Partner in Public Safety:

As Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, I am pleased to present the 2021-2024 version of the Ohio Homeland Security Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is an all-hazards preparedness strategy designed to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies. The Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of Homeland Security continues to collaborate with numerous partners in the public and private sectors to update the plan to provide our state with a strategy to best address any and all hazards that threaten the lives and well-being of Ohio’s citizens and visitors.

Recent history has shown us that homeland security efforts must be designed to meet a broad array of threats, hazards, and catastrophic incidents. It is imperative that we continuously look to update our plans and strategies so that we are well prepared to confront any and all future problems. In an uncertain and often threatening environment, we must work together to achieve a high level of statewide preparedness so that we can protect the lives and interests of all Ohioans. Over the past year, critical updates were made to this Strategic Plan to continue to achieve this desired level of preparedness among the public and private sectors and across the state, county, and local governments.

As a final note, I would like to express my continuing gratitude to the dedicated professionals who developed the updates to the most current version of the Strategic Plan. They have served the State of Ohio well and, as a result, we will be better prepared to confront any threats that may emerge in the future. As an overall guide for preparedness for homeland security, the Strategic Plan will continue to evolve in order to enable Ohio to respond to diverse challenges in the coming years. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to a safer Ohio.

Sincerely,

Tom Stickrath, Director Ohio Department of Public Safety
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Ohio Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2024  3
Executive Summary

The State of Ohio is pleased to present the 2024 version of the Homeland Security Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan provides a framework for Ohio’s continuing progress toward developing and maintaining the capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies through well-prepared citizens, responders, and community leaders who are coordinated across disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries. Performance measures will be evaluated as part of the annual THIRA/SPR process.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security coordinates the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan including planning, development, and coordination of statewide policies developed in support of public and private organizations responsible for preventing terrorism, raising awareness, reducing vulnerabilities, responding to, and recovering from terrorist acts.

The Homeland Security Strategic Plan is a living document that requires an annual critical review to remain relevant to and adjust to the changing environment. Since the first version of this Strategic Plan was released in 2007, Ohio has improved preparedness, as agencies around the state continue assessing and coordinating homeland security efforts. The Plan serves as a tool for state and local organizations to use when spending federal grant funds, by assisting these agencies in prioritizing the cost effective use of Ohio’s capabilities, ensuring that the state is optimally using its resources. Everyone in Ohio has a role to play in homeland security – from individual citizens to our federal partners.
National guidance was used during the development of and subsequent revisions to the Strategic Plan. This guidance was developed as a direct result of presidential directives, aimed at creating a secure nation integrated at all levels in its preparedness. Homeland Security Presidential Directive Eight (HSPD-8) outlines a comprehensive process to prepare states in the event of a significant hazard that would require the ability to marshal all resources across the country, not just independent providers at the federal, state, and local levels.

In creating the Strategic Plan, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security recognized the importance of instituting an inclusive planning process to ensure comprehensive input was received from across the state through surveys and responses from the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC). The HSAC is a multi-disciplinary council that advises Ohio’s Director of Public Safety on matters of homeland security. After HSAC approval, the Plan was reviewed and approved by the Director of Public Safety.

The Strategic Plan was developed to protect all Ohioans. Our citizens are a key to ensuring the security of the state. All Ohioans are responsible for staying informed about homeland security issues and becoming involved in making their communities more secure. Citizens are encouraged to educate themselves about personal preparedness and volunteer their services to help government agencies and non-governmental organizations achieve the homeland security goals and objectives that will make Ohio a more secure and resilient state.
Mission Areas

Ohio continues to improve its preparedness by updating plans, filling identified gaps, and ensuring that all stakeholders are properly trained and exercised in the three primary preparedness mission areas.

**Prevention**
Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene or stop an incident from occurring.

**Protection**
Actions to reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure or key resources in order to deter, mitigate, or neutralize terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

**Response**
Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident.

Ohio’s Strategic Plan encompasses these mission areas through six goals, divided among the three missions. These goals provide the basic framework to develop and sustain Ohio’s homeland security capabilities.
**Prevention**

**GOAL 01**
Increase the capabilities of secure local, regional, and state-level intelligence and information sharing. **Core Capability:** Intelligence and Information Sharing

**GOAL 02**
Increase screening, search, and detection capabilities through CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) detection, response and decontamination capabilities and interdiction in the land, air, and maritime domains. **Core Capability:** Interdiction and Disruption

**Protection**

**GOAL 03**
Coordinate cyber security in the State of Ohio among government, public, and private sectors to ensure that information systems are adequately protected and resilient to cyber threats, and to ensure incident response capabilities exist to rapidly contain and remediate attacks. **Core Capability:** Cyber Security, Community Resilience, Infrastructure Systems

**GOAL 04**
Provide a Safer Environment in Ohio through the Safeguarding of Public Spaces. **Core Capability:** Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction, On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement

**GOAL 05**
Reduce risk to statewide infrastructure through effective planning and outreach. **Core Capability:** Planning, Public Information and Warning, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Communications, Risk Management, Physical Protective Measures

**Response**

**GOAL 06**
Improve the operational coordination of federal, state, and local partners. **Core Capability:** Planning, Cyber Security, Mass Search and Rescue Operations
Increase the capabilities of secure local, regional, and state-level intelligence and information sharing.

