

# Ohio Traffic Record

**INSIDE  
AUGUST**

**2004**

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2004 Special  
Olympics Torch Run

A publication of the  
Ohio Department of Public Safety

Bob Taft, Governor  
Kenneth L. Morckel, Director

## Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Fatalities at Record Low

America's landscape is currently dotted with more than 250,000 public and private highway-rail grade crossings. In recent years, roughly 300-400 deaths have occurred annually at the nation's grade crossings, thus warranting significant attention from transportation agencies.

Announced in May 2004, the nation's rail transportation system achieved a record-low number of highway-rail grade crossing fatalities in 2003.

In 2003, highway-rail grade crossing fatalities declined to a record low of 324, down nine percent from last year and down more than 47 percent since 1994. There were 862 rail-related fatalities last year, down almost ten percent from 2002. Ninety-six percent of those fatalities are the result of highway-rail crossing collisions or trespassing.

In Ohio, according to Ohio Department of Public Safety statistics, there were a total of 142 motor vehicle-train crashes in 2003 compared to 172 motor vehicle-train crashes in 2002. The Ohio Rail Development Commission reports there are roughly 5,230 miles of railroads in Ohio.

In addition, a record-low 19 railroad employees lost their lives in the United States during 2003. Reportable employee injuries declined to 5,948 in 2003, a decrease of 10.5 percent over the 6,644 reported in

2002, and a 30 percent decline since 2000.

The 2003 U.S. rail safety statistics highlights include:

- The nation's 674 freight railroads operated 749,061,176 train miles during 2003, a 2.8 percent increase from 2002 and a 14.3 percent increase since 1994. Amtrak and other commuter railroads operated 15,539,433,007 passenger miles.
- There were 2,919 highway-rail grade crossing incidents, an all-time low; a 5.1 percent decline from 2002 and a 41.4 percent decrease from 1994.
- There were 324 highway-rail grade crossing fatalities, an all-time low; a nine percent decline from 2002 and a 47.3 percent decrease from 1994.

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# In the Past

## The "Father" of EMT Training— Jack B. Liberator, an Ohioan

The only EMS training available in the beginning of Emergency Medical Services was offered by the U.S Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines First Aid Course), the American Red Cross (Advanced First Aid Training) and on-the-job training at individual departments.

In 1956, the office of the State Fire Marshal was asked to develop training in this specialized area. Jack B. Liberator, a registered nurse at St. Anthony's Hospital in Columbus, who had a special interest in out-of-the hospital emergency medical care, was approached to develop a training program for emergency medical and rescue personnel. The first course he developed was 24 hours in length, but was later increased to 60 hours.

Jack B. Liberator was offered the position of state coordinator for emergency victim care and rescue training for the Division of Vocational Education, the Trade and Industrial Education Services at The Ohio State University. In 1958, he was given the responsibility of developing a course for this new field and a method to deliver the course statewide. He created a 60-hour course that included emergency victim care and rescue procedures. This was the first state-organized training course in the nation.

To this day, Jack B. Liberator is recognized as the "father" of EMT training not only in Ohio, but nationally.



### 8/31/04 THRU 9/6/04

number of urban car crashes. The economic impact of these crashes is estimated at \$7 billion each year in medical costs, time off work, insurance hikes, and property damage.

The goal of the RLR campaign is to make roadways safer and reduce automobile-related injuries in our nation's communities.

A recent study from IIHS identifies drivers who run red lights as being responsible for approximately 260,000 crashes each year, including an estimated 750 that are fatal, and the numbers continue to rise. The use of red light cameras to enforce traffic laws is increasing in many of the country's police departments. In Oxnard, California, red light running violations dropped roughly 42 percent after several months of red light camera use.

(Source: American Trauma Society and the FHWA)

# STOP ON RED WEEK

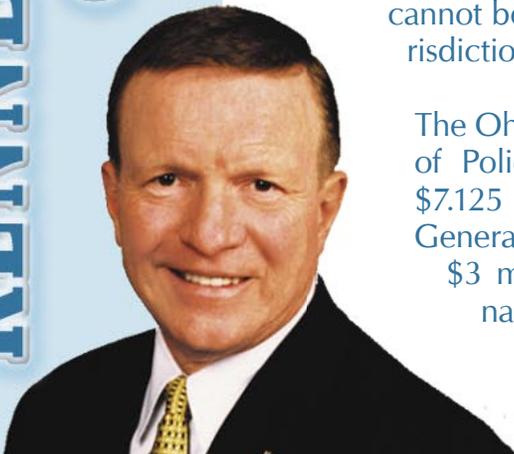
National Stop on Red Week is August 31 through September 6, 2004. Each year, more than 1.8 million intersection crashes occur. Preliminary estimates for 2002 indicate 207,000 crashes, 178,000 injuries, and about 920 deaths were attributed to red light running, or RLR.

