



This Week in Ohio EMA

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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Billboards Assist with Ohio Amber Alerts

Last week in Columbus, Clear Channel Outdoor debuted its test screens for the Ohio Amber Alert System to local media. Clear Channel has eight digital light-emitting diode (LED) billboards throughout the Columbus area that change their advertising screens every three to eight seconds.

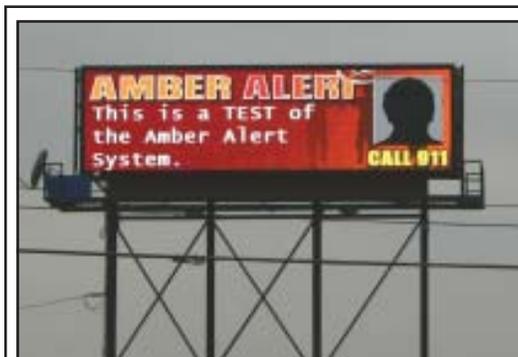
If there is a report of an abducted child, law officials, such as the Ohio State Highway Patrol, now have access to another means to post Amber Alerts. The Ohio Department of Transportation's freeway electronic message boards are also used to display Amber Alerts.

Digital billboards owned by other private advertisers throughout the state also display Ohio Amber Alerts.

"The Ohio Amber Alert Steering Committee extends its gratitude to Clear Channel Outdoor for giving local authorities access to its digital billboards," said Mark Patchen, chair of the steering committee and Ohio EMA Technical Support division director. "The use of its LED boards will mean additional postings on the roadways, which will enable more drivers to help in the recovery of missing children."

Work is underway with the Ohio Outdoor Advertisers Association to post Amber Alerts on all electronic billboards throughout the state.

For additional information, contact Mark Patchen at (614) 889-7156.



Columbus, OH - Amber Alert test screen on Clear Channel's digital billboard located near the corner of Dublin Road and Grandview Avenue.



Mark Patchen, Ohio Amber Alert Steering Committee chair and Ohio EMA Technical Support division director speak with local media about the Amber Alert bulletins on the digital billboards. (Ohio EMA photos)



ODPS Achieves Goal during 2007 Combined Charitable Campaign

The Ohio Department of Public Safety completed another successful Combined Charitable Campaign this year, raising **\$346,829** in contributions. This year's total exceeded Public Safety's 2007 goal of \$311,536 by \$35,293.

Statewide, the State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign raised a total of \$5,141,039 this year, which will benefit nearly 2,000 charities. ODPS Director Henry Guzmán noted that Public Safety, once again, ranked among the top state agencies in charitable contributions.

Homeland Security Current Threat Level: **ELEVATED** - Significant risk of Terrorist Attack
HIGH (or Orange) for Aviation Sector

ELEVATED

Save the Date!

March 23-29, 2008

Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week

Statewide Tornado Drill:

Wednesday, March 26th, 9:50 a.m.

Other Dates to Note in 2008:

March 17-21 - National Flood Safety Week

June 23-27 - National Lightning Safety Week

September is National Preparedness Month

Nov. 16-22 - Ohio Winter Safety Awareness Week



EMA STATUS REPORT

FEMA-1720-DR-OH

Incident Period: August 20-28, 2007

Individual Assistance for: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Richland, Putnam, Seneca and Wyandot counties (declared 08/27/07)

Deadline to Apply: **CLOSED**

Public Assistance for: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot counties (declared 09/11/07)

As of December 13, **250** Public Assistance projects have been approved for a total of **\$3,467,472**. FEMA has extended PA operations at the Findlay Processing Center until Dec. 21.

As of December 9:

Indiv. & Households Program (IHP)	5,462 approved \$17.89 million
SBA Home/Personal Property	
SBA Business Loans	\$23.07 million

Cumulative number of registrations for the eight (IA) declared counties: **8,579**.

By county:

Allen	333
Crawford	1,753
Hancock	2,743
Hardin	127
Putnam	898
Richland	1,995
Seneca	127
Wyandot	603

Ohio Participates in WV Communications Exercise



Parkersburg, WV - The state of Ohio participated in full force at the West Virginia University/Wood-Wirt County Local Emergency Planning Committee's "Operation I.R. Phone Home" exercise, held Saturday, Dec. 8. Other key exercise coordinators included the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department (WV), National Weather Service (Charleston, WV), West Virginia Department of Transportation, West Virginia Department of Military Affairs/Public Safety and Ohio Homeland Security - Strategic Analysis and Information Center.

The scenario tested the ability of the military, emergency services, public, private and volunteer organizations to provide necessary communication capacity over a multi-state area. A snow and ice storm crippled West Virginia, knocking out all communications and halting traffic on Interstate 77.

Interoperable communications was successfully demonstrated by West Virginia and the following Ohio agencies: Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) vehicles from Athens and Guernsey counties; Ohio State Highway Patrol, ODPS-Ohio EMA communications vehicle; and the Washington County EMA communications vehicle.

EMA Updates

Clark Jones, Interim Director (12/06/07)

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Lloyd Bokman, Ohio EMA Planner

Lateral move to **Radiological Analyst**

Effective 12/23/07

Ohio EMA, Radiological Branch

Mark Rafeld, Director

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Management and Homeland Security

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Radiological Branch Chief to Represent Council of State Governments Midwestern Office at TRANSCOM

Carol O'Claire, Ohio EMA Radiological branch chief, was recently selected as the Midwestern committee representative to the Transportation Satellite Communication (TRANSCOM) system user group. TRANSCOM is a Web-based tracking system used by Ohio to monitor Department of Energy (DOE) radiological shipments.

Several future radiological shipment campaigns have been scheduled, including shipments from the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion facility and foreign spent fuel shipments that would impact Ohio.

The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee brings Midwestern states together to identify, prioritize and work with DOE to resolve regional issues related to the department's transport of radioactive waste and materials, including spent nuclear fuel.

The Midwestern committee is comprised of committee members from 12 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA			
23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25  <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa begins</i>	27	28	29
30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	January 1  <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7 URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	8	9	10	11	12

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> - TAC - Technical Advisory Committee