

# SAFER OHIO

Vol. 2 Issue 4

October - December 2014



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Ohio Department of Public Safety  
is Committed to Teen Driver Safety



*AT&T Ohio President Adam Grzybicki and ODPS Assistant Communications Director Kristen Castle discuss efforts to emphasize safe driving behaviors to teen drivers.*

September 2014 marked the first observance of Safe Driving Awareness Month in Ohio, a designation proposed earlier this year by Senator Jim Hughes in Senate Bill 294, and signed into law by Governor John R. Kasich in June. To kick off the month, the Ohio Department of Public Safety joined AT&T to highlight the dangers of texting and driving, and all Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) locations provided palm cards to newly-licensed drivers, encouraging them to take AT&T's pledge to never text and drive.

"Distracted driving is an epidemic on our roadways, and we need people all across Ohio to take action in their communities to help put a stop to it," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born.

AT&T first launched the *It Can Wait*® campaign in 2010 to educate the public about the dangers of texting while driving and to encourage consumers to pledge to never text and drive. Information about the issue can be found at [www.ItCanWait.com](http://www.ItCanWait.com). Ohioans can take the pledge at the website or dial the short code "464329" on their mobile device, then text "ICWOH" to take the pledge.

"This is the first time the campaign has partnered with state officials to reach newly-licensed drivers statewide, at that one moment when they may be most receptive to the message," said AT&T Ohio President Adam Grzybicki. "We're challenging all drivers, especially our teens, to take the pledge to never text and drive and make it a lifelong commitment."

AT&T and ODPS further promoted the cause by hosting two events at driver examination stations in Canfield and Parma.

More than 200,000 crashes a year involve drivers who are texting, according to the National Safety Council. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute has found that drivers who send text messages while driving are much more likely to be in a crash.

Teens are particularly at risk. While 97 percent of teens say they know texting while driving is dangerous, 75 percent say the practice is still "common" among their friends, according to an AT&T survey.<sup>1</sup>

The *It Can Wait*® movement is making a difference. Awareness of the dangers of texting and driving has reached 97 percent or higher for every audience AT&T has polled. The campaign has inspired more than 5 million personal commitments to never text and drive. The documentary "From One Second to the Next" has been viewed by millions since its Hollywood premiere last year. The film was created for *It Can Wait*® and looks at how four lives have been impacted by texting-related accidents.

For drivers under age 18 in Ohio, it is illegal to use mobile communication devices while driving, even at a light or in a traffic jam. All other drivers face a \$150 fine and a 60-day license suspension for texting while driving. Repeat offenders could face a \$300 fine and a one-year license suspension.



*While 97 percent of teens say they know texting while driving is dangerous, 75 percent say the practice is still “common” among their friends.*

ODPS is dedicated to its mission of saving lives, reducing injuries and economic loss, administering Ohio’s motor vehicle laws and regulating driver licensing and vehicle registration. While each division has its own function, they all work together to accomplish the same safety mission.

In addition to distributing the palm cards, the BMV, which oversees driver and motor vehicle licensing and registration, recently launched, “I Hold the Key to a Safer Ohio.” Newly-licensed drivers are encouraged to send the BMV a photo of themselves with their car keys along with a description of how they plan to be a safe driver. Quarterly winners receive a special key chain and are featured on the BMV’s Facebook page, website and in Deputy Registrar locations.

Another ODPS division, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), helps save lives and reduce injuries on Ohio’s roads through oversight of the state’s driver training schools. Teaching new drivers the skills needed to stay safe while on the road is one of the most important endeavors Ohio undertakes each year. Helping teens develop driving skills they will use for a lifetime requires the time, expertise and energy of many, including qualified driving instructors, state-licensed schools and involved parents.

For all drivers, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is committed to using education, awareness and traffic enforcement to deter dangerous behavior on Ohio roadways. While educating and raising the awareness of teen drivers is extremely important, the Patrol also

aims to change driver behavior through traffic enforcement. From 2011-2013, 62 percent of citations issued to teen drivers were for speed-related violations and 17 percent were for failure to wear a safety belt.

*For more information on the It Can Wait® campaign, please visit [ItCanWait.com](http://ItCanWait.com).*

*To nominate someone for the “I Hold the Key to a Safer Ohio” contest, please send a photo and summary to [Communications@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:Communications@dps.state.oh.us).*

<sup>1</sup> Survey conducted by Beck Research on behalf of AT&T, [http://www.att.com/Common/about\\_us/txtng\\_driving/att\\_teen\\_survey\\_executive.pdf](http://www.att.com/Common/about_us/txtng_driving/att_teen_survey_executive.pdf).



