

# SAFER OHIO

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**Ohio Task Force 1**

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Ohio Task Force 1, which receives an annual grant from Ohio EMA, consists of professionals from many disciplines with the primary task of searching for and removing entrapped individuals. In August Ohio Task Force 1 participated with ODPS/EMA in the U.S. Dept. of Defense Vibrant Response exercise.



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*Safer Ohio* is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Paid for by forfeiture funds.

**John R. Kasich**  
Governor, State of Ohio

**John Born**  
Director, Department of Public Safety

# Ohio Troopers Arrest Criminals

## Troopers discover victims of human trafficking

On August 13, troopers stopped a 2012 Nissan with California registration for a speed violation on Interstate 80 in Lucas County. Troopers detected an odor of raw marijuana coming from the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed marijuana, a loaded handgun and paraphernalia associated with the sex trade. Upon contact with the female passengers — a 21-year-old California woman and a 25-year-old Arizona woman — they admitted being forced into prostitution.

## Troopers seize \$4.1 million worth of marijuana

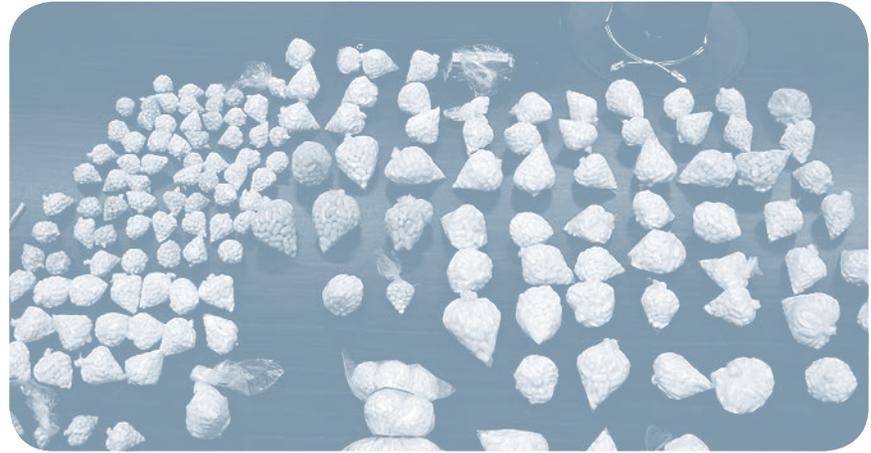


On July 17, a trooper working the Ohio Turnpike in Wood County observed a 2014 Subaru following too closely to a motorhome that also was following the vehicle in front of it too closely. The trooper attempted to stop both vehicles, but was only able to stop the Subaru. Upon contact with the driver, the trooper detected an odor of raw marijuana and observed marijuana on the driver's pants. During a probable cause search, the trooper located \$9,720 in bundles of cash.

Further investigation revealed the motorhome and the occupants of the Subaru were traveling together. Troopers located the motorhome in a service plaza a short time later and initiated a traffic stop for the original following too closely violation. During contact with the occupants of the motorhome, troopers detect-

ed an odor of raw marijuana. A probable cause search revealed 907 pounds of marijuana worth \$4,117,780 and \$4,188 in cash.

## Troopers make largest seizure of prescription pills in Patrol history



On June 20, troopers stopped a 2000 Oldsmobile for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 75 in Montgomery County. The driver was arrested for OVI and an administrative inventory of the vehicle revealed a bag containing Methadone, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone and Alprazolam pills, in addition to 148 Suboxone Strips. In all, Patrol troopers seized 17,260 dosage units of prescriptions pills.

The next largest seizure of prescription pills occurred in January 2013, when troopers seized 6,641 pills following a Scioto County traffic stop.

## Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit identifies chop shop

The Cleveland Police Department contacted the Patrol's Cleveland Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) after receiving a tip from a city cleanup crew that discovered what they believed to be an active chop shop in an abandoned warehouse. VTFU investigators recovered three pieces of heavy construction equipment, one with the motor removed, worth an estimated \$40,000, as well as parts of six vehicles in various stages of disassembly. Evidence was collected, processed and submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation for analysis.

# Leading the Fight Against Human Trafficking

To bolster Ohio's fight against human trafficking, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) recently hired anti-trafficking coordinator Elizabeth Ranade Janis. In her role, Ranade Janis coordinates the efforts of Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force to prevent and respond to human trafficking in Ohio. She coordinates and assists state agencies, non-governmental organizations and law enforcement.

Governor John R. Kasich created the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force in 2012. The task force seeks to marshal the state's resources to effectively reduce the crime of trafficking while gaining a better understanding of what trafficking looks like in Ohio. Comprised of the Ohio Department of Public Safety and 10 other state agencies, the task force also works to identify and meet gaps in victim services.

