

**OHIO AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2009**

Ohio AMBER Alert Chairman, Mark Patchen, called to order the January 15, 2009, meeting of the AMBER Alert Steering Committee at approximately 1:33 p.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lana Joiner.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Governor's Designee, Ohio Emergency Mgmt. Agency – EMA	Mark A. Patchen, Chairman
Dept. of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol – OSHP	S/Lt. Rob Jackson
Ohio Association of Broadcasters – OAB	Executive VP Christine Merritt
Federal Bureau of Investigation – FBI	Agent Harry W. Trombitas
Attorney General's Office, Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse	Brent Currence, Director
Local or Regional AMBER Plan	Michael R. Rankin, Esq.
Ohio Department of Transportation – ODOT	Alan Phillips
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association – BSSA	Sheriff Ronny J. Shawber Crawford County

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

State Emergency Communications Committee – SECC	Wayne Fick
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police – OACP	Chief Clayton Harris
Victims Advocate	Linda E. Maloy

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio Emergency Management Agency – EMA (Public Affairs)	Tamara McBride
Ohio State Highway Patrol – OSHP	Lydia Wagner

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED.

II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2008, MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The Committee dispensed with readings of the November 6, 2008, Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee Meeting minutes. Chairman Patchen asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. Being none, Mr. Alan Phillips made a motion to adopt the minutes, Mr. Harry Trombitas seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

Chairman Patchen informed the Committee that several resolutions were ready to be signed by the Committee members. Chairman Patchen explained the resolutions distributed for signature are as follows: Development of AMBER License Plate Program, Use of Digital Signboard Companies, Support for “ID R Kids” and “Next of Kin

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Registration” Programs, Accepting Ohio AMBER Steering Committee Goals Developed for 2009, “Take Time-Out for AMBER Alerts” Campaign, NCMEC Secondary AMBER Alert Activation and Updating of an Alert Action Sheet.

B. Statewide Conference

Mr. Brent Currence informed the Committee that as of now there are approximately 250 attendees for the statewide conference, which is scheduled for January 30, 2009, at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium. The packets are ready for handout and will include the DVD for AMBER training. The Committee discussed breakout rooms, hallway table displays and booths, OSHP command vehicle tour, meal time period and cost, posters, agenda topics, panel discussion topics and the speaker time frames.

C. Review of AMBER Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the two AMBER Alerts issued since the last meeting. Both the Alerts resulted in successful recoveries. The Committee discussed the alerts of which one will be used as a case study at the statewide AMBER conference. No changes or corrections to the Alert summaries were recommended.

D. Missing Adult Alerts

Mr. Brent Currence informed the Steering Committee that there were seventeen alerts since the November 2008 meeting. Two of the adults involved in these Alerts died from exposure to cold weather. All others were recovered safely. Mr. Currence informed the Committee that additional training will be held with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCI&I) due to some reporting inconsistencies. Procedures are being setup to get license plate numbers shown on Adult Alerts.

E. Time-Out for AMBER Alerts

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the Committee that school packets have gone out on the Take a Time-Out for AMBER Alerts program and will be posed on the Ohio Department of Education website. There has been a real good response from the schools. The television spots are going out. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles stuffed the envelopes and paid for the postage. The Public Service Announcement (PSA) was filmed in approximately one hour at the Bloom-Carroll High School and has gone out to the media. The college portion of the campaign was sent to the Board of Regents campus security director but we have not received a response. The video and PSA will be e-mailed out to the major colleges to be used on video boards in their gyms. In late spring after basketball season work will begin with the Ohio News Paper Association to further promote individuals to register to receive AMBER Alerts.

F. Meetings

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the Committee of follow-up actions related to holding a meeting between Canada and the U.S. There is a new Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) AMBER representative. Contact will be made with this representative to find out

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if the meeting will take place. Work on trying to setup a meeting between Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky will take place in the next weeks.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Group

Mr. Harry Trombitas asked if the Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Group could attend the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee meetings and stay after to have their meeting in the same room, this way they could benefit from hearing the AMBER Alert Steering meeting first hand and not have to search each time for a meeting location. This request has been approved by Chairman Patchen.

B. Emergency Alert System (EAS) Summit

Ms. Christine Merritt briefed the Committee on the National Alliance of State Broadcasters who will be putting together an EAS summit on March 29, 2009. Discussions will take place on how to improve the EAS and IPAWS.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m., Room 204, at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2588 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-2712.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mike Rankin, at approximately 2:45 p.m., seconded by Ms. Christine Merritt. Motion carried by all.

DATE

**MARK A. PATCHEN, CHAIRMAN
AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE**