

Press Release



Alert Systems Established to Enlist the Public's Help

Apache Junction, Arizona, October 1, 2014 – In September of 2002, then Arizona Governor Jane Hull announced to the public the establishment of Arizona's Amber Alert system. The Amber Alert system is a state-wide notification that is utilized when a child has been abducted in Arizona. When an Amber Alert is issued, the purpose is to seek the help of as many people as possible, including the public, in locating the child as quickly as possible and return the child to the home unharmed.

Similar to the Amber Alert system, Governor Jan Brewer signed into law in April of 2014 Senate Bill 1097 which created the **Silver Alert Notification System**. The Silver Alert Notification System was implemented to get as many people involved to locate a missing person over the age of 65 who has gone missing under suspicious or unexplained circumstances and is believed to be in danger due to health issues, disabilities, the environment or other factors indicating possible peril for the individual. As with the Amber Alert System, Silver Alerts also are distributed state-wide.

In July of 2014, Governor Brewer signed into law House Bill 2323, the **Blue Alert Notification System**, making Arizona the 19th state to adopt this law. A Blue Alert Notification is activated if a law enforcement officer has been killed, seriously injured, been assaulted with a deadly weapon and the investigating agency has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel. On October 8th the Blue Alert Notification System was activated by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) when a DPS officer was severely injured after being assaulted with a weapon and the suspects escaped the scene.

Each alert system has a specific set of requirements that must be met before the notification system is activated. As a result, not all cases meet the requirements.

It is the purpose of each state-wide alert system to gain as much assistance from law enforcement agencies and the public in locating the suspects/victims as quickly as possible. In supporting these alert systems, the Apache Junction Police Department

continues to inform the citizens of Apache Junction so that they may help with situations that fit in one of the above listed categories. The eyes of the community are far greater in number than just the eyes of law enforcement.

Next time you see an Amber, Silver or Blue Alert, take note of the information provided and help law enforcement by being aware. Remember to never approach a suspect or suspect vehicle as the occupants should always be considered armed and dangerous. Call 9-1-1 and provide as much information as possible so law enforcement officers can handle the situation.

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