

SAFER OHIO

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*Motorcycle Ohio wants you to
Ride SMART*

In This Issue



Cover Story 3

Motorcycle Ohio reminds riders to *Ride SMART* and encourages drivers to share the road safely with motorcycles.



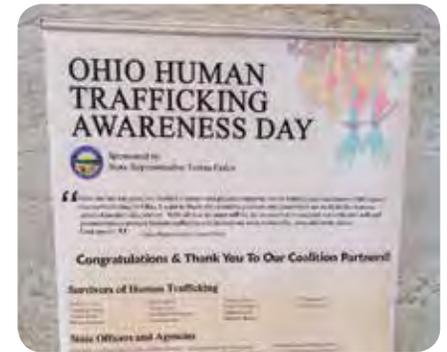
PISGS 6

Private Investigator Security Guard Services is collaborating with security providers and law enforcement to improve public safety.



Emergency Partner Credentialing System 11

Ohio Homeland Security and OP3 members collaborate for emergency response.



Ohio Continues Fight Against Human Trafficking 8

As the 7th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed, Ohio reflects on strides made thus far.



OSHP K9 Training 14

A new Highway Patrol K9 training program emphasizes the relationship between dog and handler.

Also

ODPS Briefs 12

The Ohio Investigative Unit offers advice for prom and graduation season, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles launches a new website and more.

Last year, in nearly **80 percent** of the motorcycle-involved crashes, the rider **NEVER** received any training.

Woman's life saved because of training and proper gear

With increased temperatures comes an increase of motorcyclists on the roadways. Motorcycle Ohio reminds riders to *Ride SMART* and encourages drivers to share the road safely with motorcycles.

Motorcycle Ohio, part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services, leads the *Ride SMART* campaign, which urges riders to: Ride Sober. Ride Motorcycle Endorsed. Ride Alert. Use the Right Gear. And Ride Trained.

On May 19, 2015, Melissa Ritts realized the importance of the *Ride SMART* campaign while riding her motorcycle home from her doctor's office. Melissa slowed down to avoid a car turning left into her path. As she slowed to avoid the first vehicle, a second vehicle turned left and she ran into it while traveling at an estimated 35 miles-per-hour.

Melissa was knocked unconscious and sustained serious injuries in the crash. After three months off work and numerous surgeries, she credits being alive today because she was riding sober, trained, endorsed and was wearing the proper protective gear.

"In the motorcycle safety course, one thing they did concentrate on was the right gear. The day of the crash, I had on cowboy boots. I had on jeans, a leather jacket and a leather vest. A full-faced helmet and leather, full-fingered gloves," explained Melissa. "And they all worked together — to not only save my life — but to save my body."

Fatal and injury motorcycle crashes both increased over the past year with 153 riders killed and 2,823 injured in 2015.

"I want my fellow riders to know that motorcycle safety should always be on your mind," continued Melissa. "Your kids want you home. Your parents want you home. Your spouse wants you home."

Melissa also cautions drivers to be on the lookout for motorcycles.

"She took a lot from me when she decided to turn in front of me. It is important that when you are driving, you pause and take that second look."

Motorcyclists have all the same rights and privileges as any motor vehicle driver on the roadway. Drivers of other vehicles are reminded to safely "share the road" with motorcyclists and to be extra alert to help keep motorcyclists safe. Drivers should give motorcyclists a full lane of travel and look for motorcyclists on the highway, at intersections and any time they are changing lanes. In addition, drivers should allow plenty of space in front of the vehicle they are driving and not follow a motorcycle too closely.

Keeping Ohio's roads safe is the responsibility of motorists and riders alike.



Ride SMART

RIDE SOBER.

In 2015, 288 motorcycle crashes involved an impaired rider. Operating a motorcycle requires an enhanced level of focus, coordination and balance, so compromising skills by riding impaired can be a deadly decision. Not only are riders putting themselves at risk on the road — they are risking the lives of others.

RIDE MOTORCYCLE ENDORSED.

After passing a motorcycle knowledge test, new riders can visit the BMV to get a motorcycle temporary instruction permit identification card (TIPIC). Riders with a TIPIC have some riding restrictions that include wearing a helmet and eye protection, not carrying passengers or riding on congested roadways or interstate highways and only riding during daylight hours. A TIPIC is valid for one year.

