P.R.O.T.E.C.T. — Cleveland
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Preparation Exercise Toolkits
Ohio Emergency Management Agency equips partners with toolkits to better maintain safety during emergencies.

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Feature Story
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The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio University launch “Know Your Zone,” a self-awareness safety campaign; Private Investigator Security Guard Services offers an online Live Chat feature; and Ohio Investigative Unit agents work to keep communities safe.
The Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (STACC), which serves as Ohio's primary fusion center, recently launched a new website to provide a centralized resource showcasing its various components, assets and resources. The site was developed to advance the efforts of law enforcement officials and first responders in keeping their communities safe from terrorism and other crimes. It also provides resources for the general public to use to improve their own neighborhood's safety by learning about and reporting suspicious activity.

“Our website is not only going to help our local, state and federal law enforcement partners; it's going to benefit the general public,” said Ohio State Highway Patrol Captain Richard Zwayer, STACC commanding officer. “The STACC’s operations are based on information sharing and the new site provides a singular platform to encourage partnerships between law enforcement agencies, the intelligence community, and between law enforcement and the public.”
Discover STACC Elements

The website also highlights each of the STACC’s components, which span a wide range of public safety sectors to help partners protect and serve their communities. Offering expertise in multiple areas — from emergency management, to homeland security and law enforcement — the STACC’s various components can assist with a multitude of requests:

- Cyber Security Center
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency Watch Office
- Explosive Detection K9 Program
- Infrastructure Protection Unit
- Ohio Homeland Security Intelligence Liaison Officer Program
- Ohio Public Private Partnership
- Ohio Homeland Security Terrorism Analysis Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Computer Crimes Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Intelligence Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Watch Desk
- Ohio Fusion Center Network
- Scrap Metal Program
- Threat Assessment and Prevention Unit

Explore its Public Features

A stop at the STACC’s new site will provide value to those who visit. Its main page features real-time updates with articles that relate to state and federal homeland security matters, providing users constant situational awareness. The site also provides numerous resources for users to learn more information about the STACC, its available assets and its partnerships. Some of those resources include educational videos that inform the general public about ways to protect themselves and the community, information on how to identify and report suspicious activities, links to online information-sharing databases, printable informational brochures about the STACC and its various aspects, and more. Moreover, the site lists several reporting mechanisms, whether an individual is reporting suspicious activities, crimes or threats (See Something, Say Something tip line), threats specifically directed at schools and businesses (Safer Schools tip line) or something occurring on Ohio’s roadways (#677).

Learn the Law Enforcement Resources

Additionally, the STACC website hosts a detailed list of each of the no-cost state assets available for local law enforcement agencies to request at any time of day. Some of the resources and services offered by the STACC’s components, such as analytical and case support, aviation assistance, and assets to help with event security, are described below.

Analysts at the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Intelligence Unit answer inquiries that are called in from across the state and country, and can provide real-time assistance with crashes, open cases and traffic stops, and can also obtain phone numbers, search and monitor social media, find an individual’s location and search records. Thanks to their analytical support, law enforcement officers have been able to close cases faster and more efficiently.
As for aviation assistance, a call into the OSHP Watch Desk opens the door for law enforcement to immediately get help — whether it's searching for a suspect on the run or trying to locate a missing child. State Patrol aircraft are equipped with FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared [body heat-sensing] Radar) and other equipment, which helps pilots spot individuals and guide law enforcement ground-units to them.

Ohio Homeland Security's Infrastructure Protection Unit also offers event security assets such as SkyWatch observation towers and modular vehicle barriers. The towers are 30-foot-tall structures that have four pan, tilt and zoom cameras that can show up to a football field length's worth of area, which helps ground officers monitor suspicious activity more efficiently. The barriers help to prevent unauthorized vehicles from breaking into restricted event areas.

Check into a Key Information-Sharing Program

The website also describes and provides multiple resources for one of the STACC’s key information-sharing programs, which aids information sharing: the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) program. The ILO program is designed to increase local, state and federal collaboration against terrorism and crimes related to infrastructure protection. It incorporates volunteers from local law enforcement agencies as well as volunteers from other sectors: fire, corrections, education, emergency management, military, public health, transportation and private security.