In addition to creating the coordinator position, the task force issued recommendations including creating a public awareness campaign, developing screening and prevention protocols for state agencies and, at the community level, human trafficking awareness training and resources for identified state employees and foster care parents. OCJS is proud to lead the effort on many of those recommendations.

Since 2006, OCJS has been at the forefront of this issue by raising awareness and working with law enforcement and grassroots organizations to reach victims. In addition to hosting a statewide conference on human trafficking that year, OCJS provided regional trainings and developed informational brochures on the topic. OCJS also teamed with the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to support

research conducted by the RAND Corporation analyzing the extent and characteristics of human trafficking in Columbus and Toledo. OCJS also serves on the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition housed at the Salvation Army. In 2012, OCJS provided \$50,000 in grant funds to provide shelter and short-term housing for trafficking victims.

## It happens too often

- In 2005, teenage girls in Toledo were abducted and held by a man who forced them into a pimp-controlled situation. This was the first major case to bring attention to human trafficking in Ohio.
- A woman in Ashland was forced into manual labor by four traffickers who threatened and intimidated her and her young daughter with pit bulls and snakes. By exploiting the woman's developmental disability and her need to protect her daughter, the traffickers effectively kept the victim as a slave for years.
- A California man is facing human trafficking charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers rescued two female human trafficking victims during a traffic stop in Lucas County in August...and these are just a few of the known cases.

OCJS remains deeply committed to fighting this horrendous crime that is happening right in our neighborhoods by continuing to support anti-trafficking efforts that will ultimately make Ohio safer by protecting the rights of victims and driving traffickers out of the state.



*Elizabeth Ranade Janis coordinates the efforts of the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force.*

# VIBRANT RESPONSE

THIS IS AN EXERCISE — a 10 kiloton nuclear device detonates in Franklin County. Initial indications determined that the explosion killed more than 20,000 and injured tens of thousands. The blast caused massive infrastructure damage, radioactive fallout and reduced responder capabilities. Continuity of government at the local, state and federal levels was not compromised. Investigations determined that the bombing was a terrorist attack — THIS IS AN EXERCISE.

*Continued on next page.*

Ohio EMA  
ESF 6 - Primary

# Ohio EMA Works to Ensure Preparedness



This nuclear disaster was the exercise scenario created for Vibrant Response 2013, the country's largest annual military training event conducted by the Department of Defense. Ohio was the first state to fully participate in this military exercise that uses large-scale scenarios to assist federal, state and local agencies in their efforts to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents within the United States.

As events occur throughout our country and the world, preparedness is only measured by how well you respond to something you can't control. Exercising is the culmination of all the planning and training done by those responsible for life, safety and preventing economic loss within their communities, states and country.

Massive numbers of fatalities; loss of infrastructure, communication and transportation; radioactive fallout and debris management were a few of the topics emergency managers and policy

makers discussed at the table for the largest-scale exercise of its kind. Ohio's leadership in emergency management ensured the opportunity to exercise the operational roles of all the responders who would be involved in this type of event.

"Building partnerships, filling planning gaps and identifying operational needs are all essential to responding well and these capabilities are all tested through exercising," says Executive Director Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA). "We are charged with creating a safer Ohio. We can't prevent bad things from happening, but we can ensure our state agency staff is trained and ready to respond when it does."

Ohio EMA and 12 other state agencies and organizations participated in the week-long Vibrant Response training event.

The exercise tested multiple levels of emergency response including mass casualties; radiological

emergency response; law enforcement; search and rescue; critical mass care and sheltering; evacuation; public messaging; and command and control.

The following entities participated:

- Adjutant General's Department (Ohio National Guard)
- American Red Cross
- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Ohio Department of Administrative Services
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- FEMA Region V

The Franklin County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security also participated in the exercise and assisted with exercise development.





# If You See Something, Say Something

**Call 1-877-OHS-INTEL to report suspicious activity. For emergencies, call 911.**

Ohio Homeland Security needs your help — everyone’s help — to protect us against terrorism. Reporting suspicious activity is one of our best defenses against terrorist threats and our greatest resource to building resilience. That is why Ohio Homeland Security has embraced the *If you See Something, Say Something* campaign. Every day, members of the public work with law enforcement to help keep our communities safe by reporting out-of-the-ordinary and suspicious activities to 1-877-OHS-INTEL. These reports to our toll-free, 24-hour tip line play a vital role in countering terrorism and crime.

“As criminal enterprises and terrorist organizations attempt to carry out their business in Ohio, both public and private sector partners at all levels must work closely and across disciplines in order to apprehend these criminals and ensure that Ohio is a safer place tomorrow than it is today,” said Richard Baron, Ohio Homeland Security executive director.

## **Examples of unusual activities that should cause a heightened sense of suspicion**

- Monitoring personnel or vehicles entering/leaving facilities or parking area
- Burns on body, missing finger(s) or hand, bloody clothing, bleached body hair or bright-colored stains on clothing; switch or wires concealed in hand, clothing or backpack
- Unusual or prolonged interest in security measures, personnel or cameras; entry points and access controls; perimeter barriers (fences/walls); unattended train or bus
- Purposely placing objects (e.g., packages, luggage, vehicles) in sensitive or vulnerable areas to observe security responses
- Individuals or actions which are out of place for their surroundings (e.g., over or underdressed for the weather)
- Unusual, vague or cryptic threats, warnings or comments about harming others

Some of these activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine where there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined above are by no means all-inclusive, but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

## Working Behind the Scenes to Create a Safer Ohio

When people think of EMS or an emergency, what usually comes to mind are the men and women on the front lines who are fighting a fire, responding to a crash, or fielding the frantic 9-1-1 call. But behind the scenes, many others play critical supporting roles, including those serving the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Ohio EMS staff is dedicated to developing and continually enhancing a statewide, comprehensive, systematic response to injury, illness and fire, primarily through education, training, certification and strategic planning. This year, EMS awarded more than \$3 million in grants to 705 local fire and EMS agencies and researchers. The grants are funded by seatbelt fines and help local departments pay for equipment and training.

The recipients of the division's largest equipment and training grants are small, volunteer fire and EMS agencies. Most of Ohio is covered by these smaller, rural, community-based agencies. Many consider them the gatekeepers of the healthcare system, and sometimes the source of primary care for some of our citizens. It's great to know that we are being served by a group dedicated to providing the highest level of care.

As the administrative arm of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services, EMS also works diligently to ensure Ohio's first responders can achieve that level of care by:

- Issuing 100,000 certifications to emergency medical service providers, instructors and training institutions, firefighters, fire safety inspectors, fire instructors and fire charters;
- Establishing training and education standards and overseeing training programs;
- Tracking injuries and illnesses to help devise better standards of care and to provide medical direction;
- Acting as the regulatory authority for all private, hospital-based, commercial ambulances, wheelchair vans (ambulettes), mobile intensive care units, medical helicopters and fixed-wing medical aircraft operating in Ohio.

# Internet Casino Investigation

This summer Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) agents and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office conducted a search warrant on one of the last of the original 52 Internet gambling casinos in Cuyahoga County. During the search warrant at the Lucky Palms 777 in Cleveland, agents seized 30 player terminals. Officers with the Parma Heights Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspectors and U.S. Secret Service also took part in the search warrant.

In November 2011, OIU initiated an investigation of two Internet casinos tied to liquor permit premises in Parma Heights. The investigation revealed other agencies were also looking into these and other locations in Cuyahoga County. In the summer of 2012, OIU entered a joint agreement with the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors, Parma Heights Police and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office.

## Investigation to date:

- 55 Internet casino investigations complete
- 16 Internet casino search warrants and 8 other search warrants in support of investigation (bank accounts, residences and businesses) executed
- 1,023 Internet casino gambling devices seized
- \$675,000 forfeited to date
- \$1,920,000 in cash/bank accounts frozen pending criminal proceedings
- 8 criminal convictions to date on gambling/money laundering related charges
- 26 defendants pending trial included in a 200-count criminal indictment
- 25 additional individuals and corporations pending grand jury presentation/indictment
- 4 liquor permits received 20 administrative citations for 92 gambling violations

# Public Safety Briefs

## Reinstatement fee payment plan

Too many Ohioans who have lost their driver licenses find themselves caught in a trap. Without a license, they can't get to work to earn money to pay the fees to reinstate their licenses. So the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is offering a program for qualified people to win back driving privileges while making monthly payments toward their reinstatement fees.

"Drivers with suspended licenses often get stuck in a cycle," BMV Registrar Mike Rankin said. "They

*The BMV's reinstatement fee payment plan is receiving positive reviews.*

have a traffic violation that results in suspension, and they can't afford to pay the reinstatement fee. They end up driving on the suspended license, only to be picked up on a new charge, building up more fees."

About 1.1 million of the 2.8 million suspension violations in Ohio last year were for drivers who did not have insurance. In order to qualify for the installment plan, individuals must show current proof of insurance, owe at least \$150 in reinstatement fees, have met all other reinstatements, and pay at least \$50 every 30 days.

