

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE  
OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Personnel

DATE: 8 Sep 11

SUBJECT: New Departmental General Order O-6.1, CALIFORNIA CHILD  
SAFETY (AMBER) NETWORK

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The purpose of this new order is to set forth Departmental policy and procedures to activate the California Child Safety AMBER Network. Additionally, this order establishes what alert systems are part of the Network, what assistance they provide, how the systems are utilized, and a checklist to provide officers, supervisors, and investigators with a guide for the investigation of missing-child cases.

The provisions of Special Order 7069 have been incorporated into this order and is hereby canceled.

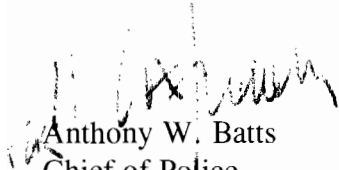
The Evaluation Coordinator for this order shall be the Youth and Family Services Division Commander, who, without further notice, shall forward the required report to the Chief of Police on or by 6 Mar 12.

The Evaluation Coordinator shall receive, review and document the acceptance or rejection of all comments and/or recommendations received prior to submitting his/her six-month evaluation report.

The Evaluation Coordinator shall forward a copy of the six-month evaluation report, along with the comments/recommendations received, to the Research and Planning Division, Policy and Publication Development Unit to be maintained in the appropriate Departmental General Order archive folder.

Personnel shall acknowledge receipt, review, and understanding of this directive in accordance with the provisions of DGO A-1, DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

By order of

  
Anthony W. Batts  
Chief of Police

Date Signed: 9/4/11



DEPARTMENTAL  
GENERAL  
ORDER

O-6.1

Index as:

California Child Safety  
AMBER Network

Effective Date:  
8 Sep 11

Evaluation Coordinator:  
Family Services Section 1 Commander

Evaluation Due Date:  
6 Mar 12

Automatic Revision Cycle:  
3 Years

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### CALIFORNIA CHILD SAFETY (AMBER) NETWORK

The purpose of this order is to set forth Departmental policy and procedures regarding the activation of the California Child Safety AMBER Network (AMBER is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response). Additionally, this order establishes the available alert systems of the Network, what assistance they provide, and how the systems are utilized.

The California Child Safety AMBER Network (hereafter referred to as the "AMBER Network") was established to provide a far-reaching and rapid response to instances of child abduction in California. The network will incorporate the use of any or all existing alert systems and a comprehensive prevention campaign.

#### I. CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION OF THE AMBER NETWORK

- A. In the event of a child abduction, which meets the criteria for activating the AMBER Network, Departmental personnel shall conduct the preliminary investigation, search operations, and notifications in accordance with the provisions of established policies and procedures. Personnel shall also, when appropriate, utilize those systems within the AMBER Network which will assist in the investigation and the recovery of the child.
- B. An AMBER Alert requires the authorization of the on-scene supervisor **ONLY** when the following statutory criteria for child abduction has been met:
  1. A confirmed abduction. Evidence exists to believe the victim is missing against his/her will and not simply missing (e.g., eyewitness verification, physical evidence, alternative explanations for a child's absence has been eliminated);

2. The victim is 17 years old or younger or an individual with a proven mental or physical disability;
  3. Circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death; and
  4. There is available information that, if disseminated to the general public, could assist law enforcement in the safe recovery of the victim. (Vehicle information is not a requirement to activate an AMBER Alert).
- C. In the event an AMBER Alert has been authorized, personnel shall contact the Communications Section who shall notify the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to determine the procedures for activating the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for an AMBER Alert.

## **II. REQUESTING AN AMBER ALERT**

In the event of an incident meeting the criteria for requesting an AMBER Alert, the primary officer shall, upon approval by the on-scene supervisor, contact the YFSD Intake Officer (or the Communications Section in the event the YFSD Intake Officer is unavailable) to request CHP be notified. The YFSD Intake Officer (or Communications Dispatcher) shall provide the CHP with all available information in order to determine whether an AMBER Alert activation is to be authorized. The CHP has the final authority to activate an AMBER Alert.

An AMBER Alert includes the following systems:

- A. Emergency Alert System (EAS);
- B. Emergency Digital Information Services (EDIS); and
- C. Changeable Message Signs (CMS).

## **III. NOTIFICATIONS**

- A. The primary YFSD Investigator shall prepare and send a Criminal Case Information (CCI) distribution notification to designated command staff regarding the AMBER Alert.

- B. An AMBER Alert normally generates significant media coverage that will be of interest to the community and OPD command staff. To facilitate this process, the Watch Commander shall authorize a Public Information Officer (PIO) call-out.
- C. The PIO shall handle all press releases and utilize notification protocols in accordance with the provisions of Departmental General Order Q-1, NOTIFICATIONS TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE, et al. In the absence of the PIO, the Area Commander or designee shall perform these duties.

#### IV. AMBER ALERT CANCELLATION

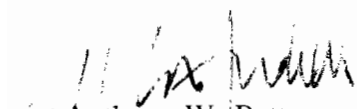
- A. The lead YFSD investigator or, in the event an investigator has not yet been assigned, YFSD Intake Officer shall contact the CHP to cancel the AMBER Alert upon the resolution of the incident.
- B. The YFSD Intake Officer or investigator shall ensure all other agencies and alert systems have been notified of an AMBER Alert cancellation.

#### V. MISSING CHILD CHECKLIST

The primary officer shall utilize a Missing Child Investigative Checklist (TF-3349), in order to ensure a thorough preliminary investigation of a missing child. The checklist details the responsibilities for the following:

- A. Primary officer;
- B. On-scene supervisor;
- C. Patrol commander
- D. YFSD Intake; and
- E. Missing-Child Follow-Up Investigator.

By order of

  
Anthony W. Batts  
Chief of Police

Date Signed: 9/8/11