

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH DAKOTA'S "BLUE ALERT" SYSTEM IS READY

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota's "Blue Alert" system is live, announced Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. A Blue Alert is activated when there is a suspect at large who has killed or caused serious injury to a law enforcement officer or if an officer has been abducted or is missing.

"Using the Blue Alert, we can quickly relay safety information and details about a suspect to the citizens of North Dakota. A Blue Alert should act as a deterrent to anyone who believes they can get away with targeting an officer because the eyes of the entire state will be looking for them, said Stenehjem.

The Blue Alert system uses the existing Amber Alert network to broadcast warnings to the public on highway electronic billboards and ND Lottery LED screens, the Emergency Broadcast system on television and radio stations, and even through text messaging and social media.

North Dakota was the 22nd state to enact a Blue Alert law. House Bill 1281 was signed by the Governor on March 25, 2015, and took effect immediately. State law enforcement has worked diligently to get the system up and running in record time.

Congress recently passed a national Blue Alert law, which President Obama signed earlier this week. The "Blue Alert" is a national initiative of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

"The ND Fraternal Order of Police is grateful for the support of the state legislature in enacting the Blue Alert system. We hope it will never be necessary to issue a Blue Alert, but if it is, we are confident that it will lead to the suspect being apprehended quickly and safely," said Lynn Wanner, President of the Missouri Valley FOP Lodge in Bismarck.

The ND Department of Emergency Services is conducting a test of the state's Amber Alert system today.

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