Nearly half of Ohio's suspended drivers are eligible for the plan and more than 4,000 have already enrolled. Those customers have reported being able to maintain employment because of the immediate reinstatement for a first non-compliance suspension (failure to show proof of insurance). Once approved for the plan, an individual's license status will change to either a valid, expired or eligible to test status.

## Trace-back investigations

It has been nine months since the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) integrated. One reason for the integration was to utilize OIU agents on a more consistent basis to conduct trace-back investigations. Trace-back

investigations focus on the source of where alcohol was obtained in violation of the law, resulting in a serious crash or fatality.

Agents are notified as soon as possible by troopers or local law enforcement agencies across Ohio after determining that alcohol was involved in a fatality. This enables agents to respond to the scene and collect evidence as their investigation begins to trace back the source of alcohol.

OIU secured federal funding to investigate these trace-back investigations that occur outside of an agent's normal shift. The unit is also in the process of developing contact information for local law enforcement agencies to be carried in officers' ticket books.

## Trace-backs as of September 3, 2013

Cases closed unfounded	44
Cases closed via administrative citation	3
Cases closed via arrest	9
Cases closed via administrative citation and arrest	4
Open cases	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

An example of a trace-back investigation stems from December 2012, when the Toledo Police Department contacted OIU agents. On Christmas morning, Adam Tunison left Bimma Rock Enterprises, LLC., also known as Chuck's Sports Bar, and drove the wrong way on Interstate 75 and struck another vehicle head-on, killing the driver of the other vehicle. In July, Tunison was sentenced to eight years in prison and received a lifetime driver license ban.

Agents cited Bimma Rock Enterprises with sale of and furnishing beer or intoxicating liquor to an intoxicated person. The case will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. If the commission finds Bimma Rock Enterprises violated Ohio liquor laws, possible penalties may include fines, a suspension or revocation of the liquor permit.

#### **Patrol releases report on felony arrests in 2013**

Through June of this year, the Ohio State Highway Patrol initiated 2,685 felony cases, with 46 percent related to a felony drug charge and nearly 27 percent related to a felony assault charge.

Troopers made 4,728 drug arrests during the first six months of 2013, an 18-percent increase over the same time frame in 2012, and a 42-percent increase compared to the previous three-year average.

Drug interdiction efforts are essential to improving the quality of life in Ohio. Dangerous drugs are being trafficked into Ohio, broken down into smaller quantities and making their way into Ohio communities.

During the first six months, troopers seized more prescription pills with stimulants (+101 percent), depressants (+87 percent) and hallucinogens (+77 percent) when compared to the previous three-year average. For a complete statistical analysis, please visit [http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/doc/2013\\_Jan-Jun\\_FelonyAndDrug.pdf](http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/doc/2013_Jan-Jun_FelonyAndDrug.pdf).

#### **SkyWatch**

If you visited the Ohio State Fair this summer, there is a good chance you saw the two SkyWatch Portable Surveillance Towers recently purchased by the Ohio Investigative Unit. The towers were used by the Ohio State Highway Patrol throughout the fair and plans are underway to provide this valuable resource to other agencies throughout Ohio.

The two-man towers elevate 30 feet and have 30-day continuous DVR capability, as well as still surveillance camera ability. They can run heat and air conditioning, and operate on electricity or by generator.



*SkyWatch Portable Surveillance Tower*

# Public Safety by the numbers

## Nearly 190,000

Motorcycle riders trained as of Motorcycle Ohio's 25th Anniversary in September. Motorcycle Ohio, part of the Office of Criminal Justice Services, provides low-cost training to novice and experienced riders across Ohio, and is committed to reducing the severity and frequency of motorcycle crashes through rider education, public information campaigns and licensing improvement.



\$14,302,272.93

Total of 160 grants awarded by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office during federal fiscal year 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2013).



16,634

Impaired drivers removed from our roads by Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers year-to-date in 2013.



75 from 33 in 34

Since the Ohio Traffic Safety Office began funding Ohio's Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC)/Drug Recognition (DRE) program in 2011, 75 officers from 33 agencies in 34 Ohio counties have become DRE-certified.



205,214

Motorists assisted by Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers year-to-date in 2013.



490,625

Ohioans enrolled in the BMV's Emergency Contact Information — Next of Kin Program. Did you know you can identify persons you want to be notified in the event you are involved in a motor vehicle crash and unable to communicate with emergency medical responders? You can enroll in person at a local deputy registrar location or online at [www.bmv.ohio.gov](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov).



144

Food stamp citations issued by Ohio Investigative Unit agents year-to-date in 2013 from 93 cases investigated.



*What will you do today to contribute to a safer Ohio?*