ILO volunteers serve as conduits of information between the STACC, law enforcement partners, public and private sector entities, and the general public. They work as the main point of contact for the STACC to encourage the sharing of information about all matters relating to terrorism and other crimes in or around their area. ILOs also enhance overall awareness and preparedness by educating their agency and community. More in-depth information about the program is conveniently located on the website.

Understand its Impact

The new STACC website gives local law enforcement officers, first responders, the intelligence community, as well as the general public, the upper hand in the fight against terrorism and other crimes. Now, through one convenient online location, more stakeholders can get involved. Local law enforcement officers can learn about or request services the state has to offer that they may not have otherwise known existed, and the general public can learn how to be more involved in protecting their families, homes and communities. Furthermore, by giving citizens more opportunities to share information through the website, the STACC’s overall mission is advanced.

"Information sharing is probably the number one way to deter crime in the state of Ohio, and terrorism in the country, for that matter," Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Liaison Steve Rosta said. “There’s things that happen all over the state that people don’t think are very significant, but it’s those little things that don’t seem significant that sometimes build up to become something real. If we don’t get the information in, we can’t do anything about it.”

Remember: “If you see something, say something… so together we can do something!”

To learn more about the STACC or its online resources and features, access the website at STACC.ohio.gov.
The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) collaborated with 10 agencies from the local, state and federal level to reduce crime and violence in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. The 10-week initiative began on April 23 and focused on traffic enforcement, identifying criminal activity, reducing violent crimes and drug activity.

The Patrol’s Statistical Analysis Unit (SAU) identified areas within Cleveland’s 4th and 5th Districts that showed the highest number of reported violent calls. SAU provided detailed information to assist agency commanders in deploying resources for maximum effectiveness.

A Prolonged Reduction of Threats by Enforcing Criminal Trends (PROTECT) Initiative commenced and was completed on June 30. Each week troopers had a different enforcement focus including criminal patrol initiatives, OVI and safety belt enforcement and warrant service. Operation plans were developed prior to the start of the week and outlined the details including the number of participating units and the area of focus.

Information sharing and furtherance would be a key component to the success of the operation. All information gained by troopers, local departments, and tasks forces officers through interviews and cooperative suspects was shared with the OSHP Intel Unit. Any verified and useable intelligence was pursued.
Operational statistics were reported at the end of each two-day detail. Partner agencies used the same reporting mechanism and provided their statistics weekly. Functional activity and criminal cases were included in a weekly report.

The Patrol conducted more than 1,000 traffic stops resulting in the removal of 31 drunk or drugged drivers from the roads, issued more than 340 safety belt citations and stopped to assist 55 motorists. More than 21,000 grams of narcotics were seized which included heroin, cocaine, crack, marijuana, ecstasy and prescription pills. Six stolen vehicles were recovered and 25 illegal weapons were removed.

To accomplish this success, the Patrol deployed resources from the Cleveland and Warren Districts, the Ohio Investigative Unit and five General Headquarters sections (Criminal Patrol, Special Response Team, Aviation, Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit, and Licensing and Commercial Standards). Everyone working together contributed to a successful outcome of the detail.

The success of phase one resulted in the implementation of phase two. The Patrol has an unwavering commitment to promoting traffic safety, reducing crashes and removing the criminal element from our roadways. Through partnerships, the Patrol can aid in the betterment of our communities and continue to make Ohio a safe place to live and work.

Agencies involved in the detail included: Cleveland Division of Police, Adult Parole Authority, United States Marshals Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office, Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Prosecutor’s Office, United States Attorney’s Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.
For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.
Ohio Emergency Management Agency Equips Partners with Toolkits to Better Maintain Safety during Emergencies
During the course of the past year and a half, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) developed two public toolkits to address the concerns held by various entities about how to handle active aggressors or plan for business continuity during disasters.