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at [www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety](http://www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety).

# Division of EMS Revises Scope of Practice and Offers Online Training to Help Combat Ohio's Heroin Overdoses

In an effort to reduce the number of drug overdoses in Ohio, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board) approved the expansion of the Ohio EMS scope of practice to allow emergency medical responders and emergency medical technicians, upon completion of training and the approval of the medical director, to administer intranasal naloxone as well as the hand-held auto-injector EVZIO® to a person suspected of suffering from an opioid overdose.

In the last three years, naloxone has been administered 25,000 times according to data from the Emergency Medical Incidence Reporting System.

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services developed an online training module that can be

accessed at [www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov). The slideshow is designed to assist local EMS and fire agencies and local medical directors in meeting the training requirement for the field administration of naloxone.

Ohio's training module was recognized by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and several state EMS offices around the country have adopted or adapted the module to fit their respective needs, legislation and regulations.

Ohio's state-provided training is not mandatory, but local training, written protocols and medical director approval are required before a local medical director can allow certified emergency medical responders and emergency medical technicians to administer naloxone in the field.

*Naloxone is used along with emergency medical treatment to reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose.*





Wear your belt

Wear your vest

Watch your speed

WIN—What's Important Now?

Remember, complacency kills



# Eye-opening new course prioritizes officer safety

To Sgt. Jonathan Davis of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the topic of a new class offered to law enforcement officers state-wide is one that should be taken very seriously. He attended a session of Below 100 — a class putting the spotlight on officer safety — and was so inspired that he became an instructor himself. Many in the class reacted similarly.

“I think a lot of them are shocked,” he said. “Because they look at their own practices out on the road, and they think, ‘You know, I do that,’ or, ‘that really hit home for me.’ It gets them back to the true reality of it.”

Law enforcement agencies across Ohio have joined the nationwide effort to reduce line-of-duty deaths of officers through the Below 100 campaign. It aims for fewer than 100 deaths annually across the U.S., which has not occurred since 1944, by teaching officers how to improve their day-to-day practices in the interest of their own safety.

The Patrol, the Ohio Attorney General, Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and Nationwide Insurance have partnered to bring Below 100 training to Ohio. The training is being offered free-of-charge in regional locations throughout the state so officers can have the necessary tools to stay safe.

Below 100 is specifically designed to address areas most directly under an officer’s control, with five tenets:

- Wear your belt
- Wear your vest
- Watch your speed
- WIN—What’s Important Now?
- Remember, complacency kills



Sgt. Davis said it’s important for individuals in the class to self-evaluate their own operations and speak out for what’s right when other officers don’t follow protocol in place for their own safety.

“Even as a trainer, I need to look at my own habits, too,” he said.

“While the job of a law enforcement officer can be unpredictable, there’s no excuse for neglecting factors we can control, such as wearing a safety belt and watching your speed,” said Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent. “By choosing to prioritize our own safety, we set an example for those around us to do the same.”

Officers can sign up to attend a Below 100 session through the Public Safety Training Campus on the Patrol website, [www.statepatrol.ohio.gov](http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov).



*At the announcement of the statewide partnership to provide Below 100 Training, Nationwide Insurance also presented safety vests to members of the Sugar Grove Police Department.*

# Ohio Homeland Security Activities Focus on Partnerships

## OP3 Conference

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) held its annual Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) conference in Dublin, on October 7. The conference was utilized as a platform to build upon the OP3 program by encouraging open dissemination of information, gathering input from members to determine their needs and sharing best practices. Speakers from ODPS and other member organizations demonstrated the tools and information they offer and engaged in a discussion on how the public and private sectors can work together to better serve communities in Ohio.

“I am pleased to see the continued commitment and growth of the Ohio Public Private Partnership over the past year,” said ODPS Director John Born. “I view this program as an essential component in our state’s comprehensive public safety effort that requires collaboration, because none of us can do it alone.”

Introduced in January 2014, the OP3 program is comprised of public and private sector representatives who share a vision of building the program through a grass-roots strategy; determining the needs of private sector entities during a crisis event; providing member organizations with current information and situational awareness on disaster prevention, planning, response and recovery efforts; and opportunities to guide critical decisions, communications, capabilities and resources that best support Ohio’s citizens.

