

Ohio 9-1-1 Newsletter

August 2015

9-1-1 Public Service Announcement

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office, in cooperation with the DAS Communications Office, Ohio APCO and the Ohio Department of Public Safety recently produced a radio and television 9-1-1 Public Service Announcement (PSA). The PSA, “Knowing Your Location When You Call 9-1-1” is meant to educate the public about what they need to know when calling 9-1-1.

Many people are under the impression, whether from television shows or a misunderstanding of media stories, that when they call 9-1-1 their pinpoint location is immediately known by the 9-1-1 telecommunicator. The PSA is a reminder to everyone that knowing their location when reporting an emergency is a crucial piece of information and helps first responders find them, especially if they are in an area where current location technology does not provide accurate information.

The PSA is scheduled to run statewide in September and all County 9-1-1 Coordinators will be alerted prior to airing so they can be prepared in case they receive calls from the public. Additionally, the PSA will be added to the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office website at 911.ohio.gov. This will be a good educational opportunity if curious citizens call in inquiring about current 9-1-1 technology.

Rob Jackson (left), administrator of the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office, marks the beginning of the taping of a segment of a public service announcement co-starring Nick Levin of his office. The segment also features six first responders. (Photo by Molly O'Reilly.)



DHS-OEC IC-TAP Program

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office, in cooperation with the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), presented three Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (IC-TAP) sessions in July. The IC-TAP sessions were conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Office of Emergency Communications and took place in Nelsonville, Marion and Columbus on July 27, 28 and 29 respectively. Although we could not accommodate all areas, these three sites were selected based on availability, location and ease of travel so everyone could participate with as little impact as possible.

The presentation included information from an expert in the 9-1-1 technical field and lessons learned, as well as an update on the Ohio ESINet and 9-1-1 activity. Additionally, the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet) presented their proposed design for the state ESINet.

New Addition to the 9-1-1 Program Office

Nick Levin has joined the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office and will be serving in a logistics role three days a week. Nick is a recent graduate of Muskingum University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and History with a minor in Psychology. He served as a college intern with the Ohio AMBER Alert Program in 2014 and his future goals include government service in the area of federal law enforcement. Nick will primarily be assisting with website administration, research, outreach and communication.

July 9th ESINet Steering Committee Meeting

The July 9th ESINet Steering Committee meeting was very well attended and included several agenda items crucial to the ESINet project. First, Jeff Smith, chair of the ESINet Technical Standards Sub-Committee, gave an update in reference to submissions responding to the RFI released in 2014.

Second, Paul Schopis, a representative from the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), provided a high level outline of how the ESINet will be designed and implemented. This presentation was followed by a highly technical, in-depth presentation at a technical summit on July 17th, 2015. Local, regional and state technical experts were invited to attend and review the plans in an effort to assist in ensuring the design is the strongest design possible for a system of this magnitude.

Finally, the ESINet Steering Committee held a public forum on the proposed PSAP Operations Rules proposal. More information can be found on this topic in an article titled “ESINet Rules”.

ESINet Rules

Ohio Revised Code 128.021 requires the ESINet Steering Committee to develop rules for PSAP operations. As part of this effort, there have been a variety of versions and many rumors permeating throughout the 9-1-1 community. In June, in an effort to ensure all stakeholders had an opportunity to weigh-in on the proposed rules, the following steps took place:

- 1 – The original rules recommended by the Task Force were edited to comply with Ohio law, as well as additional edits and content to create a draft set of rules.

2 – At the conclusion of the June 8th ESINet Steering Committee meeting, the draft set of rules were distributed to the ESINet e-mail distribution list, County 9-1-1 Coordinators and interested parties such as the BSSA, OACP, OFCA, Ohio APCO and Ohio NENA.

3 – At the July 9th ESINet Steering Committee meeting, the committee members listened to comments from all interested parties wishing to address the proposed rules.

4 - The committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, July 22nd, to work on a final version of the proposed rules. The completed draft has been distributed to interested parties and subsequently scheduled for a vote at the August 6th ESINet Steering Committee Teleconference. The committee wishes to thank all stakeholders who took time to make comments.

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