SAFER OHIO

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Tip line available to Ohio Schools

844-SaferOH

Free safety resource accepts anonymous calls and texts about threats to school safety

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Ohio Department of Public Safety
SAFETY · SERVICE · PROTECTION

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John R. Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio

John Born
Director, Department of Public Safety

Free 844-SaferOH tip line now available to Ohio Schools

A new safety resource was introduced to Ohio schools in December 2014 as part of the Safer Schools Ohio initiative. This resource — an anonymous tip line — is available free-of-charge to every school district and school in Ohio. So far, more than 1,000 schools have signed up to use the service.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Public Safety launched the 844-SaferOH tip line, which accepts both calls and text messages 24 hours a day, to allow students and adults to anonymously share information about threats to student safety with school officials and law enforcement — whether that involves a threatened mass incident or harm to a single student.

Research shows that in 81 percent of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew something was occurring or was about to occur, but failed to report it.

Once a tip is received, personnel from Ohio Homeland Security's (OHS) Threat Assessment and Prevention (TAP) Unit will determine whether the concern is a school-related threat of a criminal nature and/or a criminal terrorism-related tip or suspicious activity.

If the threat is of a criminal nature, the TAP Unit will use OHS resources, including the Regional Fusion Centers, Intelligence Liaison Officer Program, local law enforcement liaisons within the Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC) and the OHS ODE analyst to notify appropriate partners.

In all cases, tip information will be shared with partners who have a right-to-know or need-to-know to include, but not limited to:

- Local public safety professionals in affected areas, e.g., law enforcement, fire/EMS;
- Intelligence liaison officers in the affected areas;
- ODE representative to the Ohio SAIC;
- School resource officer (if a direct OHS contact);
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Intelligence Unit;
- The Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center;
- Greater Cincinnati Regional Fusion Center;
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
- Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Suspicious activity or non-criminal, school-safety concerns (e.g., general tips about bullying, suspicious behavior/actions discovered on social media, fights between students, reports of individuals on school grounds who may not have an appropriate reason for being there) will be routed to the ODE representative, school administrators and local law enforcement.

The TAP Unit is staffed with four analysts who completed U.S. Secret Service and FBI threat assessment training last fall, and who have already contributed to response activities regarding more than 30 threats to schools within Ohio since September of last year.

As part of the Safer Schools Ohio initiative, OHS reviews and evaluates Ohio schools' emergency management and safety plans to provide guidance to school administrators and officials on how to further develop and improve plans to ensure best safety practices are implemented. TAP analysts assist schools with threat analysis, mitigation and closing information-reporting gaps.

Later this year, the TAP Unit will begin publishing a quarterly school-related publication with critical information for school administrators, as well as providing assistance during training opportunities and presentations available to all school administrators.

Schools can sign up for the free tip line at saferschools.ohio.gov.

On January 14, Superintendent of Public Instruction Richard A. Ross and ODPS Director John Born recognized Liberty-Union High School in Fairfield County for being one of the first schools to sign up for the 844-SaferOH tip line.

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

With the assistance of federal homeland security funds as part of the Safer Schools Ohio Initiative, OHS provided explosive detection canines to The Ohio State University, Youngstown State University, Bowling Green State University, University of Toledo, Kent State University, Cleveland State University, Central State University and Ohio University. While the canine handlers are university police personnel, they are available to respond to threats throughout their regions of the state.

Intelligence-led Strategies Continue to Protect Ohioans through the Hub

From catching criminals to preventing tragedies, there is no question coordinated efforts yield the best results. Ohio dramatically improved its public safety services through an investment in intelligence with the creation of the Hub in 2011, and citizens continue to reap the benefits.

Because of the Hub, there is increased access to critical information that speeds up the deployment of assets during critical incidents — and its services are offered at no charge.

The Hub was created by the merger of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's (OSHP) Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) into the Critical Information and Communication Center (CICC) at the State Emergency Operations Center in Columbus.

The round-the-clock operation uniquely merges the intelligence capabilities of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security into one public safety mission. Analysts manage and share information proven to be relevant, reliable and actionable with divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety to support operational duties. After business hours, several state agencies redirect their phone lines to the Hub, providing coverage at all hours.

By supporting other state agencies — as well as local, federal and out-of-state agencies — Hub personnel help solve problems quickly and accurately, and the results continue to impress.