*In August 2014, the Toledo municipal water system issued a tap water ban due to elevated levels of microcystin from a harmful algal bloom (HAB) on Lake Erie contaminating the city’s raw water intake. The State Emergency Operation Center was activated and numerous state agencies participated in the coordinated state response, but in some areas, the private sector provided water and other resources faster. OP3 member organizations play a vital role in ensuring the basic life needs of people impacted by an emergency or disaster are met quickly.*

### **Cyber Security Summit**

Stories of threats to American cyber security are plentiful in the media, but by the time these stories make the headlines, they are old news to information technology and information security professionals.

How do you stay ahead of the curve? What resources are available in Ohio to help local businesses navigate the constantly changing landscape of clouds, detection/prevention and even the physical hardware of data centers? Foreign hackers, domestic hacktivists and Ohio's sometimes extreme weather patterns are no less a concern than phishing and physical intrusions such as skimming ATMs.

Ohio Homeland Security and the InfraGard® Central Ohio Members Alliance partnered to bring together subject matter experts for a one-day event on October 27. Presentations centered on how information security is changing, who's available to help and where to look in the future. With experts in cyber and physical security, the conference helped attendees connect with information their organizations need to stay current and provided a unique opportunity to share concerns about the future.

InfraGard® is a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) program that began in Cleveland in 1996. It was a local effort to gain support from the information technology industry and academia for the FBI's investigative efforts in the cyber arena. The program expanded to other FBI field offices, and in 1998, the FBI assigned national program responsibility for InfraGard® to the former National Infrastructure Protection Center and then to the Cyber Division in 2003. InfraGard® and the FBI have developed a relationship of trust and credibility in the exchange of information concerning terrorism, intelligence, criminal and security matters.

### **Mall Briefing**

On October 8, Ohio Homeland Security provided a briefing for 50 shopping mall representatives from around the state. This information-sharing meeting was intended to assist safety planning for mall security officials in advance of the holiday shopping season.

### **U.S. Secret Service Training**

Instructors from the United States Secret Service were at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy on September 25 to provide training in the areas of workplace violence and threat assessment for schools. Personnel from Ohio Homeland Security, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Education took part to sharpen their skills during the review and evaluation of school safety plans.



*Ohio Homeland Security and the InfraGard® Central Ohio Members Alliance partnered to offer a Cyber Security Summit on October 27.*

# Public Safety Briefs



Enforcement Administrator Richard Cologie receives the Public Safety Agency of the Year award from NLLEA President Fredrick Mahony and Vice President Joseph Cannon.

## OIU Honored by National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

On October 1, the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) presented the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) with the Liquor Law Enforcement Public Safety Agency of Year Award during its annual conference in Louisville, Ky. NLLEA also honored OIU Assistant Agent-in-Charge Robert Boldin with the Liquor Law Enforcement Agent of the Year award.

NLLEA selected OIU because of the agency's trace-back program, which allows for immediate response of OIU agents to alcohol-related fatalities that occur on Ohio's roadways. The success of the agency's work has contributed to the decline of alcohol-related fatalities in Ohio over the last two years by tracing the source of alcohol after an alcohol-related crash or incident, or a situation involving minors and alcohol.

"OIU's trace-back program has become a national model for other law enforcement agencies to go the extra step after alcohol-related tragedies," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born. "The success of the program is a credit to the agents who have been working so hard to bring these people to justice and make Ohio safer."

Boldin was recognized for his leadership while coordinating more than 100 law enforcement officers and prosecutors in Ohio and in other states to investigate illegal gambling at more than 50 Internet cafes and their operators in Northeast Ohio.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at [www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety](http://www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety).



## OCJS Awarded Rescue & Restore Regional Program Grant

In September, the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) awarded \$440,000 over three years to three coalitions fighting human trafficking. The funding will strengthen awareness efforts and anti-trafficking coalitions, and help provide more victims with needed services.

OCJS will serve as the fiscal and monitoring agent for the grant, working in partnership with Toledo Area Ministries, representing the Lucas County Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Salvation Army of Central Ohio, representing the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition; and Salvation Army of Greater Cincinnati, representing End Slavery Cincinnati.

The grant is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. The three-year award

of \$146,690 per year will increase the coalitions' ability to identify and serve some of Ohio's most vulnerable and under-identified victims. In addition to funding part-time regional coordinators, the grant will also fund trainings for key groups such as law enforcement and social service providers as well as translation of public awareness materials into additional languages identified as needed in these regions.

In March 2012, Governor John R. Kasich signed an executive order creating the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, charging the group with marshaling state resources to put a stop to human trafficking. OCJS administers the JAG program, which allows local and state governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on the needs and conditions of the jurisdictions.