Its most recent toolkit was unveiled in July 2018. The Business Continuity: Disaster in the Workplace Tabletop Exercise Toolkit was created by the Ohio EMA to assist businesses in preparing for unexpected events that hold the potential to alter daily operations or workflow.

Designed to be easily modified for use by any type or size of business, the step-by-step exercise covers three main objectives. The first, Incident Assessment and Notification, enhances a business’ ability to process and disseminate accurate information regarding a hazard, its effects and the business’ response status.

The second, Population/Critical Systems Protective Actions, enriches the capability of a business to develop an effective action plan for disasters. It also teaches a business’ leadership how to safely implement protective measures for its staff and essential infrastructure or commodities both during and after disasters. The final objective, Business Continuity, nurtures a business’ ability to resume business activities post-disaster in a timely and sustainable manner.

The Ohio EMA’s first toolkit — the Mall Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise Toolkit — was developed and released in January 2017 because of FBI reports that active shooter incidents occur at businesses and retail stores more than at any other location. It is a complete guide on how to plan and conduct an exercise that will prepare mall officials, as well as first responders, to better handle an active aggressor situation inside of a public shopping mall.

Since the toolkit’s release, it has been downloaded more than 300 times across 41 states and eight countries. Both toolkits provide all of the materials and information necessary to easily plan and host an exercise. Those materials include a PowerPoint presentation for the exercise, a facilitator’s guide, a participant situation manual, a planning timeline, and meeting and support documents.

Because of the broad range of resources and materials that each toolkit provides, hosting a preparation exercise is now more straightforward and virtually cost-free — significantly improving the once daunting and expensive process.

In order to obtain the materials of either toolkit, you must provide your name, the name of your agency or business, an email address, your state and country. To access both toolkits, visit: ema.ohio.gov/Exercise_TableTop_Toolkit.aspx.
Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio University Launch Know Your Zone Self-Awareness Safety Campaign

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), in partnership with Ohio University (OU), launched a self-awareness safety campaign called “Know Your Zone” to encourage students to be aware of their surroundings in order to make safer decisions.

The mission of “Know Your Zone” is to empower students to know their environment by understanding the three zones: green zone (safe), yellow zone (caution) and red zone (high risk).

Drug and alcohol abuse, unsafe driving and sexual assault are some of the problems that the younger population faces today. Each of those issues falls into one of the zones depending on a circumstance’s nature. For example, driving in a familiar area while wearing a safety belt is a situation within the green zone; texting and driving, however, falls into the red zone.

“Students that “Know Your Zone” can realize the power they hold in the decision making process, and reduce their chance of becoming at risk to one of those problems,” said Scripps College of Communication Dean Scott Titsworth. “The campaign provides an opportunity to change the culture with an idea that connects with students and keeps OU’s campus safe.”

For more information, follow the campaign using #KnowYourZone.
Safer Ohio 13

Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) have made positive strides curbing criminal activities that often occur in and around liquor permit premises. In just the first half of this year, agents made 268 felony arrests and confiscated more than $5.9 million in illegal proceeds. This represents a 57 percent increase in felony arrests. Many of the arrests were related to illegal weapons, drug trafficking, fake ID manufacturing, trademark counterfeiting, food stamp fraud and prostitution. 

"Often the illegal activity associated with some permit premises actually take place in parking lots and spill out into the neighborhoods," said Captain Gary Allen, OIU commander. "The communities around liquor permit premises want to know it is safe. We are another component in the fight to make Ohio a safer place to live and work."

OIU agents are committed to providing professional law enforcement services and holding those accountable who establish havens of criminal activity. Agents also enforce laws involving alcohol sales, illegal gaming, tobacco, nuisance abatement and human trafficking. Through partnerships, task forces, working groups and educational outreach, OIU is deterring the illegal activity in our communities.

Ohio Investigative Unit Agents Work to Keep Ohio Communities Safe

Private Investigator Security Guard Services Implements Live Chat Feature

To keep pace with advancing technology, Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS) launched an online Live Chat feature to serve as an alternative contact method for licensees to reach PISGS.

