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Chief of Police



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"INTEGRITY...FAIRNESS...SERVICE"

SPECIAL ORDER # 2022-03

DATE: April 19, 2022

TO: All Police Department Personnel. To be Announced at Roll Call and a Copy Posted on the Department's Intranet Site.

RE: BaltCo Alert.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately.

BACKGROUND: The Baltimore County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM), in collaboration with the Baltimore County Fire Department and Police Department, identified a need for notifying members and the public of incidents where their safety may be affected. The BaltCo Alert notification system is the tool that was selected to meet this need.

BaltCo Alert is a notification system where participants can receive e-mails, text messages, and/or telephone calls about life-threatening emergencies or disasters. The system will be used for distributing information in reference to evacuations, shelter in place orders, widespread flooding, food/water distribution during disasters, and/or shelter openings. It can also be used to disseminate information to the public about large interruptions of service (e.g., a boil water notice, extended shutdown of an interstate, etc.). The goals of the program are to provide life-saving information to those impacted so they can take action to protect themselves, as well as to assist first responders (i.e., avoid dangerous areas, report dangerous persons to the 9-1-1 Communications Center, etc.) as soon as possible.

BaltCo Alert is an opt-in system for the public and residents of Baltimore County (i.e., participants must enroll.). Department members may also enroll by using their departmentally issued e-mail account, landline telephone number, and/or cellular phone. The portal for signing up can be found on the County website at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/emergency-management/alerts .

PURPOSE: This document is being distributed to provide members with information about the BaltCo Alert program which is available to members and the public. This order also provides guidance on how members may request a notification be sent through the system.

RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENTAL VALUES: This Special Order supports the Department's value of **SERVICE** by providing additional means to assist in keeping members and the public safe, while meeting the needs of other County agencies and mutual aid practices.

POLICY: The policy and procedures listed in this Special Order are in addition to policy found in the Field Manual, Article 14, Public Information, regarding public notifications.

PROCEDURES:

GENERAL

- BaltCo Alert can be utilized for situations:
 1. That are life-threatening to the public; or

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2. Where the public should avoid the area due to significant police involved incidents.

NOTE: Incidents meeting this criteria may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Active assailant incidents;
 - b. Serious injury of a Department member;
 - c. Line of duty death of a Department member;
 - d. Terrorist attack, or attempt, in Maryland;
 - e. Confirmed shooting;
 - f. Confirmed stabbing;
 - g. Armed and dangerous subject(s);
 - h. Police involved shooting;
 - i. Any mass casualty incident;
 - j. Hostage/barricade incidents where life is threatened or endangered;
 - k. Escape/mass disturbance at the Baltimore County Detention Center;
 - l. Large scale public assemblies, civil disobedience, and civil unrest;
 - m. Vehicle crash involving a fatality;
 - n. Vehicle crash involving a county vehicle;
 - o. Vehicle pursuit involving a crash;
 - p. Tactical Unit callout; and
 - q. Hazardous Devices Team callout.
- Requests for notifications to be sent via BaltCo Alert may come from:
 1. The Incident Commander or the Unified Command;
 2. A bureau chief, bureau executive officer, or division commander;
 3. A precinct/section commander; or
 4. A precinct shift commander.

MEMBERS

- Involved in an incident that necessitates a BaltCo Alert emergency notification will request one through their chain of command.

PRECINCT SHIFT COMMANDERS

- Supervising an incident that necessitates a BaltCo Alert emergency notification will request one through their chain of command.

EXCEPTION: Precinct shift commanders may request a notification by the Public Affairs Section directly, for the following incidents:

1. Active assailant incidents.
NOTE: Precinct shift commanders can approve the initial emergency notification. Subsequent notifications will be approved by a bureau chief.
2. Confirmed shooting;
3. Confirmed stabbing;
4. Armed and dangerous subject(s); and
5. Vehicle crash involving a fatality.

NOTE: Precinct shift commanders will also notify their chain of command of the incident and request.

PRECINCT COMMANDERS

- Advised of an incident that necessitates a BaltCo Alert emergency notification will request one through their chain of command.

SUPPORT OPERATIONS DIVISION (SOD)

- Section commanders or their designee may request a BaltCo Alert emergency notification by the Public Affairs Section directly, for the following incidents:
 1. Any mass casualty incident being investigated by the SOD;
 2. Hostage/barricade incidents where life is threatened or endangered;
 3. Escape/mass disturbance at the Baltimore County Detention Center;

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4. Large scale public assemblies, civil disobedience, and civil unrest;
 5. Vehicle crash involving a fatality;
 6. Vehicle crash involving Police Department or Fire Department vehicle while in emergency response mode;
 7. Police Department helicopter emergency landing or crash;
 8. Vehicle crash involving any other county vehicle;
 9. Vehicle pursuit involving a crash;
 10. Tactical Unit callout; and
 11. Hazardous Devices Team callout.
- Section commanders will notify their chain of command of the incident and request.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU (CIB)

- Section commanders or their designee may request a BaltCo Alert emergency notification by the Public Affairs Section directly, for the following incidents:
 1. Terrorist attack, or attempt, in Maryland;
 2. Confirmed shooting;
 3. Confirmed stabbing;
 4. Armed and dangerous subject(s);
 5. Police involved shooting; and
 6. Any mass casualty incident being investigated by the CIB.
- Section commanders will notify their chain of command of the incident and request.

BUREAU CHIEFS/BUREAU EXECUTIVE OFFICER/DIVISION COMMANDERS

- Request a BaltCo Alert emergency notification via the Public Affairs Section upon being advised of an incident necessitating an alert.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

- If activated, the Incident Management Team has the authority to request a BaltCo Alert emergency notification by the Public Affairs Section directly, in coordination with the respective involved bureau/division/section.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

- Notify the Commander of the Public Affairs Section upon receiving a request for emergency notification.
- Provide emergency notifications through BaltCo Alert upon request of an authorized member.

IMPLEMENTATION: This Special Order will be distributed electronically to all Department members. Shift/Unit supervisors will be responsible for the referencing of this Special Order.

By order of,

Melissa R. Hyatt
Chief of Police