

SPECIAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject	Silver Alert
Number	SO-13-10
Effective Date	October 24, 2013
Related to:	GO-OPS-304.03 (Missing Person Reports), Effective Date November 21, 2013
Rescinds:	TT-12-097-12 (Implementation of the DC Silver Alert System), Issued December 26, 2012

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I. BACKGROUND

To better assist those caring for elderly family members who are reported missing, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), in cooperation of the District of Columbia Office of Aging (DCOA), Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), Maryland/DC/Delaware Broadcasters' Association, and District Department of Transportation (DDOT), has developed the DC Silver Alert Plan.

As with the AMBER Alert Plan, the Silver Alert Plan is an emergency system, in which law enforcement agencies can broadcast regional or statewide alerts, for missing persons 65 years of age and older. The Silver Alert Plan allows for collaboration with local agencies and broadcast stations for the swift and safe return of seniors who are reported as missing.

Upon activation of a Silver Alert, the DCOA will assist by forwarding information to DCOA's community stakeholders, including the Senior Service Network; HSEMA will broadcast the alert using their information distribution systems including the Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN) information system; DDOT will assist through activation of dynamic message signs and the Highway Advisory Radio; and participating area radio, television, and cable broadcasters will assist by providing Silver Alert information to the listening and viewing public.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this order, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

1. Missing Person –
 - a. Adult or juvenile person missing from his/her lawful place of abode in the District of Columbia for a period of time that is regarded by knowledgeable parties as highly unusual or suspicious in consideration of the subject's behavior patterns, plans or routines; or
 - b. Adult or juvenile person, regardless of lawful place of abode, who is reported missing for a period of time that is regarded by knowledgeable parties as highly unusual or suspicious in consideration of the subject's behavior patterns, plans or routines **and** there is credible information indicating that the person was last believed to be within the District of Columbia.
 - c. Person twenty-one (21) years of age and under who is reported missing **and** who was placed by court order into a group home operated or contracted by the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) or Court Social Services (CSS) **shall not** be classified as a "Missing Person." The incident shall be classified as a "Placement Violation" by the Telephone Reporting Unit, Office of Unified Communications consistent with Part V.C of GO-OPS-304.03 (Missing Person Reports).
2. Senior – Person sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
3. Silver Alert – Early notification tracking system used by law enforcement to alert the general public when seniors sixty-five (65) years of age and older are reported as missing and the circumstances meet the requirements for initiating a Silver Alert as outlined in Part III of this order.
4. Silver Coordinator – MPD member designated by the Commander, Youth Investigations Division (YID), coordinates with partner agencies on the issuance and termination of Silver Alerts.

III. REGULATIONS

The Silver Alert Plan shall only be activated when **all** of the following criteria are met:

- A. The individual reported as missing is sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
- B. It is believed that the missing person is in imminent danger or at grave risk of bodily harm.

- C. The responding member has completed a thorough preliminary investigation procedures (e.g., a foot canvass), as outlined in GO-OPS-304.03, to verify the missing person report and to eliminate alternative explanations for the person's absence.
- D. The central complaint number (CCN) is provided to the Silver Alert Coordinator. The Silver Alert Coordinator may be contacted through the Command Information Center (CIC).

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. When responding to a call that a senior is missing, and the responding member believes the criteria have been met to activate the Silver Alert Plan, the responding member shall immediately notify his/her District Watch Commander.
- B. The District Watch Commander shall notify the Watch Commander, Command Information Center (CIC), as soon as possible, but in no case later than one (1) hour after the senior is reported missing.
- C. The Watch Commander, CIC, shall ensure that the Silver Coordinator [Commander, Youth Investigations Division (YID), or his/her designee]; the appropriate District Commander; and the Field Commander are notified.
- D. The Silver Coordinator, or his/her designee, shall make the final determination to authorize the activation of the Silver Alert.
- E. The Silver Alert Coordinator shall notify the MPD Public Information Office (PIO), DC Office of Aging (DCOA), and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), once a determination is made to issue a Silver Alert. HSEMA will notify the Traffic Management Center, DDOT, to activate dynamic message signs and highway advisory radio upon the confirmation of a Silver Alert.
- F. The individual reported as missing must be entered in WALES/NCIC.
- G. The Commander, Youth Investigations Division (YID), or his/her designee, shall authorize the cancellation of Silver Alerts.
- H. If all of the criteria for activation of the Silver Alert are not met, members may request that a BOLO be issued for the missing senior.
- I. If all of the criteria for activation of the Silver Alert are not met but media notification may be beneficial:

1. Members shall immediately notify the CIC who shall notify the PIO.
2. PIO shall contact electronic media outlets and network (wire) services and request immediate broadcast of descriptive information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy L. Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

CLL:PAB:MOC:PHC