To receive an endorsement, TIPIC holders can take the BMV skills test or complete Motorcycle Ohio training. Riders opting for the training receive a skills test waiver upon course completion. Once a rider is endorsed, he or she can ride with no restrictions — with the exception of novice riders, who are required to wear a helmet for the first year of licensure.

RIDE ALERT.

Riders need to be paying attention to what they are doing and what other vehicles around them are doing. Riding a motorcycle is more tiring than driving a car and riders need to be aware of their surroundings.

USE THE RIGHT GEAR.

Proper gear is essential to safe riding. Wearing the right clothing makes riding more enjoyable and more comfortable, too. It is important to wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other protective gear.

- **Helmet:** Helmets must fit properly. The helmet should be comfortable to wear and shouldn't move or slip. Always keep the helmet securely fastened. A good helmet cuts down on wind noise and reduces rider fatigue. A helmet should be replaced if it has sustained an impact or every few years. Repeated use and ultraviolet rays may make a helmet less effective. Beware of novelty helmets — these extra small, tight-fitting helmets typically offer no protection in a crash.
- **Eye Protection:** Proper eye protection means impact or shatter resistant goggles or a full face shield attached to an approved helmet. Make sure eye protection is clean and unscratched. If using a tinted lens or shield for daylight riding, carry a clear one for use after dark.
- **Clothing:** Dress for protection, comfort and visibility. Protective clothing includes a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, and full-fingered gloves made from leather or other abrasion-resistant material. Wear brightly-colored or reflective clothing to be more visible and sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear to protect feet and ankles.
- **Hearing Protection:** Long-term exposure to engine and wind noise can cause hearing damage, even if wearing a full-face helmet. Ear plugs can provide noise reduction while allowing riders to hear horns or sirens.

RIDE TRAINED.

Part of being a motorcyclist is about lifelong learning. Getting started with training through Motorcycle Ohio gives riders a solid foundation. Riders learn how to operate the motorcycle and work on street strategy — so that they go out with a degree of competency when riding on the roadways. Last year, in nearly 80 percent of the motorcycle-involved crashes, the rider never received any training.

Motorcycle Ohio Courses

Learn how to ride a motorcycle or refresh your motorcycle safety skills. Register for one of these \$50 courses scheduled around the state from March through November at motorcycle.ohio.gov.

Basic Rider Course Scooters (BRC-S): In this 16-hour course, no experience is needed, riders use their own scooter and helmets are provided. A valid temporary instruction permit identification card (TIPIC) is required and successful completion earns the BMV skill test waiver for a motorcycle endorsement. *This class offering is very limited.*

Basic Rider Course (BRC): This 16-hour course is recommended for novice riders. BRC students must have a valid TIPIC. Motorcycles and helmets are provided. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will earn the BMV skill-test waiver for a motorcycle endorsement.

Basic Rider Course for Returning Riders (BRC-RR): This 8-hour course is for riders age 18 or older who have been riding with a TIPIC for more than a year (over 1,000 miles of experience) and for experienced riders returning to riding after several years of not riding. BRC-RR students must have a valid TIPIC; motorcycles and helmets are provided. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will earn the BMV skill-test waiver for a motorcycle endorsement.

Basic Rider Course 2 (BRC-2): This 7-hour, one-day, range-only course (no formal classroom session) requires a TIPIC, motorcycle license or endorsement. This class is also suitable for newly-endorsed/licensed riders. Students use their own two-wheel motorcycles and passengers are allowed. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will earn the BMV skill-test waiver for a motorcycle endorsement.

Advanced Rider Course (ARC): This 9-hour, one-day course requires a motorcycle license or endorsement. Students use their own two-wheel motorcycles.

Motorcycle Ohio Instructors Needed!

The Motorcycle Ohio program is looking for individuals with dedication, experience and people skills to help teach Motorcycle Ohio Rider Education courses. Registrants must pay a non-refundable fee of \$100 and be able to attend all sessions of the instructor preparation course and must attend the entire student teaching course, which includes a weeknight. Student teaching will be held at sites determined by class and participant demographics. New instructors can earn \$26 per hour. Visit motorcycle.ohio.gov for more information.



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



New Liaison, Training Tools
ENHANCE
Private Investigator Security Guard Services

“It is important for the citizens of Ohio to make sure that when they are going out into the public, whether it be a mall, or a festival or any other place of business, they know they are well protected by the security personnel that are on site.”



