

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Live In-Person Meeting
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
October 16, 2025

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the October 16, 2025 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:03 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Jackie Bonner.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

IN-PERSON

Ohio AG's Office/Ohio Missing Persons' Clearinghouse	Brent Currence
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Ron Raines
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Brian Castner
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison
Victim's Advocate	Kathryn (Ryn) Wolfe Farmer
Ohio Department of Aging	Erin Pettegrew
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Chad Budreau
Local/Regional AMBER Plan	Jacquelynn (Jacque) Costa
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Matt Delp
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Jeff Balzer

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Prater

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Staff Lieutenant Melanie Provenzano
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Arin Smith
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Jacqueline (Jackie) Bonner
Ohio DODD	Russell Blank
Ohio DAS	Angie Canepa
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Brian Morgan

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

None in attendance

II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes from the July 17, 2025 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jacque Costa, Ryn Wolfe Farmer seconded. Motion carried by all. Minutes approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Jacque Costa reported there was one (1) AMBER Alert activation by Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS) in the third quarter. She gave a brief summary of the incident.

1. September 14, 2025 – requested by Brunswick Police Department

Staff Lieutenant Provenzano reported that the OSHP Watch Desk had six (6) activation requests from various agencies. All requests were denied due to the incidents not meeting the AMBER Alert criteria.

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts in the third quarter of 2025.

C. Review of Endangered/Missing Child Alerts:

There were eight (8) Endangered/Missing Child Alert activations in the third quarter of 2025. Brent Currence gave a brief summary of each incident.

1. July 11, 2025 – requested by St. Clair Township Police Department
2. August 19, 2025 – requested by Stark County Sheriff's Office
3. August 30, 2025 – requested by Brecksville Police Department
4. September 11, 2025 – requested by Carlisle Police Department
5. September 25, 2025 – requested by Perkins Township Police Department
6. September 27, 2025 – requested by Lorain County Sheriff's Office
7. September 29, 2025 – requested by North Canton Police Department
8. October 3, 2025 – requested by Delaware County Sheriff's Office

Brent Currence informed the committee that there has been an increase volume of Endangered/Missing Child Alert requests due to the new "JA" code. Some of these requests have been denied as agencies are using the code without the full understanding of what the code means and who it notifies.

Brent Currence and Captain Raines advised the audience of how to sign up to receive all missing persons alerts to their phone and/or email.

D. Review of Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts:

There were forty-nine (49) Endangered/Missing Adult Alert activations in the third quarter of 2025. Brent Currence notified the committee of an alert issued for an abducted adult under the age of 65. This situation does not currently meet the criteria for the Endangered Missing Adult Alert. He has proposed changing the criteria to include all abducted adults regardless of age.

E. Alerts Training Update:

Captain Raines advised the committee that all regional Ohio Alerts trainings have been completed for the year. There was a total of one hundred and seventy-five (175) individuals who attended the training this year. One (1) training has been scheduled for 2026. Jackie Bonner will work with the instructors to schedule additional training for the upcoming year.

F. 2025 AMBER Alert Symposium:

Ryn Wolfe Farmer informed the Committee that all planning and logistics for the Symposium have been confirmed. The current federal government shutdown may cause a cancellation in one of the presentations. In the event the federal government does not reopen, an alternative agenda will be utilized.

Captain Raines informed everyone that the registration for the Symposium closes in three (3) days. Individuals who plan on attending and are unable to register through the Public Safety Training Campus, is to notify Jackie Bonner. She will include them in the registration numbers.

G. New MEP Code – Subcommittee Update:

Brian Castner informed the Committee that he has received a request for approval from Auglaize County EMA to have the capability on their IPAWS system to issue the new Missing Endangered Persons (MEP) alert.

The new MEP code does not list any requirements or parameters for when the code can be used. The Subcommittee has discussed potential requirements for counties and local regions requesting the capability of sending out the IPAWS message. Some recommendations of requirements include mandating a county to submit a specific regional plan, have geofencing capabilities, and obtain BCI's approval. Ultimately, it is the OEMA who will grant/deny an entities ability to utilize the new MEP code, but the subcommittee has concerns that the new code will be over utilized, thereby desensitizing the public and resulting in the public turning off the alerts notifications on their cellular phones.

Brian Castner informed the Committee that Ohio EMA is working on updating their ESF-2 Alerts and Warnings Plan. He stated that the plan will be similar to the State of Wisconsin's plan that is in place. Once the plan is complete, he will provide the plan as a template for Counties to use when creating a regional alerts plan.

Captain Raines reminded the Committee that, if approved, the new MEP code will enable Ohio BCI and all alerting authorities in Ohio to utilize the WEA and EAS system for every MEP alert. He notified the Committee that there are approximately 200 alerts every year that could be sent out to the public under this new code. Desensitizing the public is the main concern of the Subcommittee due to the potential threat of the overuse of the IPAWS system. Members of the Subcommittee discussed other issues and resolutions involving the new MEP code with the other members of the Committee.

H. Ohio Alerts Plan Revision:

Captain Raines informed the Committee that the Ohio Alerts Plan revision is still undergoing. The current plan is outdated and has inaccurate information. Brent Currence stated that he will review and revise the Ohio BCI alerts.

I. HB 359 Update:

Captain Raines reviewed HB 359 with the Committee and informed them of the reason the bill was started. He advised them of OSHP's recommendations and concerns that were provided to their legislature liaison and notified the Committee to inform him of any other recommendations they may have.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 Committee Meeting Dates:

Captain Raines made a motion to continue to hold the meetings on the third Thursday of the first month of each quarter. The Committee voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved. The meeting locations will continue to be held at the Ohio EMA Building.

B. New Business from Committee Members:

Brian Castner informed the Committee of a tip he was made aware of through a FEMA workgroup he is a part of. The tip spoke about an update that Apple IOS has with WEA messages. When implemented, IOS users will have the capability of viewing an additional 600-character message outside the current 360-character WEA message.

Captain Raines informed the committee the URL to the AMBER Alert Website is included in all AMBER Alert WEA messages. The URL will take the viewer directly to the website where they can view additional information.

Brian Castner informed the Committee that he has now received guidance from the State's IPAWS vendor on how to utilize the geofencing coordinates. EMA has added that information into their procedures. A WEA and EAS notification can still be sent out by region without using the polygon coordinates of a specific geographic area.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ryn Wolfe Farmer and seconded by Paul Jellison. Meeting was adjourned.


Brent Currence, Chairperson


Date