

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter IV, Section 300, Order 305 – Yellow Alert Program
January 24, 2016

4 / 305.05 POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to work in conjunction with the Maryland State Police Department to establish a statewide Yellow Alert Program which provides a system for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating and apprehending a subject who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in a serious bodily injury or death.

4 / 305.10 PURPOSE

To establish a policy for Maryland’s Yellow Alert Program

4 / 305.15 DEFINITIONS

Subject	an individual whose whereabouts are unknown; who is suspected of a violation of the Transportation Article; failure to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death; and whose vehicle the reporting law enforcement agency is able to describe, including any information about the vehicle’s registration plate.
Serious Bodily Injury	an injury that creates a substantial risk of death, causes serious permanent protracted disfigurement; or loss of the function of any body part, organ, or mental faculty; or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

4 / 305.20 PROCEDURES

A. BACKGROUND

1. Maryland has a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in cases of critically missing juveniles (AMBER Alerts), vulnerable adults (Silver Alerts) and serious attacks on law enforcement officers (Blue Alerts).
2. Such alerts involve the use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), State Highway Administration (SHA) overhead Dynamic Message Signs, notification to local 911 centers and the media to air a description of the known facts.
3. Expanding on this partnership, and to assist in the investigation of certain hit and run accidents, Maryland has enacted a Yellow Alert Program.

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B. REQUESTING AN ALERT

1. Law Enforcement agencies investigating hit and run accidents involving a subject who fails to remain at the scene of a traffic accident that might result in serious bodily injury or death will promptly request an activation of a Yellow Alert.
2. Request for an activation of a Yellow Alert will be routed to the Maryland State Police, through the Headquarters Duty Officer at 410-653-4200.
3. Yellow Alert will only be activated when there is enough descriptive information about the missing subject's vehicle to enable law enforcement to assist in the subject's apprehension.
4. A Yellow Alert will not be activated when; releasing information to the media/public would compromise the integrity of the investigation.

C. DEACTIVATING AN ALERT

1. Any officer that has located an individual or vehicle that is the subject of a Yellow Alert will immediately notify the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer and the investigating law enforcement agency that the missing subject or vehicle has been located.
2. If the subject or vehicle has not been located within 24 hours, the alert is self-cancelling.

4 / 305.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

Senate Bill 86
MD Code Ann,.Pub Safety 3-606

4 / 305.30 ANNEX

None