- Local police investigated a suicide threat after the OSP Hub – Intel Unit received a call in November 2014 advising a juvenile in Ohio sent a suicidal message on Snapchat. An analyst determined the person's location in Lancaster, and two Lancaster Police officers responded to the address. The juvenile's parents advised they would take further action to help their son.
- An ill truck driver received medical treatment after his son, concerned for his father's health, contacted the OSP Hub – Watch Desk in December 2014. The son had spoken with his father, who suffers from low blood pressure and diabetes, and learned he was disoriented and refusing to stop for help. A cell phone ping revealed the driver's location, and an OSP trooper was dispatched to the scene. The driver was transported by squad for medical treatment.
- A potential threat to a high school was subverted in Brown County after the OSP Hub – Intel Unit received a call on the Homeland Security tip line from a concerned citizen. An analyst contacted the Threat Assessment and Prevention Unit, which collaborated with the local sheriff's office and the Ohio Department of Education, to protect the school against the threat.

Impacting crime statistics is important, but it is imperative to remember the human element — the long-term effect on individuals facing both financial and emotional loss. Embracing new technology and proven techniques is crucial to ensuring the well-being of Ohio's citizens.

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

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ODPS Highlights Trend of Crime Reduction in the State

Ohio is significantly safer due to the diligence of law enforcement and community involvement. According to the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report released in January, overall crime in the Midwest is declining.

From January through December 2013, compared to January through June 2014, the trend of crime reduction in the areas of violent crime and property crime continues for Ohio.

"This accomplishment is the result of the collective efforts of a lot of people," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born. "I want to specifically thank the police officers and the members of the community for collaborating to improve the quality of life in this state."

Director Born and Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Executive Director Karhlton Moore recognized the Circleville Police Department and Police Chief Harold W. Gray Jr. with the "I Contribute" Award in December for their efforts to reduce crime in Circleville.

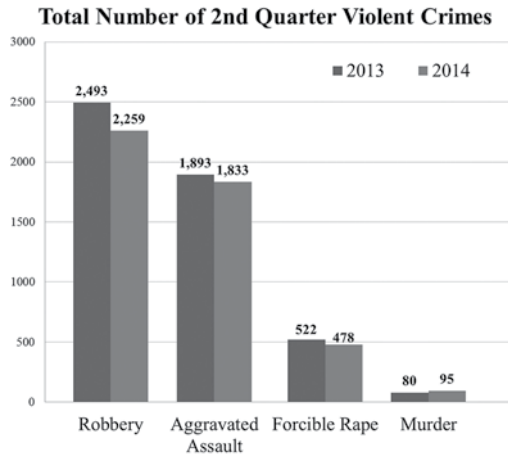
Circleville was among a list of Ohio cities that showed a violent and property crime reductions. The Circleville Police Department's crime-fighting tactics resulted in a 25.8 percent decrease in violent crime and a 10 percent decrease in property crime.

2nd Quarter Crime in Major Ohio Cities, 2014

- 31,914 violent or property crimes were reported in major Ohio cities during the second quarter of 2014 — a 4.5 percent decrease from the second quarter of 2013.
- The 4,665 violent crimes reported in the second quarter of 2014 represent a 6.5 percent decrease from the 4,988 violent crimes reported in the second quarter of 2013.
- The 27,249 property crimes reported in the second quarter of 2014 represent a 4.1 percent decrease from the 28,418 property crimes reported in the second quarter of 2013.
- Both violent and property crime increased in Dayton from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. All of the other cities in this report experienced a decrease in both violent and property crime during that time period.

The "I Contribute" Award recognizes an individual or agency for making a positive public safety impact in their community. To learn more, visit publicsafety.ohio.gov.

To view OCJS Policy & Research reports, visit: ocjs.ohio.gov.



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

A Circleville police officer speaks with a neighborhood shop owner. The Circleville Police Department won an "I Contribute" Award in December for efforts to reduce crime.

BMV Investigators Fight Identity Theft, Fraud

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) investigators work to combat fraud by identifying schemes in which fraudulent, altered or misrepresented documents are used to secure Ohio certificates of title, vehicle registrations, driver licenses and identification cards.

Drug Dealer Tries to Conceal Identity

One recent case involved a Massachusetts resident (Victim 1) who submitted a complaint to the Ohio BMV that an unknown person acquired an Ohio driver license under his name and identifiers. A BMV investigator discovered the impostor not only had an Ohio license under the name and identifiers of Victim 1, but also secured a license under the name and identifiers of a second victim (Victim 2).

The investigator applied notations to the driving records associated with the fraudulent licenses to alert license agency personnel and law enforcement should they come in contact with the suspect.