**Objective 1.1** Strengthen Ohio’s intelligence and information sharing system for the detection and prevention of threats to critical infrastructure.

**Objective 1.2** Promote PISGS to public partners, private partners and the industry through advertisement and outreach.

**Objective 1.3** Promote the Communication and Information Management System (CIMS) to public partners, private partners, and the critical infrastructure industry through advertisement and outreach.

**Objective 1.4** Provide resources and information to law enforcement communities to combat Ohio’s drug epidemic.

**Objective 1.5** Enhance detection in identifying threats to public safety in the homeland through fusion center development.

**Objective 1.6** Enhance intelligence and information sharing with agriculture stakeholders throughout Ohio.
Increase screening, search, and detection capabilities through CBRNE detection, response and decontamination capabilities and interdiction in the land, air, and maritime domains.

**Objective 2.1** Maximize ODNR’s ability to interdict specific conveyances, cargo, and persons associated with an imminent terrorist threat or act in the land, air, and maritime domains to prevent entry into the United States or prevent an incident from occurring in the nation.

**Objective 2.2** Within three years develop plans and procedures with local, state and tribal agencies on the detection of CBRNE hazards.

**Objective 2.3** Prevent terrorist acquisition of and the transfer of CBRNE materials, precursors, and related technology, consistent with established protocols within Lake Erie and the Ohio River.
Coordinate cyber security in the State of Ohio among government, public, and private sectors to ensure that information systems are adequately protected and resilient to cyber threats, and to ensure incident response capabilities exist to rapidly contain and remediate attacks.

**Objective 3.1**  
Strengthen cyber security capabilities in county emergency management agencies to create resilience of the whole community.

**Objective 3.2**  
Protect the Maritime Transportation System, Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources by identifying and mitigating cyber vulnerabilities in networked information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) systems.

**Objective 3.3**  
Conduct cyber security risk assessments on sector-specific critical infrastructure facilities to identify vulnerabilities and mitigate risk.
Provide a Safer Environment in Ohio through the Safeguarding of Public Spaces.

**Objective 4.1** Strengthen the physical security and resilience of Ohio school buildings and campuses.

**Objective 4.2** Strengthen the physical security and resilience of Ohio critical infrastructure facilities.

**Objective 4.3** Promote school threat assessment to prevent and mitigate threats against persons and places.

**Objective 4.4** Strengthen communication and information sharing to promote a timely, bidirectional exchange of information to support a safe and secure learning environment.

**Objective 4.5** Promote preparedness in school communities through effective emergency management planning, training and awareness.

**Objective 4.6** To enhance the on-scene security, protection and law enforcement capability and strengthen the physical security during large scale special events throughout Ohio, partner organizations will work to provide security, law enforcement services, and on-site assistance through specialized assessment teams and observation equipment.
Reduce risk to statewide infrastructure through effective planning and outreach.

Objective 5.1  Strengthen the physical security and resilience of Ohio critical infrastructure facilities through assessment of risks, threats, and vulnerabilities through Security and Vulnerability Assessments and analyses.

Objective 5.2  To enhance the on-scene security, protection and law enforcement capability and strengthen the physical security during large scale special events throughout Ohio, partner organizations will work to provide security, law enforcement services, and on-site assistance through specialized assessment teams and observation equipment.

Conduct outreach to past SkyWatch tower requestors and verify interest in requesting the tower for the upcoming season.

Objective 5.3  Develop a comprehensive small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) program to assist in the protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts for critical infrastructure assets.

Objective 5.4  Identify, assess and prioritize risks to the Marine Transportation System and its critical infrastructure.

Objective 5.5  Implement and maintain risk informed countermeasures and policies protecting the Marine Transportation System and its critical infrastructure using risk-informed tools such as RBMSRO and the Maritime Security Risk Analysis Model (MSRAM).

Objective 5.6  Protect the Maritime Transportation System, Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources by identifying and mitigating risks and threats to information and network systems.
Improve the operational coordination of federal, state, and local partners.

**Objective 6.1** Coordinate information sharing and collaborative engagement opportunities to promote individual and community preparedness as it relates to financial literacy and cybersecurity events.

Identify resource needs to effectively respond to a pandemics or other public health emergencies and close those gaps through acquisition of required resources or establishment of an alternate strategy to rapidly acquire them during an incident.

**Objective 6.2** Ensure preparedness for emerging high risk security threats and challenges in the maritime environment.

**Objective 6.3** Enhance capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the maritime environment in the shortest time possible.
Appendix A.

Ohio Homeland Security Advisory Council (OHSAC) Membership

American College of Emergency Physicians
American Red Cross
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association (BSSA)
Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)
Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS)
County Commissioners’ Association of Ohio
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
Governor’s Office, State of Ohio
Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center (GCFC)
Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) – Columbus
Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) – Dayton
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center (NEORFC)
Ohio Army National Guard
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)
Ohio Attorney General’s Office
Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Agriculture Enforcement Division
Ohio Department of Commerce, State Fire Marshal’s Office
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Association
Ohio Hospital Association
Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio LESO 1033 Program Defense Logistics Agency
Ohio Municipal League
Ohio School Safety Center
Ohio Secretary of State
Ohio Senate
Ohio Supreme Court
Ohio Townships Association
Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (STACC)
UASI – Cincinnati
UASI – Cleveland
UASI – Columbus
UASI Toledo/Lucas County
United States Coast Guard, District 9