



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director
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John R. Kasich, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Dustyn Fox (614) 466-3640

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THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CONTINUES EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC-PRIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

(COLUMBUS) - Today, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) held its annual Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) conference at the Cardinal Health East Campus in Dublin, Ohio. The conference is 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 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.

Examples of recent program successes include:

- During the June 2014 Gallipolis Water Main Break, ODPS staff reached out to local Kroger and Walmart stores to ensure inventory was sufficiently stocked with bottled water to support the needs of the impacted community. The Proctor & Gamble Company offered to send the *Tide Loads of Hope* truck to Gallipolis to clean clothes for their citizens; and
- The Toledo Water Incident in August 2014, in which OP3 received more than 31,000 gallons of bottled water from corporate partners, including Anheuser Busch, CVS, Kroger, Walgreens and Walmart. These contributions aided nearly 500,000 impacted citizens. OP3 provided partners with situational awareness that assisted decision making on inventory shipments to point of sale locations so that water was readily available to the public.

Additionally, on Wednesday, October 8, staff from Ohio Homeland Security, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, will be providing a security briefing for shopping mall representatives from around the state. This information sharing meeting is intended to assist safety planning for mall security officials in advance of the upcoming holiday shopping season.

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