About a week after the notations were applied, a Franklin County deputy sheriff called the investigator advising he had arrested a suspect with an Ohio driver license in the name of Victim 1. The BMV investigator responded to the scene and encountered the impostor depicted in the Ohio system under the names and identifiers of Victims 1 and 2.

Upon arrest, the suspect was found in possession of a half-pound of cocaine, a firearm and a foreign passport. He was booked under the third name he gave officers, which is believed to be his true identity.

BMV's quick and thorough investigation stopped the identity theft offenses occurring under the names and identifiers of the two victims.

Wanted Felon Falsifies Documents

In another recent case, the BMV was contacted by the Social Security Administration (SSA) about an Ohio Identification Card (ID) issued to a Julia Bay Wadsworth. The SSA wanted to know how Wadsworth acquired an Ohio ID without a Social Security number.

A BMV investigator looked over the applications associated with Wadsworth's transactions and found Wadsworth completed a form stating she had applied for a Social Security number. The application also showed Wadsworth presented a Maine birth certificate as evidence of her name, date of birth and legal presence to secure an Ohio ID.

The BMV investigator found very little information on the identity of Julia Bay Wadsworth, but did discover Wadsworth had provided fraudulent information to the state of Maine to secure a Maine Delayed Birth Registration. The BMV investigator also was unable to find any information about Wadsworth's parents as listed on the Maine Delayed Birth Registration.

Wadsworth told the BMV investigator she was born in a house in Maine and sold to a man at the age of 17 for $10,000 to act as a caregiver, and she therefore could not begin to establish her identity until the man developed dementia and she gained more freedom. Wadsworth said the man died in early 2014, and she presently was caring for an elderly woman in Lima, Ohio.

— Continued on next page.

The BMV investigator found many inconsistencies with the account provided by Wadsworth. After Wadsworth agreed to be fingerprinted by the FBI, she appeared for her appointment with cream on her hands, claiming to have fungal dermatitis. When she was told to wash the cream off, Wadsworth decided to not give her fingerprints.

The BMV investigator presented the case to the Allen County Prosecutor, who advised there was enough probable cause to file felony tampering with records charges for the false information presented to obtain the Ohio ID card and a warrant was issued for the arrest of Julia Bay Wadsworth.

When she was taken into custody, officers discovered Wadsworth's fingertips appeared to have been chemically burned so fingerprints could not be used for positive identification. Her DNA was submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification in an attempt to make a positive identification, but to no avail.

Press releases were disseminated nationwide in an attempt to gain more information about the identity of Julia Bay Wadsworth. An anonymous tipster called the Allen County Sheriff's Office and advised the true identity of Julia Bay Wadsworth was Ann Marie Miller, who fled Colorado after she had been indicted on 14 felonies.

Miller was sentenced to 18 months in Ohio prison for tampering with records. After she serves her Ohio prison time, she will be extradited to Colorado.

Law enforcement officers and license agency personnel are alerted to suspected fraud when BMV investigators apply notations to suspect driving records. BMV investigators conduct more than 2,500 investigations annually.

Public Safety Briefs

New Ohio BMV Registrar Don Petit

Don Petit became registrar of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) in December 2014. As registrar, Petit oversees driver licensing and vehicle licensing registration, while working to make services more convenient, efficient and cost-effective.

"My goal is to utilize new technology strategies to help streamline administrative tasks and responsibilities," said Registrar Petit. "We want to ensure we are meeting our customers' needs where they are, not where we are."

Registrar Petit has served with the BMV since January 2011, initially overseeing deputy registrar compliance in central Ohio and then statewide. Petit was promoted to assistant registrar in fall 2011 and oversaw statewide compliance, BMV investigations and deputy registrar contracting, and also coordinated BMV's policy and legislative efforts. In spring 2014, Registrar Petit, assisted in the implementation of the department's Safer Ohio Initiative.

Prior to joining the BMV, Registrar Petit served as a deputy inspector general with the Office of Ohio Inspector General, the agency responsible for investigating allegations of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in state agencies within the governor's line of authority. He also served with the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, overseeing lobbyist registration and reporting, as well as serving as lead investigator for allegations of misconduct by members, staff and candidates for the Ohio General Assembly. Past service also includes positions with the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Governor's Office.

New Ohio Driver License and Identification Cards in Circulation

On January 5, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles began issuing a new blue and green format of Ohio's driver license and identification cards *(see example on "In This Issue" page)*. Cards printed in the old formats remain valid until expired. Customers who wish to obtain a new card before their current card expires may do so by paying a $25.75 (license) or $8.50 (identification) fee at a local deputy registrar.

