

SAFER OHIO

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**Contributing To A Safer Ohio:
While You Were Sleeping**

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While you were sleeping... This issue explores some of the ways the Ohio Department of Public Safety works to keep Ohioans safe overnight, like the Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers working to remove impaired drivers from our roadways.



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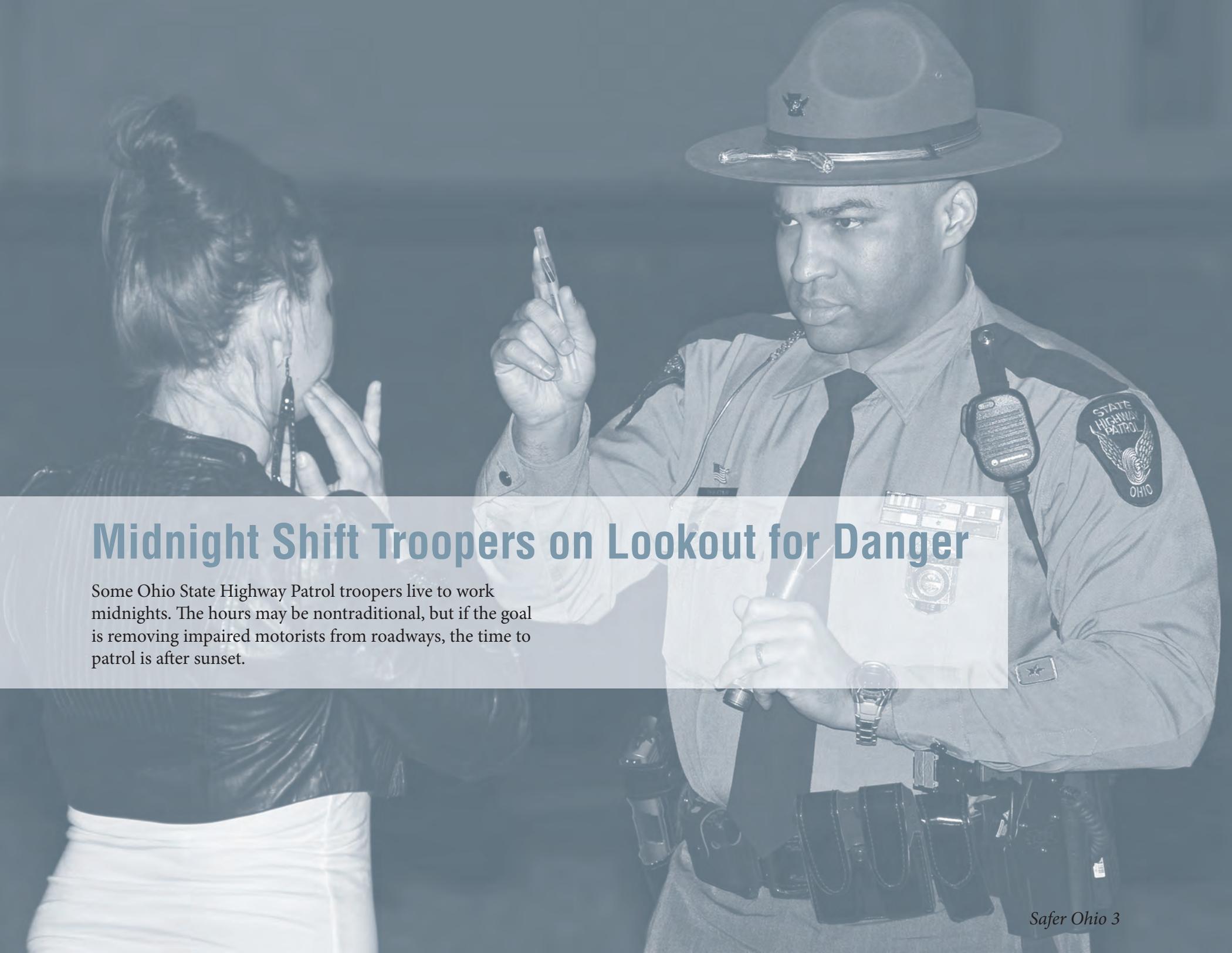
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A trooper in uniform, wearing a hat and a "STATE HIGHWAY PATROL OHIO" patch, is talking to a woman. The trooper is holding a small object in his hand. The woman is wearing a dark jacket and a white skirt. The background is dark and blurry.

