

Ohio Traffic Record

**INSIDE
NOVEMBER
2004**

*In the Past—Ohio
Emergency Medical
Agency*

*Ohio BMV Joins
National Auto Titling
Database*

*Director's Column—
MADD Public Safety
Encourage Motorists
to "Tie One On For
Safety" to Help Save
Lives*

*Patrol Reminds
Truck Drivers to
Buckle Up for the
Family During the
Holiday Season*

*Malabar Farm
Agroterrorism
Exercise*

Thumbs Up...

*A publication of the
Ohio Department of Public Safety*

*Bob Taft, Governor
Kenneth L. Morckel, Director*

PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE CHIEFS LAUNCH NEW ANTI-TERROR PROGRAM

This month, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is teaming up with other law enforcement agencies across the state in a pilot project to make it possible for officers from different departments to access each other's records – something which is not currently possible in Ohio.

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, funded by \$15.3 million in homeland security grants, is a statewide data-sharing and communications system that will provide registered law enforcement users with secure access to hundreds of agency databases. Law enforcement agencies to participate include Columbus, Dublin, Dayton, Grandview Heights, Whitehall, Mason, Middletown and Franklin police departments; and the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. Fifty additional agencies will join the network in both December 2004 and January 2005.

"In the fight against terrorism, we can no longer tolerate law enforcement data to be transmitted solely by word of mouth or allow our first responders to arrive at a critical incident without radio communication capabilities," said Ohio

Public Safety Director Ken Morckel, Chair of the State of Ohio Security Task Force. "The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program will begin the process of addressing both these critical communication voids facing our law enforcement officers today."

The information-management systems currently maintained by more than 900 law enforcement agencies in Ohio are not connected, meaning records cannot be accessed from one jurisdiction to another. Through the program, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police will provide law enforcement agencies with the technical assistance necessary to participate. That includes equipping agencies currently using paper to keep records with computers and other electronic equipment. Approximately 40 percent of police departments in Ohio are still using paper methods to maintain records.



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In the Past

Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Under the provisions of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, then Ohio Governor Frank J. Lausche created the Civil Defense Corps, then located at Ft. Hayes in Columbus, in response to the threat of nuclear weapons. In 1960, civil defense was moved to the Adjutant General's Department. Amended Senate Bill 218 changed the name from the Civil Defense Division to the Disaster Services Agency in 1973. In 1988, this agency was changed to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The Ohio Revised Code required every county to appoint an emergency management director and to have an emergency management plan. In 1995, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency was transferred to the Ohio Department of Public Safety.



OHIO BMV JOINS NATIONAL AUTO TITLING DATABASE

Program Tracks Vehicle Title Registration to Protect Against Theft and Fraud

The BMV has begun using the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System, a disclosure and information database that links states together to prevent the titling of stolen motor vehicles and discloses any brands associated with a particular motor vehicle.



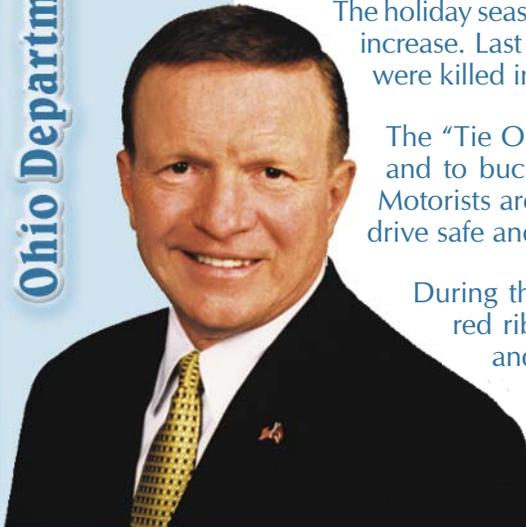
Registrar Frank Caltrider says that this new technology will help cut down on auto theft and fraud in Ohio. It provides an additional tool to use in the BMV's consumer protection and anti-fraud efforts.

Under the new system, when a customer enters a county title office with documents to apply for an Ohio title, the Vehicle Identification Number is automatically checked against the active National Crime Information Center theft file. If the VIN matches a theft hit with NCIC, the BMV will place a NMVTIS hold on the record and no title will be issued. The customer will then need to contact law enforcement to verify ownership.

A title brand is a consumer protection notification. If a title is branded as a previous flood vehicle, that tells a customer the vehicle was involved in a flood and may have damage later down the road. Other brands include salvage vehicle, previous salvage, previous law enforcement vehicle and previous taxi.

