

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Don't Count on the Luck of the Irish! "Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving"

[Lancaster, Ohio, March 13, 2013] Although not everyone is Irish, everyone has the opportunity to serve as a designated driver. St. Patrick's Day is a favorite Holiday, and although we look forward to the festivities... look forward far enough to plan ahead!

From 2006-2010, data shows that over 700 people died during St. Patrick's Day as a result of an alcohol related crash nationwide. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has provided information that shows that on average one person will die every 51 minutes as a result of alcohol related crashes.

"Deputies from my office will join other law enforcement agencies to make sure we do all we can to keep drunk drivers from bringing a tragic end to this popular holiday", noted Sheriff Dave Phalen. "Thanks to the High Visibility Enforcement Overtime grant we received from the Ohio Department of Public Safety this year, we will increase the number of deputies to our roadways this weekend."

Planning ahead is the best way to prevent a tragedy. Designating a sober driver is one way to plan ahead. It is important to remember that just a few drinks can impair your driving skills, and can land you in jail.

"Just a few drinks may make you feel the 'buzz' of alcohol," notes Teresa C. Carper of Safe Communities of Fairfield County. "But 'Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving,' so don't 'Press Your Luck' this St. Patrick's Day."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has tips on all types of traffic safety issues. For more information, visit their website at www.nhtsa.gov.

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TO SERVE AND PROTECT