Midnight Shift Troopers on Lookout for Danger

Some Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers live to work midnights. The hours may be nontraditional, but if the goal is removing impaired motorists from roadways, the time to patrol is after sunset.

A vast majority of OVI arrests are made between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., with the busiest hour being between 2 and 3 a.m. This means a dedicated force of troopers search for dangerous motorists into every early morning with the goal of saving lives.

Trooper Evan Slates of the Bowling Green Post is one such trooper who prefers to work at night. He has worked for the division for five years, assigned to the afternoon shift for a few initial months before requesting a permanent switch to midnights. As of November, he led his peers in OVI interdiction for 2015 with 217 arrests.

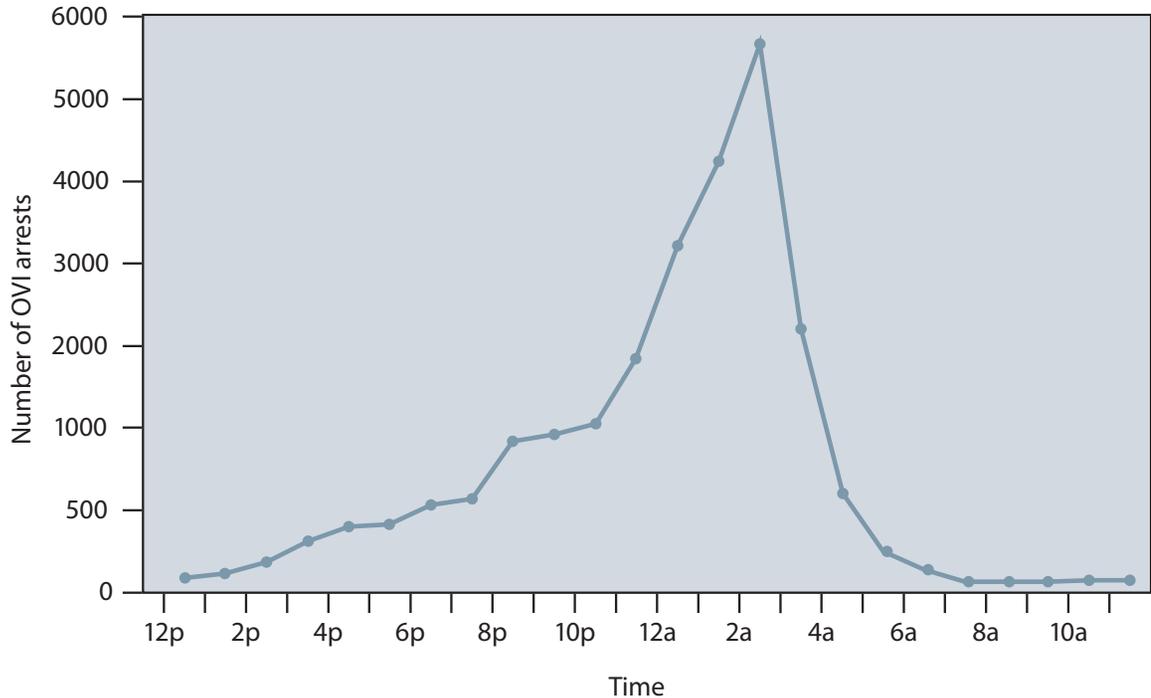
He focuses his patrol where he knows drunk driving is more prevalent, such as in areas with bars, before those impaired motorists get to the highway.

“My goal is to be proactive at night,” Trooper Slates said. “I don’t sit and wait for drunks to come to me.”

Troopers like Slates watch for violations that can indicate impairment such as speed or marked lanes violations; in more extreme instances, they may see aggressive violations like driving on the wrong side of the road.

“At the end of the night, if I made three OVI arrests, in my mind I might have saved three lives,” he said.

2014 OSHP OVI arrests



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

Troopers' nighttime duties go beyond the arrest of impaired or aggressive motorists. They also provide an invaluable service as extra sets of eyes and ears in the late hours, when roadway traffic has thinned and help for those in need can be scarce.

A prime example occurred in September, when a 5-year-old boy with autism wandered onto a highway in Delaware County. Trooper Ryan May of the Delaware Post was at the end of his shift around midnight on September 9 when he saw the child running on the sidewalk of the U.S. 36 bridge, which crosses over the Olentangy River. The boy was frightened and bolted away from Trooper May, so he quickly blocked traffic with his cruiser and stopped the boy as he attempted to run across lanes of the highway.