Tiffany Gehrlich-Orr, PISGS's new training and outreach coordinator

Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), a component of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), is collaborating with security providers, law enforcement and the public in new ways to improve public safety.

“It is important for the citizens of Ohio to make sure that when they are going out into the public, whether it be a mall, or a festival or any other place of business, they know they are well protected by the security personnel that are on site,” said Tiffany Gehrlich-Orr, PISGS's new training and outreach coordinator.

The position was created to build on PISGS' growing partnerships and to promote awareness and cooperation among private security, law enforcement and the public. PISGS licenses more than 800 companies, with 21,000 employees, that provide security and investigation services across Ohio. They secure shopping centers, schools, entertainment venues, workplaces, government buildings, power plants and other critical infrastructure.

The PISGS licensing process ensures security providers are insured, run by people with appropriate professional experience, and staffed by people without dangerous criminal backgrounds.

ODPS encourages collaborative partnerships and cooperation between law enforcement, private citizens and the private investigative and security professionals. There are many training programs and exercises available to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, and private security companies, but historically, those groups have not had many opportunities to train and exercise together.

Recently, for the first time, PISGS partnered with private security providers, as well as Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and local and federal first responders, to conduct active-shooter tabletop exercises at two Ohio malls. Based on the exercises, PISGS is building an “active-shooter exercise toolkit” to support future exercises with security providers at other malls around the state.

PISGS licenses and regulates companies that provide investigation or security services. PISGS' mission is to maintain a standard of excellence for the private investigator and security guard industry. PISGS promotes public safety by verifying companies are insured and operated by people with appropriate experience and training.



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

OHIO CONTINUES ITS FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis, along with Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, State Representative Teresa Fedor and a host of survivors, anti-trafficking advocates and overall supporters in the fight to combat human trafficking, met at the Ohio Statehouse recently to observe the 7th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which was sponsored by Rep. Fedor.

Throughout the day, professionals discussed continued efforts in the fight against a crime that is defined as “modern-day slavery.” Survivors shared first-hand accounts of how they were victimized and trafficked and of their resilience in recovering from such a devastating experience. Success stories marking how far Ohio has come in the fight to eradicate human trafficking and continued solutions were also highlighted.

In March 2012, Gov. Kasich signed an executive order creating the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, charging the group with marshaling state resources to combat human trafficking.

“Ohio has worked hard to build a coordinated response to human trafficking, and it is working—more victims are coming out of the shadows and becoming thriving survivors,” said Elizabeth Ranade-Janis. “Our progress in combating trafficking is both exciting and sobering, and the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force will continue to partner with coalitions and law enforcement to implement a strategic response.”





State Representative Teresa Fedor (left) hosted the 7th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse on January 14, 2016. Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis spoke about Ohio's efforts to fight against human trafficking.

Ohio's efforts to fight against human trafficking include:

- Since 2013, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has trained more than 4,000 state employees who may be in a position to help trafficking victims. The training consists of a three-hour, in-person course.
- Through a grant partnership with the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, 192 minor victims of trafficking were assisted between July 2013 and December 2015.
- In December 2015, the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force created and launched an optional 50-minute human trafficking training video for any of the state's board and commission licensees to earn one credit of continuing education. Within the first month, 655 licensees opted to complete the training, which is available on humantrafficking.ohio.gov.
- Through a federal grant that the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, local grant partners have identified and assisted 105 foreign-born victims of trafficking since July 2014.
- An Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Speakers' Bureau was created for those interested in becoming a speaker on behalf of the task force. Those who completed the training were added to a list of available speakers to meet demand for trainings and other speaking opportunities.
- Employees at Port Columbus International Airport are now a part of Ohio's frontline response in the fight against human trafficking thanks to a partnership between the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which operates Port Columbus. The collaboration produced a 25-minute video teaching airport employees to recognize signs of human trafficking and how to report suspected trafficking.

To learn more about Ohio's anti-trafficking efforts, please visit humantrafficking.ohio.gov.



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

Tracking Severe Weather: OHIO Takes Care of Its Own

April showers may bring May flowers, but Mother Nature's annual metamorphic transition from winter to summer often creates a buzz of activity at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA). Heavy spring rains often cause flash floods, sustained heavy rains cause riverine flooding and high winds from severe thunderstorms — or even worse, tornadoes — can cause property damage and physical injury.

