

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of State Police



Virginia Blue Alert Plan

Approved by: *Gary T. Settle* Date: 1-16-24
Colonel Gary T. Settle

Revision Date: 12/28/2023

Manual Distribution List

Superintendent's Office

Superintendent
Deputy Superintendent

Bureau of Administrative and Support Services - SPHQ

BASS Director
BASS Deputy Directors
Lieutenant

Public Relations Office – SPHQ

Public Relations Manager

Executive Protection Division

Division Commander

Aviation Division

Division Commander

Communications Division

Division Commander

Criminal Justice Information Services Division

CJIS Officer

Information Technology Division

Division Commander

Human Resources Division

Human Resource Director
Nurse Practitioner

Property and Finance Division

Division Commander

Training Division

Training Officer
Assistant Training Officer
Training Coordinator
BCI Training Coordinator
Statewide Workforce Safety Compliance Coordinator

Bureau of Strategic Governance – SPHQ

BSG Director
BSG Deputy Directors

Professional Standards Division

Professional Standards Division Director
Lieutenants

Strategic Planning and Research Division

Division Commander

Office of Legal Affairs

Legal Affairs Specialist

Bureau of Criminal Investigation - SPHQ

BCI Director
BCI Deputy Directors
Lieutenant

Criminal Intelligence Division – HQ

CID Commander

Special Investigations and Programs Division

Division Commander
Lieutenant
First Sergeants

High Tech Crimes Division

Division Commander

BCI Field Divisions

Division Commander
Lieutenant – DES
Lieutenant – GIS
First Sergeants – DES
First Sergeants – GIS

Bureau of Field Operations – SPHQ

BFO Director
BFO Deputy Directors
Lieutenant
Lead Analyst

BFO Field Divisions

Division Commander
Headquarters Lieutenant
Field Lieutenant
First Sergeants
Duty Sergeants
Public Information Officer

BFO Field Division Area Offices

First Sergeant
Sergeants

Safety Division

Safety Officer

Special Operations Division

Division Commander

General Distribution

Public Folders

Virginia Blue Alert Program

The Virginia Blue Alert Program was established by Virginia Code section 52-34.8 and creates a mechanism to rapidly communicate extremely important information to the general public in the unfortunate circumstance that a law enforcement officer has been killed, seriously injured, or is missing in the line of duty under circumstances warranting concern for the law enforcement officer's safety. Creation of this alert is intended to publicize information that will aid in the identifying, locating and capturing of the offender(s) or the missing law-enforcement officer.

The purpose of the Virginia Blue Alert Program is to broadcast critical information to the public as quickly as possible in an effort to assist in the apprehension of an offender that has killed or seriously injured a law-enforcement officer and poses a significant risk to the public and other law enforcement officers or to assist in locating a missing law-enforcement officer when there is a concern for his/her safety. The Virginia Blue Alert Program may increase the chances of rapidly capturing the offender(s) or locating the missing officer which can result in a higher level of public safety.

In a Blue Alert event, if the offender(s) or officer is seen or if anyone has knowledge of the identity of the offender(s) or the location of the officer, the information can be provided immediately to the investigating law-enforcement agency or the Virginia State Police for immediate action.

For the purposes of this plan the following definitions apply as outlined by Virginia Code Section 52-34.7:

Law-enforcement agency – a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the search for a suspect in a case involving the death or serious injury of a law-enforcement officer or an agency employing a law-enforcement officer who is missing in the line of duty.

Law-enforcement officer – any full-time or part-time employee of the Department of State Police or a police department or sheriff's office that is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the Commonwealth.

Virginia Blue Alert Program Activation Criteria:

In the interest of maintaining the confidentiality of an active criminal investigation, a request for activation must be received from the law-enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the investigation.

Blue Alert activation shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Upon notification by a law-enforcement agency that a law-enforcement officer has been killed or seriously injured, AND the suspect has not been apprehended AND there may be a serious threat to the public.
 - a. Prior to an activation, the Department of State Police shall confirm the following:
 - i. A suspect has not been apprehended, and;
 - ii. The suspect may be a serious threat to the public, and;
 - iii. Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the suspect.

OR

2. Upon notification by a law-enforcement agency that a law-enforcement officer is missing while in the line of duty under circumstances warranting concern for such law-enforcement officer's safety.
 - a. Prior to an activation, the Department of State Police shall confirm the following:
 - i. A law enforcement officer is missing in the line of duty where the circumstances warrant concern for the officer's safety, and;
 - ii. Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the missing officer.

REQUESTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROCESS FOR ACTIVATION:

The requesting agency should follow these steps for a successful Blue Alert activation:

- Have at least one individual designated as the reporting officer to enable constant communication with the State Police Duty Sergeant throughout the entire alert process.
- Have an assigned telephone number capable of rolling over to at least two separate lines for receiving telephone calls once an alert is activated.
- Have volunteers or personnel scheduled to answer these telephones for a minimum of 24-hours once an alert is activated or until such time as the alert is canceled.
- Call the State Police Duty Sergeant at administrative headquarters (SPHQ) at (804) 647-2026.
 - The State Police Duty Sergeant Office is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is the point of contact for Virginia Blue Alerts.
- Discuss all available information with the Duty Sergeant to determine if the case meets the criteria for activation.
- Provide enough descriptive information so that the information provided to the public will generate leads to locate a missing officer or for the capture of the suspect(s). This is to include descriptive suspect(s) and/or vehicle information, last know direction of travel, possible destinations as well as the agency contact information, etc. The information will be required for public distribution using approved formats on the required forms.
- Email the required forms and a photograph of the suspect(s) or officer in jpeg format to dutysqthq@vsp.virginia.gov or Fax the forms to (804) 674-6704 to the attention of the State Police Duty Sergeant.
- Verify receipt of the emailed or faxed information to the State Police Duty Sergeant.
- Notify the State Police Duty Sergeant with any updates immediately so updated information or changes in broadcast areas can be provided to information partners.
- Immediately advise the State Police Duty Sergeant when the suspect(s) has been captured or the officer is located.

VSP Duty Sergeant Responsibilities following a request to activate the Virginia Blue Alert Program:

1. Upon receipt of a request to activate the Virginia Blue Alert Program the Duty Sergeant will seek authorization from a member of the CJIS Command Staff.
2. Following approval to activate the Blue Alert, the Duty Sergeant will follow the procedure described below and will document his/her activities to ensure a thorough After-Action Report can be completed.

VSP Duty Sergeant Responsibilities following verification and authorization to activate the Virginia Blue Alert Program:

1. Duty Sergeant will broadcast the alert through Everbridge and add the alert flyer to the Virginia State Police website at <https://vsp.virginia.gov/active-alerts/>.
2. Duty Sergeant will notify:
 - a. The Public Relations Office.
 - b. The Network Operations Center (NOC) so they can notify all Virginia Law enforcement agencies via VCIN and Regional Nlets AM message. They will also notify adjacent states via Nlets and send an agency wide Mobile Data Terminal message.
 - c. The VSP Division Commander where the incident has occurred, who will ensure that a sworn member coordinates with the affected law enforcement agency.
 - d. The Virginia Fusion Center.

The Duty Sergeant will notify all components of the cancellation of an alert upon receipt of information from the requesting agency.

Virginia Blue Alert Program

Forms

Virginia "Blue Alert" Request Form

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Incident Information

Date of Incident:		Time Incident Reported:	
	(mm/dd/yy)		(hh:mm)

Jurisdiction: _____

Location of Incident and last known location: _____

House or Apt. No.	Street Name	(describe specific address, location or area)	
Direction of Travel/ Possible Destination:			
(City, State, Subdivision)			
Vehicle Description:			
(Make, Model, Year, Color, License Plate Number and State of Issue)			
Suspect or Officer: <i>(use additional copies of this form if there is more than one suspect.)</i>			
Name:			
	(Last, First, MI)		

Gender: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Race** _____
(Male/Female) (mm/dd/yy or Approx. Year) (Include all Types)

Height: _____ **Weight:** _____ **Hair:** _____ **Eyes:** _____
(Feet/Inches) (Lbs.) (Style and Color) (Color)

Clothing:	
Shirt:	(Type, Long or Short Sleeve, Color)
Pants:	(Type and Color)
Shoes:	(Type and Color)
Other:	(Type and Color)
Outerwear:	(Type and Color)
Additional Significant Identifiers: (SMT)	

OBTAIN A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SUSPECT(S) OR OFFICER, AND E-MAIL TO THE VIRGINIA STATE POLICE SPHQ DUTY SERGEANT IN JPEG FORMAT AT dutysgthq@vsp.virginia.gov.

Virginia “Blue Alert” Termination Form

We are terminating the “Blue Alert” originated by our agency. Please broadcast the following information as necessary.

Text Follows

The “Blue Alert” which was transmitted earlier for

Name of suspect or missing officer	
(Street)	
(City or County)	
is canceled	

If there are any problems with or questions about the contents of this fax, call

at	
(NAME)	(PHONE)

Text Ends

Originating Agency:	
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