A subsequent investigation by the Delaware Police Department revealed the child, who is non-verbal, had climbed out of an open window at a residence nearly a mile away while his parents slept. He was returned safely to his parents and a possible tragedy was avoided.

Trooper May's actions reflect the character of troopers statewide. Through actively patrolling the streets of Ohio, troopers can be there for anyone in need, no matter where or when.



PISGS, OIU Work Together to Make Ohio's Bars, Nightclubs Safe

PISGS

As evening blankets Ohio, security guards take their posts at retail establishments, banks, reception halls and apartment complexes. Security guards are an important public safety partner, and there are more than 22,000 private security personnel in Ohio. They are often the first responders to the scene of a crime, they deter criminals from illegal activity and they provide patrons and employees with peace of mind.

The Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS) section of the Ohio Department of Public Safety licenses and regulates companies that provide investigation or security services. PISGS promotes public safety by verifying companies are insured and operated by people with appropriate experience and training and that employees undergo criminal background checks. Obtaining a PISGS firearm bearer permit requires additional training. Providing security services without a license is a threat to public safety – and a crime.

When PISGS receives a complaint about a guard carrying a firearm illegally, an investigator will go out and talk to the individual to verify whether he or she is working for a licensed company and is properly registered as a guard with a credential to carry a firearm on duty. Many times these guards are working in high-crime areas with gang activity.

“I served in the military and deployed for combat operations four times, however it is a totally different feeling being out there on your own and approaching someone who may or may not have a firearm and who may or may not be breaking the law,” PISGS Investigator James Borntreger said.

Borntreger and his coworkers know unlicensed companies and guards often move from location to location trying to fly under PISGS’s radar.

OIU

As midnight strikes in Ohio, nightclubs, carry-outs, bars and other entertainment venues are busy with customers. Liquor permit establishments can be tourist attractions, places to gather with friends or a spot to watch the big game, and in many instances they are significant parts of communities.

Because of this community standing, it is very important to ensure liquor permit premises are operating within Ohio laws. Ohio Investigative Unit agents have been inspecting liquor permit premises and illegal alcohol establishments for more than 80 years. Much of the work is done at night and on weekends when these businesses are open. Agents check to see if Ohio’s liquor laws are being followed.

Some establishments may sell alcohol illegally or al-

low drug deals and prostitution to take place openly inside the permit. Other places may have health or sanitation violations.

“A lot of these locations are going underground, and that’s where you see heinous crimes,” Cleveland District Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft said. “There are shootings taking place almost nightly. Our agents are going into unregulated establishments that operate in the shadows. Crime surrounds these places.”

Croft added that illegal establishments have been located in old houses in the middle of residential areas. When you walk in, these places look just like a crowded bar. Some employ strippers, and patrons may be openly doing drugs. Gang activity is high. No laws – city, state or federal – are being followed.

“These places are dangerous,” Croft said. “You have no idea what you are being served and you don’t know what environment you’re walking into. Things can escalate quickly.”

Together

So what happens when unlicensed security guards and liquor establishments mix? Many agents see security companies haphazardly putting armed guards into liquor businesses with no training, understanding of the law or regard for safety.



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

“We walk in (the bar) and (the security guards) are throwing guns and knives out the back door,” an undercover OIU agent from Columbus said, referring to a club that used unlicensed armed security guards. Agents have also seen instances where unlicensed security guards have caused physical harm to bar patrons because they are not properly trained.

In the last year, PISGS and OIU have started working together on a regular basis, and have jointly worked at least 12 cases. While some are still pending in court or administrative hearings, one case with the Columbus Police Department resulted in a location closing down prior to a nuisance abatement order being issued on the liquor permit.

In Toledo, there were three shootings at three area bars in less than a year’s time. Each location had one common thread: the same individual supplied heavily-armed guards with tactical gear and badges to these locations. The joint investigation between OIU, PISGS and the Toledo Police Department confirmed the individual was not licensed to provide security and resulted in a guilty plea to attempting to engage in private investigator/security guard services, a second degree misdemeanor.

“(PISGS) is a great resource, a huge asset for us,” Croft said. “We let them know of potential violations with security companies, and in return, they tell us about what they see as well.”