New Ohio EMA Executive Director Evan Schumann

Evan W. Schumann was named executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) by Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born on January 8, 2015. Schumann's official start date with the agency was January 26.

"The state of Ohio is fortunate to be able to find an emergency management professional with Mr. Schumann's qualifications here in our own state," said Born. "I look forward to working with him to make the state safer for all Ohioans."

Among his duties, Director Schumann will continue implementation of the 4/72 Project, which provides basic life needs for people impacted by a disaster within four hours of the incident and sustainable for 72 hours. He also will work with the Safer Ohio Teams concept to coordinate emergency response by local and state responders.

"I've had nothing but good experiences working with Ohio EMA in the past and I am extremely excited about this opportunity," Director Schumann said. "I am all about the team, and we are all part of the team that will help Ohioans prepare for, mitigate, respond and recover from disasters."

Director Schumann's vision for effective emergency management in Ohio includes a coordinated, integrated response across all sectors, including federal, state, county and local government, private entities, non-profits and faith-based organizations.

"Success in this arena depends on building relationships and trust among all partners before a disaster hits," he said.

Before joining Ohio EMA, Director Schumann was the program manager for Ohio Task Force 1, Ohio's urban search and rescue task force stationed in Dayton. Ohio Task Force 1 is one of 28 search and rescue task forces in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Urban Search and Rescue System. Under his leadership, Ohio Task Force 1 personnel responded to disasters including hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, mudslides in Washington and flooding in Colorado.

A licensed civil engineer and a graduate of the Ohio Fire Executive Program, Schumann holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Norwich University Military College of Vermont and bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Michigan State University.

Director Schumann has been associated with the fire service for nearly 20 years, beginning with the California Department of Forestry as a wildland firefighter, and in Ohio as Captain of Fire Operations with the Monclova Township Fire Department in Lucas County.

As the program manager of Ohio Task Force 1, Director Schumann was deployed by FEMA to hurricanes Dean, Ivan and Katrina, and to the Moore, Okla., tornado. He also has deployed with the State of Ohio Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) to flooding in Findlay in 2007.

Director Schumann is a certified firefighter, fire instructor and emergency medical technician in the state of Ohio. He is also a certified logistics section chief and resource unit leader with Ohio's IMT.

Public Safety Grants

180 Radios Presented to Local First Responders

In a continuing effort to ensure statewide interoperability among first responders, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), a division of the Department of Public Safety (ODPS), presented 180 radios to fire departments and law enforcement agencies around Ohio.

"Getting these radios into the hands of first responders will help them communicate clearly while decreasing response times and enhancing interoperability," said ODPS Director John Born. "We are pleased to be able to make this equipment available in support of their efforts towards a safer Ohio."

The Multi-Agency Radio Communication Systems (MARCS) radios were purchased with a U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security grant, and are designed to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prevent and respond to incidents. Eighteen jurisdictions around Ohio received the 180 radios at no cost in January. The radios are valued at nearly $600,000.

"Without this grant, it would have been virtually impossible to get any of these radios," said Buckeye Lake Police Chief Jim Hanzey. "The day this grant came through, it was a big weight lifted off me."

EMA serves as the state administering agency for homeland security funds. MARCS is an 800-megahertz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability. The MARCS Program Office is housed within the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

Fifty-five radios were presented to the Licking County Sheriff's Office, and the Hebron, Granville, Buckeye Lake and Union Township police departments January 7.

"Our migration to (MARCS) radios wouldn't have been possible without this help," said Licking County Sheriff Randy Thorp. "We're excited to get these radios out to some of our neighboring entities we work with every day."

Jefferson County police departments, including the sheriff's office and 911 center, received 36 radios on January 15. Local officials said the new radios will allow officers to communicate better as the new system has eliminated the old system's gap in response time when dispatchers were contacting dispatchers at other agencies.

While addressing the emergency responders, Jefferson County EMA Director Rob Harrington said, "This capability in your hands will obviously contribute to officer safety and enhance the ability to go out and do your jobs. This is going to be a huge plus for all of us."

The recent influx of radios in Perry County brings every first responder organization in that county into the MARCS system.

"Every vehicle for law enforcement, fire and EMS will have MARCS radio capability; we have reached that goal," said Perry County EMA Director Rita Spicer. "Basically, these radios enable us to get more help where needed, faster."

Officer Shawn Wilson of the Granville Police Department in Licking County uses a new portable MARCS radio.

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