There are ten states that take part in NVMTIS, including Ohio. The Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 required the Federal Department of Transportation to develop a NMVTIS system. In 1996, the Anti-Car Theft Improvement Act shifted responsibility for the system to the Department of Justice.





Reflections

from the Director

MADD, Public Safety Encourage Motorists To “Tie One On For Safety” To Help Save Lives

On November 22, 2004 I had the pleasure of joining Colonel Paul McClellan, the Columbus Police Traffic Operations Bureau and representatives from MADD to launch their 19th annual “Tie One On For Safety” campaign.

The holiday season is a time when roadways are heavily traveled and traffic fatalities typically increase. Last year during the Thanksgiving to New Year’s holiday season, 1,579 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes or in crashes in which safety belts were not used.

The “Tie One On For Safety” campaign encourages Ohioans to not drink and drive and to buckle up – because a seatbelt is the best defense against a drunk driver. Motorists are urged to tie a red ribbon on their vehicle as a symbol of their pledge to drive safe and sober.

During the 2004-2005 holiday season, MADD Ohio will distribute over 10,000 red ribbons. Ribbons will be distributed by MADD chapters throughout Ohio and from various law enforcement agencies.

Not drinking and driving and wearing your seatbelt are the two most important things you can do to keep you and your family safe this holiday season.



Patrol Reminds Truck Drivers to “Buckle Up for the Family” During the Holiday season



During the holiday season, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration are delivering an important message for commercial vehicle drivers – Buckle up for the family.

As part of a federally funded safety belt awareness initiative focused on commercial vehicle drivers, billboards and radio commercials are reminding truck drivers to buckle up. A recent national survey showed only 48 percent of truck drivers wear safety belts, compared with 79 percent of passenger vehicle drivers.

“Encouraging more truck drivers to wear their safety belts is going to help us reduce tragedies occurring on roadways throughout Ohio and across the country,” said Colonel Paul D. McClellan, Ohio State Highway Patrol superintendent. “We know the people out there driving the big trucks are professionals and are concerned about safety. However, we need many of them to be more conscious of their



own safety. Especially during the holidays, people need to understand that the decision to buckle up affects all of us.”

Colonel McClellan also noted the increased emphasis on safety belt usage for commercial vehicle drivers will help the Patrol reach its strategic goal of reducing traffic fatalities to one per 100 million vehicle miles traveled by the end of 2007, equaling 300 lives saved per

year. Ohio’s current fatality rate stands at 1.16 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

From now through the end of January, highway billboards will remind truck and car drivers to “Buckle Up for the Family”. Each billboard shows the image of a truck and car, with drivers of each vehicle wearing a bright orange safety belt. A total of 29 billboards in 19 counties will be posted through January along routes that are historically high in terms of commercial vehicle-involved crashes.

Malabar Farm Agroterrorism Exercise

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, along with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and other local, state and federal agencies, conducted an animal disease emergency response plan on October 13 at Malabar Farm State Park.

The exercise prepared Ohio's response to a potential terrorist incident involving a dangerously contagious or infectious animal disease. "The exercise tested and ultimately improved Ohio's emergency preparedness in this very specialized area," said Fred Dailey, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "It provided valuable feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of our plans and training for responding to agroterrorism incidents."

The exercise tested four components of the Animal Disease Incident Index to the State Emergency Operations Plan, including euthanasia and disposal of diseased animals, two critical aspects of animal disease control, and eradication in the most severe emergencies. Exercise participants used bales of straw as substitutes for diseased animals.



As part of the drill, uniformed law enforcement personnel enforced temporary road closures, practiced providing traffic stops at key intersections and shared critical information with drivers. A Joint Information Center was created where news releases were written, and media questions and public inquiries were answered.

"The more times we can work together during training and exercises, the better Ohio's response will be during an actual event," said Dale Shipely, Executive Director of the Ohio EMA. "Exercises like this create new, stronger-working relationships which are imperative in a disaster."

The exercise was sponsored by the State Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program, and was conducted as a no-fault learning environment as a practical training tool for Ohio's emergency responders and support personnel.



It's About Safety



Thumbs Up



...to retired Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel Robert M. Chiamonte for the honor of having the Ashtabula Post dedicated to him in October. Retired Colonel Chiamonte, born in Ashtabula, served as the sixth Patrol superintendent from 1965 to 1975.

Chiamonte served 33 years as an officer in the Patrol, and under his direction, the Patrol grew from 1,400 to 2,100 employees, opened 15 new posts, and added three new classrooms and a 110-bed dormitory at the Training Academy.



Caption: Colonel Paul McClellan presents former Colonel Chiamonte with a plaque at the Ashtabula Post.

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