Right: PISGS investigators and OIU agents work together to ensure security personnel at liquor establishments are properly licensed.



Truckers Help in the Fight against Human Trafficking

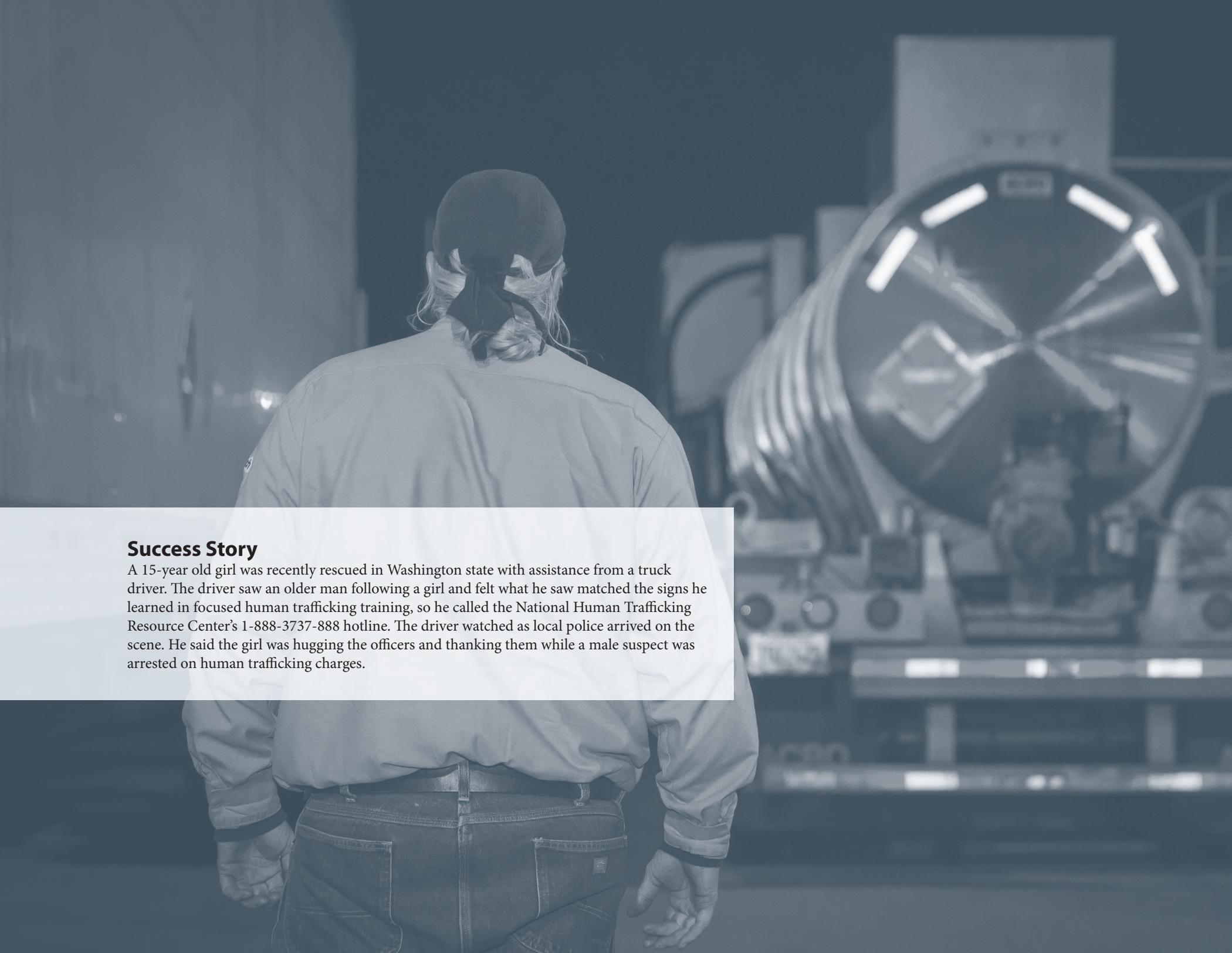
When you think about human trafficking, many times images of foreign-born individuals being rescued in the night from dark, dank sweat shops or parlors come to mind. While this is a narrative often displayed in the media, the victims of human trafficking are diverse, and the routes in which one enters this unfortunate circumstance vary, making the fight against human trafficking daunting.

