



Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee

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Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee is committed to a statewide approach to the emergency alert programs through coordination of resources, information sharing, and training. The committee is dedicated to ensuring the most timely and efficient notification to law enforcement, emergency alert partners, and the public.

The committee's primary purpose is to help increase the chance for the safe recovery of the victims of abduction or other life-threatening situations, when administering the AMBER Alert, Endangered Missing Child Alert, Endangered Missing Adult Alert, and the Ohio Blue Alert programs. The Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee's continued focus is on the evaluation of the effectiveness of these alerting programs.

The goals and objectives of the committee include:

- Development and distribution of procedures necessary to activate the alerts.
- Ensure the alerts are distributed in a timely fashion.
- Conducting after-action reviews of alerts.
- Develop and conduct training regarding the criteria and activation processes for the alerts.
- Reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) as it relates to AMBER Alerts.
- Coordinating with other states on alert activations.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee meets quarterly to evaluate and review all alerts issued within the State of Ohio. The continued oversight of the committee will ensure continued coordination among the alerting programs, collaboration among alerting partners/stakeholders, evaluate program growth and implement necessary changes, and coordinate on-going training based on the needs of law enforcement.

The primary operational responsibilities for AMBER Alert activations and the administrative responsibilities for the committee, including reporting surveys to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, are carried out by the employees of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's HUB under the oversight of the State's AMBER Alert Coordinator. The HUB includes the 24/7/365 OSHP Watch Desk, who act as the on-duty AMBER Alert Coordinator; the OSHP Criminal Intelligence Unit; and the Columbus Communications Center. There are currently 44 employees assigned to this unit who may have a role in AMBER Alert activations if an activation occurs on their shift. Alert activation responsibilities are in addition to their other primary responsibilities. A specific activation would involve six to seven OSHP employees and include the involvement of numerous federal, state, local and private partners who are responsible for secondary and tertiary alerting notifications. The HUB is also responsible for Blue Alert activations, while the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations has responsibility for Endangered Missing Child and Endangered Missing Adult Alert activations.

The recovery statistics below reflect the value of sustaining the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to ensure continuous improvements:

- Ohio has issued 258 AMBER Alerts since the program began in October 2002. These alerts involved 306 children, with 298 being safely recovered, 7 found deceased, and 1 still missing.
- Ohio has issued 208 Endangered Missing Child Alerts Since January 2006. These alerts involved 222 children, with 214 being safely recovered, and 8 found deceased.
- Ohio has issued 2,240 Endangered Missing Adult Alerts since June 2008. These alerts involved 2,294 adults, with 2,205 being safely recovered, 81 found deceased, and 8 are still missing.
- Ohio has issued 4 valid Blue Alerts since the program began in June 2012. The most recent was in October 2021 when a Findlay Post Trooper was involved in a resisting arrest incident and was subsequently shot and critically injured. The suspect fled and was later apprehended. The suspects were apprehended in all Blue Alert activations.

In addition to alert activation responsibilities, the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee provides training services. Training is provided free of charge to Ohio law enforcement personnel, including telecommunicators, and is conducted by existing staff from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigations. This training ensures first responders have a better understanding of the criteria for activation of alerts, the information needed for an activation to be completed, and the processes necessary for activations. From 2016 through 2019, 33 training sessions were conducted across Ohio. In comparison and despite the reduction in training due to COVID-19, from 2020 to the present, there have been 32 training sessions, with an additional 5 training sessions scheduled for the remainder of 2024.

In addition, the committee hosts a 1-day Ohio Alerts Conference annually. The conference is open to all law enforcement personnel and partner agencies who are invested in the Ohio Alerts Programs. Between 2016 and 2018, the conferences were attended by 417 individuals from numerous agencies across Ohio. Due to COVID-19, there was no conference in 2019 and the 2020 conference was conducted virtually. However, between 2021 and 2023, the annual conference was attended by a total of 384 people.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

The Ohio AMBER Alert Committee is non-funded and costs related to the work of the committee and its members are incurred by the members' existing agency or organizational budget. The costs associated with alert activation services provided under the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee are incurred by the budgets of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

As directed by O.R.C. Section 5502.521, the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee is a multi-disciplinary and jurisdictional committee comprised of members from the thirteen (13) entities below. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has elected to forgo formal gubernatorial appointment to the committee, but still provides representation at meetings and is engaged in committee business and Alert Program operations.

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Local/Regional AMBER Plan Representative
- Ohio Association of Broadcasters
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- State Emergency Communications Committee
- Victim's Advocate
- Community Member

The committee is non-funded and costs related to the work of the committee are paid out of the members' existing agency or organizational budget. Committee members are not reimbursed for travel or other expenses unless done so through mechanisms within their representing agency or organization.

#### Additional notes

The Ohio AMBER Alert Program development began in August 2002 as a result of an Executive Order (2002-10T) issued by then Governor Taft. The Executive Order created an AMBER Plan Task Force for the development of the AMBER Plan. Legislation enacted in January 2003 created the Ohio AMBER Program and led to the appointment of the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee in July 2003. The committee is now known as the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert was created by the Ohio Attorney General's Office and became effective in May 2005. The Endangered Missing Child Alert was created as a result of children reported missing that were in immediate life-threatening circumstances, but the circumstances did not meet the AMBER Alert criteria, which includes the known abduction of the victim(s). The alert was patterned after the Ohio AMBER Program, utilizing many of the same systems and tools for alert dissemination.

Upon passage of Senate Bill 87 in March 2008, the committee was tasked with the creation of the Ohio Missing Adult Program. The program was patterned after the Ohio AMBER Program, utilizing many of the same systems and tools for alert dissemination. The Missing Adult Program, now known as the Endangered Missing Adult Alert, was implemented in June 2008 and is activated by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

The Ohio Blue Alert, which is activated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, was implemented in June 2012, as enacted in O.R.C. 5502.53. This alert is utilized in the event a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed and the suspect has not been apprehended, or if the law enforcement officer is missing while on-duty under circumstances warranting concern for the officer's safety. This program utilizes alerting mechanisms and information dissemination methods similar to the aforementioned alerts in an effort to enlist assistance from the public, as well as federal, state and local public safety partners to locate the law enforcement officer and suspect(s).