



# Fact Sheet

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## National Blue Alert Network

### History

In 2015, Congress passed the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, named in honor of two New York City police officers killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014. The Act establishes a voluntary nationwide system to give police an early warning of threats against police officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was asked to implement the Blue Alert Act and establish a National Blue Alert Network.

### Blue Alerts

Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The National Blue Alert Network works to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.

### Blue Alert Activation Criteria

Blue Alerts may be issued in any of the following circumstances, provided there is actionable information known about a suspect (e.g., name, physical description, or vehicle description):

- When a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty
- When an officer is missing in connection with official duties
- When there is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer



### Blue Alert Resources

The COPS Office provides resources and technical assistance to states, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders seeking to establish or enhance an existing Blue Alert plan. The National Blue Alert Network also maintains a secure data repository, for law enforcement only, containing many Blue Alert resources collected from around the nation, including examples of legislation, policies, forms, and a directory of state Blue Alert officials.

For more information, visit the COPS Office website at [www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert), email the COPS Office at [BlueAlert@usdoj.gov](mailto:BlueAlert@usdoj.gov), or call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

### Other Resources

**Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS)**

<https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

**Federal Communications Commission Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/emergency-alert-system-eas>