Truck drivers can join the fight to combat human trafficking by serving as additional “eyes and ears” on the road to help recognize potential victims of the sex trade during their daily and nightly travels across Ohio and beyond.

Pending approval, Ohio CDL drivers will be required to complete a one-hour training course that includes the distribution of a Truckers Against Trafficking card offering tips for recognizing the signs of human trafficking and a number to call if a crime is suspected.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Captain Mike Crispen, commander of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Section, opened the discussion on additional ways to combat human trafficking in Ohio at a summer meeting that led to collaboration among 68 public safety allies in developing an initiative to raise awareness about human trafficking throughout the transportation community.

Members of the coalition that met at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy June 2015 included representatives from the Governor’s Office, the Attorney General’s Office, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Trucking Association, Truckers Against Trafficking, several social services organizations, the trucking and transportation industry, fueling and rest locations and law enforcement officers.

A truck driver in a white uniform and cap, seen from behind, standing in front of a large truck at night. The driver is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark cap, and dark pants. The truck behind him is a large commercial vehicle with a prominent circular light fixture on its front. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a nighttime setting.

Success Story

A 15-year old girl was recently rescued in Washington state with assistance from a truck driver. The driver saw an older man following a girl and felt what he saw matched the signs he learned in focused human trafficking training, so he called the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's 1-888-3737-888 hotline. The driver watched as local police arrived on the scene. He said the girl was hugging the officers and thanking them while a male suspect was arrested on human trafficking charges.

Vehicle Registrations Available ‘Where YOU Are’

When you think of 24/7 services, you probably wouldn't think of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). However, the BMV recently made strides to make services more convenient and available to customers “where YOU are, not where we are.”

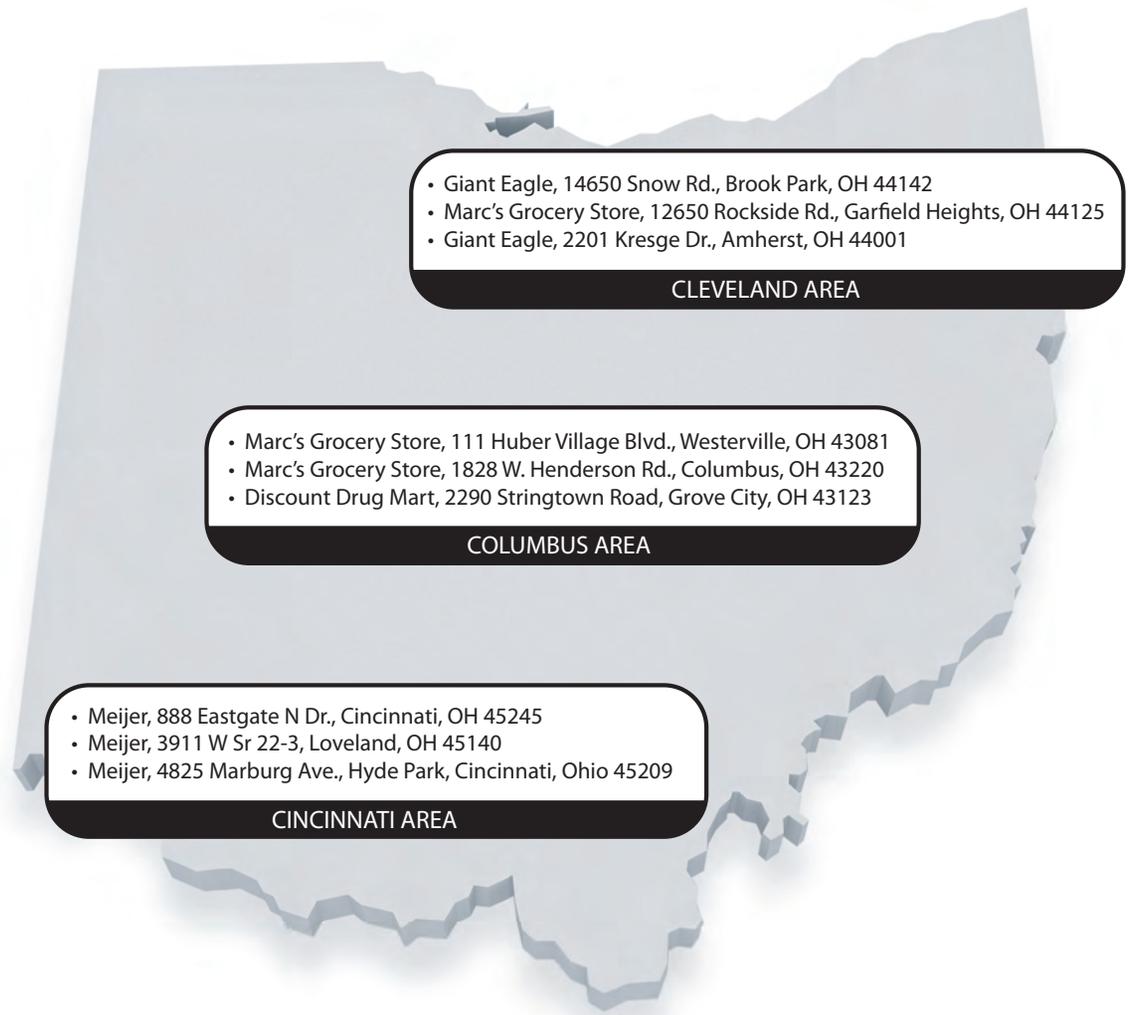
Currently, at nine grocer locations across the state, “BMV4U Self-Service Terminals” are available during extended hours to offer vehicle registration renewals to customers in 60 seconds.

