to alert a supervisor, duty officers, or other call taker of the Silver Alert. The FDLE will then fax or email all available information concerning the missing elderly person to the FHP Communications Center in Orlando at 407-737-2217. The FHP supervisor in Orlando is then responsible for relaying all information via telephone and fax to the appropriate FHP Communications Center(s) in the region(s) where the activation is occurring.**

1. **The FDLE will follow the same activation steps listed above if an additional activation is required containing revised vehicle information and/or broadcast area.**

2. **Once FDLE is contacted that the elderly person has been recovered/rescued, the FDLE will immediately contact the supervisor at FHP at 407-275-4167 and FDOT at 407-736-1900, to cancel the Silver Alert. The FDLE will follow up with an email of the cancellation. The FHP supervisor in Orlando is responsible for relaying cancellation information to FHP Communications Centers that were previously notified.**

RESOURCES

- **Local media outlets**
- **Media Alert at 1-813-282-8612**
- **A Child is Missing, Inc. at 1-888-875-2246**
- **Florida Department of Elder Affairs at SilverAlert@elderaffairs.org**
- **Project Lifesaver at http://www.projectlifesaver.org/members/members.aspx?state=FL**

For more information about the Florida's Silver Alert Plan
Please contact the FDLE/MEPIC at
1-888-356-4774

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