Ohio's emergency management system, comprised of Ohio EMA and 88 county emergency management offices, is a dedicated team that monitors the weather, tracks a storm's impact and helps first responders and communities bounce back after a severe storm.

The team prepares well ahead of a storm. Whenever conditions are right for extremely heavy rains or severe storms, meteorologists from the National Weather Service (NWS) provide a detailed weather briefing to help emergency managers understand the threat and possible impact as the storm system moves toward Ohio. While local television news may include a three-minute weather report, this thorough briefing is similar to a full 30-minute newscast, focusing on weather.

The Ohio EMA Watch Office, based at the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center, is the focal point of the state's effort in tracking storms and their impact. Watching, trending, documenting and forecasting are all key components of the state's efforts. Throughout the storm, as flood warnings are issued by the NWS, Watch Office analysts are in regular contact with county emergency managers in the warning area, documenting flooding or other damage as it occurs. When state routes or Interstates are closed, the Ohio Department of Transportation keeps the Watch Office informed.

As flood waters rise, Watch Office analysts, as well as specialists at the NWS River Forecasting Office, monitor rain and river gauges. The State of Ohio Rain Monitoring System (STORMS) is a collection of 180 Ohio EMA-maintained rain gauges which report rainfall in real-time. When combined with 220 up-to-the-minute river gauges maintained by the United States Geological Service, this system is invaluable to emergency managers, meteorologists, hydrologists and weather aficionados. This system is available to the general public at the Ohio EMA website: storms2.ema.state.oh.us.

Emergency Partner Credentialing System to Expedite Access to Emergency Areas

Emergency situations present a trade off in the realm of public safety: officials need to facilitate the delivery of aid and medical assistance to victims while simultaneously ensuring the general public avoids an emergency area so no one else is put in harm's way.

To help mitigate this dilemma, Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) recently implemented the Emergency Partner Credentialing System (EPCS) for member organizations of the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) to obtain state-issued documentation that allows eligible personnel access to communities that have been struck by a disaster for the purpose of contributing aid and assistance.

The program is simple – to access the credential system, private sector organizations must first

enter into a partnership with OHS through the OP3 program. Once they do so, they can receive authorization to issue their personnel emergency-specific credentials or request multi-emergency credentials for select staff members from OHS. These credentials are then distributed electronically – at no cost to the users – via the Communication and Information Management System (CIMS).

Once an organization's personnel obtain credentials, they will have access to emergency areas in order to deliver critically-needed supplies, resources and medication.

The operation works to get the right people access into emergency areas while keeping a restricted area more secure.

Along with providing emergency aid and care during disasters, credentials can also be used during winter weather emergencies for employees of specific critical infrastructure organizations. For workers in the healthcare, water management, energy, transportation, chemical and communication fields, credentials are available for work-related travel to ensure vital operations.

By joining OP3 and utilizing services such as EPCS, government and private-sector organizations can join forces to ensure a safer and more-prepared Ohio. To learn more about EPCS or OP3, visit: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/op3.stm.



Ohio Investigative Unit Promotes *Sober Truth*

Every spring, young men rent tuxedos while young women buy dresses and shoes and have their hair and nails done. Prom is a high school rite of passage for students everywhere, including Ohio.

Often, as students discuss what they're going to wear and where to get pictures taken, there is a side conversation taking place — who is having the party afterwards?

Prom and graduation season are a good time to review Ohio's liquor laws and to understand how permitting underage drinking and furnishing alcohol to minors, as well as underage consumption, can impact lives forever.

The Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) offers an informational letter to parents explaining the laws and penalties on its website. OIU agents also will be

talking with students this spring through its *Sober Truth* program, using real-life stories to stress the dangers and consequences of underage drinking and covering what the law says and the penalties for breaking it.

“We want this to be a memorable time for everyone,” said OIU Agent-in-Charge Michelle Thourot. “So, do the right thing. Do not furnish alcohol to your children's friends.

Do not host a party and allow minors to consume alcohol. If you know of a party taking place or one that is planned, report it to the police, sheriff or OIU. For students, prom is about having fun and being with friends — and it can be done without alcohol,” Thourot said.

For more information on the *Sober Truth* program, call (614) 644-2415.

New look for the BMV!

The new year meant a new look for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) website. Since August 2015, BMV representatives and members of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Visual Communications Unit worked together to completely redesign the site.