Because of their convenience and easy-to-use system, the BMV4U terminals are generating positive feedback across the state. Tim from Westerville said the following about his experience: “I was out shopping with my family the Saturday before my birthday in early October. We went in to look at costumes for the kids and made a stop at the customer service center for popcorn. I saw the SST sitting there and it reminded me that I needed to renew my registration. I told my wife to go on to the costumes without me, figuring the SST might take a few minutes. To my surprise, it only took roughly a minute to complete my transaction, and I was able to join my family really before they left my sight. It really was easy to use and very convenient.”

At the terminals, you may renew your registration for one year only for up to five vehicles. The latest terminal located at Meijer in Cincinnati was installed on Nov. 3 and completed the pilot installation phase.

Since the first self-service terminal debuted in April 2015 as part of the pilot program, more than 3,600 vehicle registrations have been processed.

Please visit bmv.ohio.gov for more information on the terminals.



BMV4U terminals offer vehicle registration renewals during expanded hours at convenient locations.



OHIO
BMV4U

3

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Ohio's Strategic Analysis and Information Center Ready to Respond to Cyber Threats

At the United States Department of Homeland Security, cybersecurity expert John Felker warns of the dangers of remaining oblivious about online activities. "Everyone within an organization, including the leadership, must be more active in cybersecurity. It's not just about a CEO telling a Chief Information Officer 'Go fix this!' anymore," he says.

Here in Ohio, analysts and their leadership at Ohio Homeland Security's (OHS) Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC) parallel Felker's attitude. At every time of day and every day of the year, the SAIC is ready to respond to cyber threats. Upon notification of an occurrence, either through partner agencies or through tips relayed via telephone or email, the SAIC analysts work diligently to evaluate the information and determine the consequences to Ohio consumers, businesses and government entities. Often, analysts are able identify and provide critical details to those who are impacted in order to protect their systems from cyber threats. The specifics of these occurrences are sent out to partners as bulletins through the Communication and Information Management System (CIMS), a 24/7 central information sharing hub for homeland security efforts in Ohio.

On several occasions in the past year, callers have contacted the SAIC tip-line during the overnight hours to report problems with their computers related to Ransomware or Cryptolocker. This is malicious software which encrypts files on an infected computer until a price or "ransom" has been paid to the hacker. In two cases, the callers indicated they were required to pay \$300 to re-gain access to their computers and un-encrypt files. A third situation came in late one night from a professional sports team indicating a similar virus was requesting \$700 for access. SAIC analysts provided each victim suggestions on dealing with these types of cyber-attacks and directed the callers to available resources.

The causes of cyber threats are diverse. "The primary motive is currency," says one SAIC analyst. "That's what drives a lot of the hacking. They want money and they are finding ways to get money easily and deceptively." The analyst then goes on to describe a multitude of other reasons why cyber-attacks have occurred in the past including theft of lucrative information, blackmail, ideological differences, or other covert incentives. In June 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management announced that it had been hacked and that clearance information and fingerprints of tens of thousands of people had been stolen. No person or entity has claimed responsibility for the hack, and the motivation remains unknown.

