

Meeting with the BCA – Endangered Person Alert Update
Tuesday, January 13th at William Mitchell, Room 231
3:30-4:30pm

Members Present: Carmen Castaneda, Bill Gottwaldt, Jane Ochrymowycz,
Jennifer Kirchen, Deb Siebenaler, Kevin Hansen, Marsha
Berry, Mark Wandersee

BCA Members: Janell Twardowski
Janell Rasmussen (Government Relations Administrator)
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- 1) What is in place now?
- 2) Is this program in operation statewide?
- 3) Do the agencies involved in this program identify any areas where MN law could be strengthened to help their mission?
- 4) Can the agencies involved in this program take part in our public awareness campaign at some level?
- 5) Are there professional training issues that they identify as important to improving the rescue of missing vulnerable adults?

MN Crime Alert Network – AMBER Alert Plan

Communication to solve and prevent crime, share information, locate missing persons, create partnerships

AMBER Alert involves: BCA, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Emergency Mgmt, Dept. of Transportation, MN State Lottery (coordinated by the BCA)
- previously worked with the Broadcasters' Association

AMBER Alert Criteria (Federal guidelines to follow)

- child must be age 17 or under
- must be a non-familial abduction
- must be proof the child is in serious danger
- must be information that could be disseminated to the public to request their help

MN Amber Plan

- varies from all other state plans – currently
- offers a two-tier system
- what do you do if someone is missing but there's not an abduction?

Procedures

- law enforcement agencies who have a case with this criteria should contact the BCA
- BCA will work with agency; determine whether or not to activate the alert

Once Activated

- MN Crime Alert Network (10K businesses, media outlets) and every law enforcement agency, media outlet and MCAN member receives the alert
- EAS system activated and sent to all media
- website will post alert and updates
- secondary system begin activating
- happens in about 2-3 minutes

Second Tier (not meeting Amber Alert criteria) for Missing Children

- Minnesota Crime Alert Network: Missing Person Alert instead

Missing Person Alert

- law enforcement agencies
- hospitals
- hotels/motels
- gas stations/convenience stores
- crisis centers
- media
- local hotel calls to report child is there: case solved

Crime Alert Network

- get reports according to your region
- NW Minn., NE Minn., NE Central Minn., NW Central Minn., West Central Minn., Central Minn., Metro Area, SW Minn., South Central Minn., SE Minn.
- can go by region, go to counties, go statewide, go to city only
- high adaptability to where the alert is sent out to

Alerts According to Member Categories

- banking institutions
- hotels/motels
- office property managers
- parking lots
- restaurants
- retailers
- there are over 50 categories to choose from

Federal Guidelines for Missing Person Requirements

- Vulnerable Adult
- Disability

- NCIC: National Crime Information Center
 - Federal database that works across state borders
 - out-state or out-of-area person would call the person who entered the report into NCIC to see what the concern is regarding that person

Missing Persons Clearinghouse

- this can also be an alert put out to find individuals who are missing
- every state has one of these, and they all work together

There is no timeframe for anyone over age 21 to make such a report like this.

- 0 hours to make this report, no 24/48 hour requirement as it was understood to be before

Statewide Policy on This Currently Exists

- Missing and Unidentified Persons Program
- taking reports immediately from family members
- law enforcement required to take family member reports immediately

Jurisdictional Concerns

- primary location law enforcement takes the report and enters information

Using the BCA Alert

- part of the Public Awareness component of the VAJP
- educating the masses on what's already out there
- not adding criteria like other states use, go with the system that exists
- there would be fiscal implications for adding criteria, changing the alerts that might go out and their frequency
- educating both the public and law enforcement

Mandates for Training for Law Enforcement

- Bi-annually the BCA must put on an abduction response course
- BCA has also included a lot of missing adult training
- BCA doesn't have a consistent training for law enforcement for missing adult cases (really focus on missing children scenarios)
- lots of law enforcement training comes from the BCA
 - the BCA's goal is to really keep law enforcement up-to-date