The old BMV website had become a voluminous repository of files and text-based content that made it increasingly difficult for customers to locate information they needed. Content was prioritized, condensed and rewritten in simple, easy-to-understand terms. Then, Visual Communications developed the new site with a more contemporary, intuitive and user-friendly design featuring improved navigation.

The new site launched as planned on January 4, 2016 — a total redesign in just five months. The BMV has received positive comments from colleagues, customers and government officials. We welcome you to view our completely-redesigned website at bmv.ohio.gov.



Are you following us on social media? If not, you should!

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) understands the importance of social media and the reach it can have in telling its story. All six ODPS divisions and several special programs and sections have a social media presence, which equates to 14 Facebook pages, 13 Twitter accounts, two YouTube channels, two LinkedIn company pages and Flickr and Instagram accounts.

In June 2014, Director John Born hired ODPS' first social media coordinator, Jessica Pierson. Since her hiring, the department has elevated its presence and use of social media among all the divisions, while adjusting policy and utilizing technology to comply with public records laws.

The "Public Safety is Personal" mantra from ODPS leadership and Jessica's, "Do things. Tell people." mentality have bolstered the department's following on social media. These ideologies have become the backbone of such campaigns as the department's weekly video news update, *News in :90*, or most recently, the #thisisreallifeohio campaign, which illustrates the ways ODPS touches the lives of all who travel, work or live in Ohio.

Over the past several years, some of the department's biggest traditional news stories have been spurred by social media posts. For example, a post to the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Facebook of a dash cam video showing a trooper saving the life of a truck driver following a crash garnered nearly 54 million views and landed the trooper on national news broadcasts and live interviews. Social media, now more than ever, has the

ability to tell — and more importantly show — people what ODPS is doing every day to contribute to a safer Ohio.

Before joining ODPS' Communications Office, Jessica was with the Patrol's Public Affairs Unit, where she started the Patrol's presence on social media and served as the civilian public information officer for the Patrol and Ohio Homeland Security. She began her career with the city of Dublin, planning and marketing the city's nationally-recognized Irish Festival and other city events. She has a degree in mass communications from The Ohio State University.

Since becoming ODPS' social media coordinator, she has been asked to speak to public information officers around Ohio about emerging social media trends, and she has taught sections on best practices in social media to statewide emergency management personnel. Most recently, Jessica was invited to speak to a national audience about the critical role of social media in public safety and how ODPS is safely utilizing social media during a webinar hosted by *Government Technology* magazine. In April, she will moderate a session on managing multiple social media platforms at the Government in Social Media Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Be sure to follow ODPS and its divisions on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Right: In June 2014, Jessica Pierson was hired as ODPS' first social media coordinator.



THIS IS REAL LIFE

"This is Real Life"

In January, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) launched a new social media campaign titled, "This is real life," a weekly video series depicting real-life scenarios involving ODPS. The videos are 30-60 seconds long and are released every Friday. Be sure to follow the campaign on social media using #thisisreallifeohio and #saferohio. You can also view all of the videos on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/OhioPublicSafety](https://www.youtube.com/OhioPublicSafety).

FOX

First in New Era of Patrol K9s

A new K9 training program developed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) emphasizes the relationship between dog and handler, and the first-ever graduate was just welcomed into the force. Fox, a German shepherd from the Czech Republic, is the first dog ever to be chosen, purchased and trained entirely by OSHP members. He joins 32 other K9s currently on the force in providing an invaluable service to Ohioans.

Previously, OSHP canines were purchased by an outside contractor that trained the dogs alone for the first half of the program — five weeks — before bringing the handler into the picture. Now, OSHP handlers are involved throughout the 10-week training program. Handlers gain a better understanding of canine psychology and behavioral traits because they witness the dog's ability to follow commands before, during and after the training.

Canines begin with basic obedience training — commands like “sit,” “walk” and “stay” — before proceeding to advanced techniques such as narcotic detection, tracking, article searches, area searches and criminal apprehension. Fox is proficient in all these disciplines.

OSHP members were certified as trainers after a 10-week program through the Kansas Highway Patrol. One of the three trainers, Trooper Christian Perrin, explained the program's start-to-finish format leads everyone involved to feel invested in the K9's success.

“It's a lot more hands-on,” he said. “You really get to know your dog from the get-go.”

Fox's graduation on December 22 was the first time OSHP held a formal ceremony for a Patrol K9. His handler, Trooper Jeremy Wheeland, is stationed in Piqua.



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