But despite the ambiguity surrounding cyber-attacks, one trend stands prominent in effective cybersecurity: us. "The human element is the weak-link in technology," said Sgt. Tom Gerber, OHS Chief of Operations. "This is why it is vital for each of us to know what we can do to help prevent cyber-attacks. Even simple things such as regular password changes and mindfulness of unsecured Wi-Fi networks can help keep your systems more secure."

Richard Zwayer, OHS Executive Director, concurs, "It's much like protecting our homes with good locks and security systems; our computers and devices are our home to important information."

With the help of government institutions and private businesses partners, everyone from analysts at OHS to family members in our own homes can spread information about cybersecurity. "Everyone has a role to play in cyber security, whether it's protecting our families from identity theft, protecting their workplaces from cyber-attacks, or protecting our communities from cyber predators," Zwayer said. "By working together we can all contribute to a safer Ohio."

EMA Watch Desk Offers Round-the-Clock Response

When flood waters rise anywhere in the state, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) is a hub of activity, even in the middle of the night. Calls requesting assistance, and providing updates on road closures and critical infrastructure protection come in from local officials around the clock.

On June 19, 2015, 1:10 a.m., the Auglaize County EMA Director reports sandbagging operations have concluded with 2,500 sandbags utilized in an attempt to keep an electric sub-station safe from rising flood waters. Sixteen roads in the county were closed, 40 high water signs had been placed and two shelters were opened to house those whose homes had been affected. Fortunately, flood waters never breached the substation, and there was no disruption of electric to the region.

That is just one of hundreds of similar incidents around Ohio this wet spring and summer.

Working closely with local partners, Ohio EMA has 24-7-365 response capabilities when a disaster or incident overwhelms local response efforts. Whenever a disaster strikes, all it takes is one phone call to Ohio EMA to begin the process of bringing state of Ohio resources to bear on the incident at hand.

A key component of the state emergency management system is the newly created Ohio EMA Watch Office, which became fully operational in January 2016. The Watch Office team of analysts will: provide daily situational awareness products and decision-support; track and dispatch Ohio EMA resources and assets, and provide timely, accurate and actionable assessments to Ohio EMA, its partners, and stakeholders throughout the state.

The Watch Office is charged with increasing Ohio EMA's and the State Emergency Operation Center's speed and efficiency, enabling the State of Ohio to better prepare and respond to all hazards. The Ohio EMA Watch Office is also a center for collaboration, and will work with whole-community partners at all levels of government to identify gaps in disaster preparedness and response.

Additionally, the Ohio EMA Watch Office serves as the initial point of contact at the Ohio EMA for our state partners and county EMAs for incident reporting. The Ohio EMA Watch Office will develop daily situational awareness reports, as well as Ohio EMA Steady State Advisories, and other reports that provide awareness of a developing situation that may pose threats to life or property, with a focus on at-risk populations and cascading consequences.

The Ohio EMA Watch Office will also serve as a vehicle for information sharing by providing analysis, mapping products, and increased information flow across the spectrum of emergency management partners in Ohio.

The Ohio EMA Watch Office hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year. After-hour calls will go to the Ohio EMA Duty Officer.



EMS is Always in Response Mode

An estimated 240 million calls are made to 9-1-1 in the U.S. each year. In Ohio, approximately one million emergency medical runs are made by public, private and third-party services annually. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, Ohio's emergency medical providers are ready to provide critical, lifesaving care to those in need. Despite the risks many providers face while responding, they are still dedicated to helping the patient.

While the Division of EMS works diligently to ensure the highest standards of pre-hospital emergency medical care are available to all Ohio citizens and visitors, EMS providers are the ones fulfilling the Division's mission of education, protection and service.

EMS providers respond to all kinds of emergencies and hazards, often working shoulder-to-shoulder

with public safety colleagues in law enforcement and fire service. But their primary mission is emergency medical care of patients. EMS is much more than a ride to the hospital. Every day, we hear remarkable accounts of EMTs, firefighters and law enforcement officers fearlessly entering emergency situations, quickly assessing conditions and deciding what needs to be done to save a life.

The occupation of the emergency medical responder is more than a "job" — it is a calling, and it demonstrates the commitment that emergency medical personnel make to the communities they serve.

Citizens in Ohio can rest easy knowing EMS is standing by every day—and every night—ready to respond and provide the highest level of care.

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