The RLR Program continues to be a public education and outreach program designed to prevent drivers from running red lights—one of the country's major traffic problems. The program was originally developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 1995 at the U.S. Department of Transportation, and piloted in 31 test sites across the country. The American Trauma Society, in partnership with FHWA, has taken the program to its 200 trauma center members to conduct safety outreach campaigns in their communities.



According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), red light running is a leading cause of urban car crashes in the U.S., representing 22 percent of the total





# Reflections

## from the Director

### New Statewide Anti-Terror Program

Earlier this month, I had the honor of joining Attorney General Jim Petro and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to announce a new statewide anti-terror program.

"The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program will give law enforcement officials the capability to search hundreds of crime and incident databases," Petro said during the press conference held at the Whitehall Police Department. "This system allows law enforcement to identify potential terror suspects, or find trends of specific incidents that could help them stop a potential incident from occurring."

LETPP is a \$15.3 million statewide data-sharing and communications system funded by 2004 homeland security grants that will provide registered law-enforcement users with secure access to hundreds of agency databases via Attorney General Petro's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway.

Currently, the information-management systems maintained by Ohio's 970 local law enforcement agencies are not connected, meaning records cannot be accessed from one jurisdiction to another.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police has been awarded \$7.125 million, the Attorney General's office was awarded \$3 million, Office of Criminal Justice Services was awarded \$500,000, the

Buckeye State Sheriff's Association was awarded \$2.3 million, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was awarded \$1.53 million and the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources was awarded \$890,000.

"Our ability to offer the highest level of protection is dependent on information sharing, good communication and cooperation," Morckel said. "This program will allow the officer on the street to have the information and communication resources necessary to fulfill their homeland security mission."

Through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, law enforcement agencies will be provided with the technical assistance necessary to participate in the program. That includes equipping agencies that currently are using paper to keep records with computers and other electronic equipment.

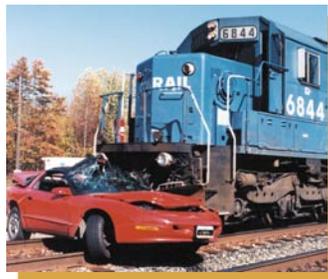
Eleven law enforcement agencies throughout the state will participate in the pilot program beginning this month. Agencies involved include the Ohio State Highway Patrol; Columbus, Dublin, Dayton, Franklin, Grandview Heights, Mason, Middletown and Whitehall police departments; and sheriff's offices in Delaware and Warren counties.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to cultivating professionalism and innovation among police executives in order to assure the continued success of the law enforcement community.

# Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Fatalities at Record Low

Continued from cover page

- The highway-rail incident rate fell to 3.90 per million train-miles, an all-time low. This is a 7.6 percent decline from 2002 and a 48.7 percent decrease from 1994.
- There were 862 total rail-related fatalities, an all-time low. This represents a 9.4 percent reduction from 2002 and a 29.7 percent decrease from 1994.
- Of the 862 total, 96.4 percent were either highway-rail crossing incidents (324) or trespassers (507).
- There were 19 employee on-duty fatalities, an all-time low. This represents a five percent decline from last year and a 38.7 percent decrease from 1994.
- The employee on-duty casualty rate fell to 2.67 per 200,000 hours worked, an all-time low. This represents a 9.2 percent decline from 2002 and a 47.2 percent decrease from 1994. [Casualty includes fatalities and injuries.]
- There were 9,632 total railroad casualties, an all-time low. This represents a 20.1 percent decrease from last year and a 46.6 percent decrease from 1994.



(Source: Ohio Rail Development Commission and the Federal Railroad Commission)

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**It's About Safety**



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# Thumbs Up

...to the troopers who seized 410 pounds of marijuana worth \$930,000 on Interstate 70 in Montgomery County on July 5, 2004. If convicted, the two Arizona men could face up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

...to the Ohio State Fair Planning Committee who did a great job planning the 2004 Ohio State Fair. The fair runs from August 4 to August 15, 2004.

