On October 1, 2011, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed an Executive Order establishing the Florida Law Enforcement Officer Blue Alert Plan.

This plan, which uses some of the technologies employed in an Amber or Silver Alert, was established in response to the increasing number of law enforcement officers in the state who were killed, injured or missing in the line of duty. In some of these cases, the offender or offenders used vehicles to flee and attempt to escape.

Under this plan, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) will immediately broadcast important information about an offender(s) who has seriously injured, killed or abducted a law enforcement officer.

The information will be broadcast through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods to increase the chances of capturing the suspect(s) responsible for injuring, killing or abducting a law enforcement officer.

To activate a Blue Alert, the following four criteria must be met:

1. A law enforcement officer must have been seriously injured, killed by an offender(s) or is missing while in the line of duty under circumstances evidencing concern for the law enforcement officer’s safety.
2. The investigating law enforcement agency must determine that the offender(s) poses a serious risk to the public or to other law enforcement officers and dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect.
3. A detailed description of the offender’s vehicle or other means of escape, including vehicle tag or partial tag, must be available for broadcast to the public.
4. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend issuing the Blue Alert.

Each activation will be reviewed by a committee of state agency partners and law enforcement representatives to ensure that criteria and goals are met and that each activation took place in a timely fashion.

To activate a Blue Alert, the following steps must occur in this order:

1. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction will call FDLE’s Florida Fusion Center (FFC) Watch Desk at 850-410-7645. This Blue Alert point of contact is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. FDLE’s on-call supervisor will work with the investigating agency to offer assistance, ensure the activation criteria have been met and determine if the alert will be displayed regionally or statewide.
3. FDLE will work with the investigating agency to prepare information for public release, including suspect and/or vehicle information, as well as agency contact information.
4. FDLE will contact the Florida Highway Patrol’s Regional Communications Center to send the Blue Alert. The communications supervisor will relay that information to other regional communication centers where the activation is to take place.
5. FDLE will contact FDOT’s Regional Transportation Management Center to develop the message content using the FDOT-approved template, which includes vehicle information, tag number and other identifiers.
6. FDOT will display the message until the offender(s) is captured or for a maximum of six hours. The alert will be displayed on dynamic highway message signs on all requested highways unless a traffic emergency occurs, which requires a motorist safety message to be displayed. FDOT also will record a Blue Alert message on the 511 system when the Blue Alert is activated.
7. The same activation steps will be used if there is revised vehicle information or a broadcast area is changed.
8. Once FDLE is notified that the offender(s) has been captured, FDLE will contact the appropriate parties to cancel the alert.

Each activation will be reviewed by a committee of state agency partners and law enforcement representatives to ensure that criteria and goals are met and that each activation took place in a timely fashion.
A cooperative effort by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ Florida Highway Patrol.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
PO BOX 1489
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32302-1489

FLORIDA FUSION CENTER
WATCH DESK
850-410-7645 | 1-800-342-0820

WWW.FLORIDABLUEALERT.COM