PISGS Live Chat responds to inquiries about licenses, Qualifying Agent examinations, background checks, accreditation, registration and more. In addition to Live Chat, PISGS can still be reached via Facebook, Twitter, Text-A-Tip, telephone and email.

To access the Live Chat feature, visit the PISGS website: PISGS.Ohio.Gov.
Ohio BMVs Raise Awareness of Critical Need for Organ Donors

It was the 24th day that Laurie Ryan had woken up in her daughter Reese’s room at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. When her daughter’s cardiologist appeared at the door with a box of tissues, after the ups and downs of the past few weeks, Laurie assumed the worst. Instead, with a tear in his eye, the doctor said that a heart had become available for Reese. At that moment, on April 23, 2016, the Ryan family’s lives changed for the better.

Laurie and her husband had two sons when the family found out they were expecting a baby girl in 2014. They were excited for the impact she would have on their lives — little did they know how immense her impact would be.

Reese was a happy, healthy baby until she was around 12 months old. She began eating less and sleeping more, and she eventually came down with a stomach bug. At the suggestion of Reese’s pediatrician, Laurie took her daughter to the emergency room. She thought hospital staff would give Reese fluids for dehydration and that she and her daughter would be on their way, but instead Reese was admitted.

The doctors soon discovered that Reese was suffering from both a blood clot and Restrictive Cardiomyopathy, a rare disease affecting the heart’s ability to properly fill with blood, which, over time, can lead to heart failure. That evening, Reese was moved to the hospital’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and the Ryans received the news that Reese's only chance for survival was to get a heart transplant. On April 8, 2016, Reese was added to the heart transplant list as Status 1A, meaning she was in urgent need of a new heart.

The following days were painful and scary for the Ryans. As Reese's health deteriorated, Laurie worried about what her daughter's future would be like, doubted her own ability to care for a critically-ill child and questioned how long her daughter's sick, little body could wait for a heart. She also admitted that it was difficult for her to pray for a miracle, knowing that a family would have to lose their child for hers to be saved.
Nevertheless, a miracle happened 18 days later. Reese received a new heart because a family said yes to organ donation in their worst moment. Laurie said the donor and the donor’s family are constantly in her family’s thoughts, and that her family will be forever grateful for the gift of life Reese received.

Today, little Reese is exploring life as a healthy, happy toddler and will soon begin preschool. Reese is a constant joy to her family who can now look forward to her bright future. The Ryans will never take the gift of life Reese received for granted.

In Ohio today, more than 3,000 individuals — men, women and children — are currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Hundreds more await tissue transplants. In 2017, 412 Ohioans shared the gift of life after death, resulting in 1,274 organ transplants. Although 2017 was a record-breaking year for transplants in the United States, 156 people on the waiting list in Ohio died before receiving an organ. Additionally, on average, one person will die every 48 hours while waiting for an organ.

You can potentially save a life by saying yes to becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor when you receive or renew your driver license or state ID card at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Registering to become a donor is critical because the opportunity to donate is so rare. It is equally important to share your donation decision with your family and for parents to have discussions about their willingness to donate their children’s organs in case the unthinkable happens.

You can also help to increase awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations by contributing to the Ohio Department of Health’s Second Chance Trust Fund. The fund was established to help educate Ohioans on the critical shortage of organ donors in Ohio. When applying for or renewing an Ohio driver license or ID card, there is an opportunity to make a voluntary $1 contribution to the Second Chance Trust Fund. Reese Ryan is currently featured on some of the donation-related materials on display at Ohio BMVs.

An additional way of increasing awareness is through the purchase of a Donate Life license plate, which is available for purchase by any Ohio motorist. For each plate sold, $5 will be given to the Second Chance Trust Fund. Purchasing a Donate Life license plate not only spreads awareness of the need to give the gift of life, it honors Ohio’s heroes who shared life through donation.

For more information on organ donation or to view the most current data regarding organ transplantation in Ohio, please visit the Ohio Donate Life website: DonateLifeOhio.org.
A SAFER OHIO

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