### State of Ohio Recovery Strategy

In the past 10 years, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has been able to look back on events that have impacted the state and identify areas of opportunity to create stronger and more resilient communities.

When a disaster occurs, the impact on a community can have devastating effects on survivors, responders and the community itself. The recovery process can be as traumatic as the actual event. Recovery is a critical piece of the four phases of emergency management because of the economic impact it can have on rebuilding and returning a community to a new normal.

Ohio EMA organized a roundtable discussion that included federal, state, local and non-governmental partners from various agencies who discussed and identified critical components that strengthen the state's recovery efforts before a disaster strikes. This effort, known as the State of Ohio Recovery Strategy, is designed to identify and assemble resources that

are available from federal, state, local and non-governmental partners. The foundation of the strategy will outline operational guidance and implementation as it engages the concept of the whole community.

The individual components of the strategy include a focus on infrastructure, housing, economic, health and social services and natural and cultural resources.

In the past 10 years, Ohio has administered: eight federal disaster declarations totaling approximately \$355 million in local, state and federal recovery dollars; 14 State Disaster Relief Program activations totaling \$15.5 million in state disbursements; and seven State Individual Assistance Program activations totaling \$1.8 million in state disbursements. A recovery strategy that includes all partners—state, local, private sector and federal—will foster a stronger, more resilient Ohio and create a safer future for us all.



### Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Receives National Award

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) recently received an American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) Award for its news release on the “What’s on Your Plate?” contest, a campaign designed to give special plate holders a chance to showcase the creativity of their plate and promote the special plate program.

The BMV launched “What’s on Your Plate” in November 2013 to give Ohioans the opportunity to share the unique, creative stories behind the message on their license plate.

The PACE Awards recognize public relations, public affairs and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement and traffic safety agencies across North America. The program recognizes creativity, cost effectiveness and the ability to reach consumers with a well-crafted, measured and executed message.



# Public Safety Grants

## ODPS Awards \$50,023 to TriHealth Bethesda North Hospital

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire & Transportation Services presented the TriHealth Bethesda North Hospital a check for \$50,023 to fund the TriHealth Multifaceted Fall Prevention Study.

The study is funded by an Injury Prevention Research grant administered by ODPS' Division of Emergency Medical Services. TriHealth is collaborating with Good Samaritan Outpatient Physical Therapy at Glenway, Green Township Emergency Medical Services and People Working Cooperatively for the study.

“We are pleased to provide funding for the TriHealth Bethesda North Hospital and its efforts to study fall prevention,” said ODPS Director John Born. “This presents EMS with a golden opportunity to assess, intervene and prevent future falls, so we appreciate the hard work being done by our partners, and the commitment to keeping our citizens safe.”

“This grant and research continues TriHealth's commitment to the health and well-being of the growing senior population we serve on a daily basis,” said



*On August 5, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services presented TriHealth Bethesda North in Cincinnati a check for \$50,023 to fund the TriHealth Multifaceted Fall Prevention Study. The study is funded by an injury prevention research grant administered by ODPS' Division of Emergency Medical Services.*

Stephanie Lambers, Trauma Prevention Coordinator, Bethesda North Hospital.

Injury Prevention Research grants are given to

entities that research the causes, nature and effects of traumatic injuries; educate the public about injury prevention; and implement, test, and evaluate injury prevention.



## ODPS Veterans Day Activities Honor Our Country & Our Military

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is a long-time supporter of numerous employees who currently serve or who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Earlier this year, ODPS received the coveted “Extraordinary Employer Support Award” from the Ohio Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve with special recognition of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

On November 10, in recognition of Veterans Day, ODPS unveiled an illuminated 10-foot tall American flag, as well as an Ohio flag, displayed on the side of ODPS General Headquarters visible from Interstate 70 to honor the United States and the men and women of our armed forces.

Earlier in the day, ODPS awarded its annual Military Service Award, which recognizes the military service of an ODPS employee. The 2014 honoree is Christy Clark, a 20-year ODPS employee who serves with the Ohio Air National Guard’s 121st Air Refueling Wing as a Technical Sergeant. At ODPS, Clark is an Enforcement Administrator for Private Investigator Security Guard Services.

*ODPS Director John Born, ODPS Military Committee member Staff Sergeant Gary Allen, 2014 ODPS Military Service Award honoree Technical Sergeant Christy Clark, State Representative Rick Perales and ODPS Military Committee member Keith Church.*



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