

**OHIO AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2010**

Ohio AMBER Alert Chairman, Mark Patchen, called to order the April 15, 2010, meeting of the AMBER Alert Steering Committee at approximately 10:15 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Ms. 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
Attorney General's Office, Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse	Brent Currence, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation – FBI	Agent Harry W. Trombitas
Local or Regional AMBER Plan	Michael R. Rankin, Esq.
Ohio Department of Transportation – ODOT	Alan Phillips

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Victims Advocate	Linda E. Maloy
State Emergency Communications Committee – SECC	Wayne Fick
Ohio Association of Broadcasters – OAB	Executive VP Christine Merritt
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police – OACP	Chief Clayton Harris
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association – BSSA	Sheriff Ronny J. Shawber Crawford County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sunny95 Radio/Mid-Ohio AMBER	Clark Donley
City of Powell Police Department	Det. Kevin Flaharty
Mid-Ohio AMBER	Tiffiney Hatem
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)	Jeff Hill
Groveport Police Department	Ralph Porter
Ohio EMA, Public Affairs	Kelli Blackwell
Ohio EMA, Public Affairs	Tamara McBride

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED.

I. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 21, 2010, MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The Committee dispensed with reading of the January 21, 2010, Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee Meeting minutes. Chairman Patchen asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. One correction needed to be made and has been processed. S/Lt. Rob Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes, Mr. Alan Phillips seconded. Motion carried by all.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. State AMBER Conference

Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that preparation for the conference is moving along well. There have been approximately 215 attendees registered. There have been 15 media

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attendees registered. The conference is being held at the Columbus Police Academy. Newsplex has requested that due to grant issues, all attendees register through Fox Valley. Ms. Christine Merritt, Ohio Association of Broadcasters (OAB) volunteered the OAB to pay (approximately \$445.00) for catered snacks, coffee and bottled water for the conference. Lunch for the conference will be on-your-own, 1½ hour, with a MapQuest sheet of restaurant locations passed out the day of the conference. A copy of the conference agenda was distributed to the committee. All are encouraged to attend.

B. Twitter (to distribute alerts)

Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that their technology staff is a little behind on projects right now but they are going to create a Twitter account for the distribution of AMBER Alerts and Missing Adult Alerts. Mr. Currence will have to check on creation of Twitter timeline and account progress. Besides posting Alerts, other events can be posted, example; meetings, training, AMBER Alert Awareness Day, national events, etc. More information will be forth coming.

C. Review of AMBER Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the two AMBER Alerts issued since the last meeting, one from Montgomery and one from Muskingum Counties. S/Lt. Rob Jackson briefed the committee on the two Alerts. The first one was the suspect mother and claimed to have a handgun and had threatened to kill herself and the child in the past. The suspect and child were located in Tempe, Arizona, mother was arrested. The second Alert, the suspects, mother and father, were known to be drug users, mother unstable and considered a risk for her child as well as herself. The father stated he would go to jail before they would get the child. On the second one, the suspects heard the AMBER Alert and called 911 to surrender to authorities. Both Alerts met the AMBER criterion and resulted in successful recoveries. There were three problems with the Alert in Montgomery County. The first being a delay at the local level when the victim was not accounted for. The second one resulted from miss-communications from the Montgomery County Communications Center. And third, an operator error was made in the posting of the cancelation, which resulted in an erroneous notification stating the victim had been recovered. These issued have been addressed through an after-action report review, procedure revision and refresher training. There were two corrections recommended to the first Alert summary.

D. Review of Missing Adult Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the 30 Missing Adult Alerts issued since the last meeting. Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that with reference to the latest 30 Alerts, three were found deceased. A man from Columbus, Franklin County, who suffered from Alzheimers and found deceased curled up beside a boat by a man taking his trash out, died from over exposure due to cold weather. A woman from Fairfield, Butler County, who had made comments that she didn't care if she lived or died, was last seen with her vehicle at a car wash. A friend followed tire tracks leading to brush near an embankment and called police when they saw the victim vehicle. The victim was found, belted in the vehicle, which was overturned at the bottom of the ravine. The body suffered trauma. It is not known if the victim died as a result of injuries from the crash or other actions until after an autopsy is performed. At this time, we have no information on the third male victim. The amount of Alerts and casualties continue to be high.

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III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AMBERAlert.com

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the committee that he received an e-mail from Urgent Technology that covered several states and is used as a secondary alert system. The company representative wanted to demonstrate his technology. Since he is operating in seven other states, the topic was put before the committee to make the decision. After the committee discussion, the decision was not to have the vendor demonstration take place. S/Lt. Jackson will inform the representative of the committee decision and the option for him to receive Ohio Alerts for further dissemination over the Urgent Technology system.

B. E-Notify

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the committee that the Ohio State Highway Patrol has an automated notification system called E-notify. E-notify groups have been formed for an AMBER Alert. When an AMBER Alert is issued E-notify is activated and individuals on the group list are automatically notified via their e-mail and/or cell phone. S/Lt. Jackson asked the committee members if they would like to be notified by this method. Those committee members requesting notification will be added to receive the AMBER Alerts via the E-notify process.

C. Poster Contest

Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that there were approximately 125 posters received for the contest. There was a really good turn-out this year with very good poster drawings. For the first time, we had a person from Columbus picked in the top three winners. The Ohio winners will be recognized at the 2-day Missing Children's Day conference, which will be held in May. The committee has not heard if the national winner has been picked.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the committee that he will be attending the N.E. Ohio Regional AMBER Alert training on Friday, April 16. Topics for discussion will include; broadcaster expectations from local TV, AMBER Alert activation collaboration, C-COM activation process, Cleveland Police will go over a recent AMBER Alert, an update on state activations, Clear Channel Signboards and the Prosecutors' Office will talk about the take me home program. S/Lt. Jackson will be happy to take along anyone who would like to attend. Mr. Brent Currence requested that the Missing Adult Alerts and Missing Child Alerts to be talked about as part of S/Lt. Jackson's presentation at the training.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Room 204, at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2588 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-2712.

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V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m. was made by Mr. Harry Trombitas, seconded by Mr. Mike Rankin. Motion carried by all.

DATE

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