

PSN

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

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Bob Taft, Governor

Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director

Join the Celebration... with Bicentennial Plates

The Ohio Department of Public Safety will help Ohioans celebrate our state's bicentennial birthday with a special present, BMV-style.

Commemorative bicentennial plates embossed with the red, white and blue bicentennial logo will start being seen in October on cars from Cleveland to Cincinnati, and every town in between. The bicentennial plates will replace standard issue plates and be issued for all new plate purchases including specialty plates, commercial trucks, dealers and motorcycles.

All blue and white license plates will be recalled and replaced with the new bicentennial plates. Blue and white plate owners will be assessed 75 cents plus shipping and handling.

Vehicle owners who are renewing gold license plates have the option of purchasing the bicentennial plates for an additional \$2.75 charge, plus any additional mailing costs.

After October, if gold license plates are lost, stolen or damaged, they will be replaced with bicentennial plates. Gold license plates will not be available for issuance after October 1, 2001.

The plates will help draw attention to the yearlong bicentennial celebration slated to begin in November 2002 and run through September 2003. This start-date will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the first Ohio constitutional convention.

The bicentennial presents an opportunity for all of us to learn more about our state and the people who've called it home. The Bicentennial Commission is working with schools to revitalize Ohio history education and using technology to make Ohio history education fun, exciting and meaningful for our younger generations.

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If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of *Public Safety News*, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

IT'S ABOUT SAFETY

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School Time for Adults Too

Our kids probably don't want to think about it quite yet, but the grown-ups do: It's back to school time!

For our Emergency Management Agency (EMA), this month is when the final touches are made to the annual catalog of training classes, and the dozen or so EMA staff members who pull double-duty as classroom instructors freshen up their curricula for the start of a new round of teaching.

Each year, the EMA offers nearly 30 professional development courses to emergency response officials throughout the state. Four of the courses are required for new county EMA directors. Completion of those four introductory courses as well as three additional preparedness courses will qualify the first responder to receive the Professional Development Series Completion Certificate.

Most of the training courses offered by the EMA are taught at the Emergency Operations Center north of downtown Columbus, but many of the courses are also taken on the road by EMA staff and taught wherever there is sufficient interest in the state.

Here's a sampling of the courses taught by EMA staff:

- Developing Volunteer Resources
- Basic Public Information Officer
- Decision-Making and Problem-Solving
- Exercise Design
- Disaster Recovery
- Donations Management
- Debris Management
- Radiological Monitoring

The regular series of courses offered by the EMA are modeled after similar instruction developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and many of the state EMA courses are required prerequisites for more advanced instruction on the same topic taught at the Emergency Management Institute at Emmitsburg, Maryland.

A second series of instruction offered by our state EMA is developed and offered on an ad hoc basis. For example, throughout this year EMA instructors have traveled the state; and by the end of the year, they will have conducted three-day capability and readiness assessment evaluations in 16 separate counties. During the first five months of this year, EMA staffers coordinated two-day anti-terrorism and domestic threat awareness at regional training sites for all 88 counties.

"The field of emergency preparedness always is evolving," said Jim Dwertman, EMA training supervisor. "That's why our EMA staffers who also teach courses continually refresh their course content.

"We have to stay on top of any new developments, so we can assist our local government partners in their readiness."

State EMA professional instruction is offered to local county officials at no charge.

Share the Road Safely

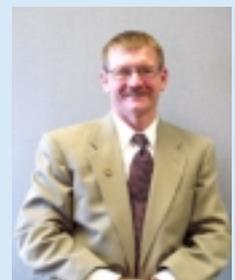
The Ohio State Highway Patrol began a statewide educational campaign in June to raise the safety awareness of the motoring public when it comes to cars and trucks sharing Ohio roadways safely. The effort is funded by a federal educational grant as part of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan.

Motorists throughout Ohio will see the billboards located on interstate and U.S. highways outside urban areas, with large volumes of both commercial and passenger vehicle traffic. The 12-month billboard campaign will feature a photograph of a Highway Patrol plane flying over a four-lane highway with both passenger and commercial vehicles safely travelling the highway. The words, "Share the Road Safely," will be at the top of the billboard, with the Ohio Trucking Association and Patrol logos, along with the 1-877-7-PATROL number.

"This is a proactive step to reduce the number of crashes involving automobiles and commercial vehicles. Awareness is a key element to make Ohio roads safe and these large highway safety reminders will certainly help reach that goal," Colonel Kenneth L. Morckel, Patrol superintendent said.

The Ohio Trucking Association (OTA) has joined the Patrol in the campaign. "We are glad to join efforts with the Patrol in this educational promotion. The Ohio Trucking Association and the Ohio State Highway Patrol have a long history of working together to promote safety," said Larry Davis, president of the OTA.

Based on preliminary statistics for 2000, Ohio recorded 13,054 crashes involving commercial vehicles compared to 16,148 crashes in 1999. The Patrol wants to continue to see the decline in crashes and believes this campaign can play a vital role in obtaining that goal.



*Jim Dwertman – EMA's
training supervisor*

Eleven Years Ago, Shadyside Alerted Ohioans to the Dangers of Flooding

Floods and flash flooding remain Ohio's and the United States' most dangerous natural hazard. Between 1955 and 1999, flooding in Ohio caused more than \$4.5 billion in damage—an average of \$102 million a year and the 22nd highest average annual damage amount among all states—according to the National Climatic Data Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Sixty-eight people have died as a result of flooding in Ohio since 1984.

"Several week's ago, the heavy rain and resulting flooding in Texas and Louisiana were responsible for at least 20 deaths," said Dale W. Shipley, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. "That was a grim reminder of what happened in Shadyside 11 years ago and serves to make each of us increasingly aware of the dangers of high water and flooding."



Ohio's Shadyside flash flood in 1990 in Belmont County was one of the worst in the state's history in which twenty-six people died. Because of that disaster, the Ohio EMA launched an aggressive flood warning program. Currently, Ohio's network of more than 240 automated rain gauges throughout the state is one of the largest in the country.

The gauges' data is reported 24 hours a day to computers at the Ohio EMA and the National Weather Service. The data also can be accessed through computer terminals at various local government agencies.

"Accurate, up-to-the-minute data is crucial to any early warning system," said Shipley, "but people must also be able to access that data quickly and know what to do when a warning is issued."

The most efficient way Ohioans can learn about threatening weather situations—floods, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms—is through a weather radio that broadcasts National Weather Service watches and warnings.

"If you have a smoke detector in your home, you should also have a weather radio equipped with an automatic tone alert feature," said Shipley. "This small investment can save your life."

Most flood-related deaths in Ohio and the United States occur when people attempt to walk or drive through flooded areas. About 80 percent of all flood-related deaths occur in motor vehicles as drivers attempt to go through a flooded roadway. Less than two feet of water can float most vehicles.

Tragically, many children die each year as a result of being swept into a swollen creek or storm drain. Never let children play near creeks or storm drains after a heavy rain.

Sober Truth Soars with The Akron Aeros

The Ohio Investigative Unit has recruited yet another professional baseball team to help promote the Sober Truth program. The Akron Aeros, the "AA" minor league team for the Cleveland Indians, is teaming with the Investigative Unit's program to encourage youth to steer clear of alcohol and tobacco.

In June, a "Sober Truth Night" was part of the Aeros' schedule, during which agents handed out 1,000 posters to spectators. The posters show second baseman Scott Pratt in action and include a Sober Truth message and the Investigative Unit hotline number to report underage sales violations.

Also, during the last months of the school year, five education days were conducted at the Aeros' stadium for Akron-area elementary and middle school students. On each of these days, about 5,000 children came to watch a baseball game and each received educational materials and Sober Truth giveaways. "Orbit" the mascot even got involved by signing autographs on his a trading card the Investigative Unit had designed for the program.

A brightly-colored Sober Truth advertisement will hang in the concession area throughout the team's season, and public service announcements will air on Akron radio on game days.



Quality Quote

"Win—Win is a belief in the third alternative. It's not your way or my way: it's a better way." -Stephen R. Covey

Salute to Ohio

Proud to be a Buckeye

ANIMAL

The white-tailed deer is Ohio's state animal. It is the state's largest game animal and can be found in all of Ohio's 88 counties. However, 80 percent of these animals live in the hilly eastern part of Ohio. The Ohio legislature adopted the white-tailed deer as the state animal in 1988.



The PSNEWS Roving Reporter

Q What is your favorite food and why?

A "Cheeseburger sandwiches. When I was assigned to England (USAF), they were what I missed most. I eat cheeseburgers more frequently than any other food." Al Holtsberry, Admin., Technology Services

A "Chicken. Because there's so many different ways to fix it." Denise Holland-Ford, Admin., HR

A "My most favorite would have to be chicken because of the multitude of the recipe varieties. My least favorite food is spinach. Actually, I have to be starving before I would even attempt to eat it." Sally Henkle, BMV

A "At the Marriott cafeteria, I really like the wraps that are offered from time to time and also the new chef's salads the cafeteria is now making." Bob Secrest, Coordinator, Motorcycle Ohio

A "I am currently loving the cream poppers and toasted ravioli that Little Italy serves in Groveport. I live NEXT DOOR to them, so the temptation is constant!! Yum-m-m!" Kay Carter, Dealer Licensing

A "I enjoy all foods, the presentations of the food, the colors, and the aromas." Margaret Jacobs, Technology Services

Join the Celebration... with Bicentennial Plates

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Although Ohio became a state on March 1, 1803, it was "officially" admitted into the United States over fifty years later on August 7, 1853.

For unknown reasons, a final vote by Congress to admit Ohio as a state never took place in 1803. Representative George Bender introduced a resolution during Ohio's 150th birthday year saying Ohio's statehood should be when its first elected legislature met for the first time. President Eisenhower signed the bill and Ohio aged 50 years with the swipe of a pen.

Ohio's nickname derives from the Ohio buckeye tree cut down by early pioneers to build cabins. Native Americans thought the tree's big, brown nuts looked like the eye of a male deer. They called the tree hetuck. White settlers called the nuts "buck eye."

Colonel Ebenezer Sproat became the first official "Buckeye" after Native Americans took a liking to the Marietta sheriff in 1788 and nicknamed him "Hetuck."

But it was William Henry Harrison, elected President of the United States in 1840, who many credit with popularizing the "Buckeye" nickname. He chose log cabins made of buckeye wood as the symbol for his successful political campaign. Ohioans have been nicknamed "Buckeyes" ever since.

"May I be one of the first to say, 'Happy Birthday, Ohio' from one Buckeye to another," stated Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director, during a press event to unveil the new plates.

BRUTUS Joins Partners for Safety

For many years, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) has been part of the OSU football games providing traffic control and stadium security. Recently, the Patrol, Coach Tressel and Brutus Buckeye joined forces to produce a "Partners for Safety" poster. The poster will focus on the problem of impaired driving and will debut at the Ohio State Fair.

Representing the Patrol on this poster was Tpr. Nakia Hendrix, a former running back on a national championship team coached by Tressel at Youngstown State University.

Following the fair, the Patrol posts statewide will work with local high schools to display and distribute the posters as part of safety education presentations.

