

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Warmer Weather Brings Traffic Safety Risks

[Lancaster, Ohio, April 16, 2013] As the weather turns warm, Safe Communities of Fairfield County warns that drivers need to make sure they keep safety in mind as they get out and enjoy the season of spring. March was fatal free in Fairfield County, and a review of statistics from last year shows that March was also fatal free in 2012. But with 14 fatal crashes in 2012, diligence of safety is the key to keeping local roadways safe.

“Warmer weather brings out more people, and increases motorcycle riders on our roadways. Drivers need to be aware of their presence and riders need to remember to keep safety in mind as they enjoy this activity,” stated Teresa C. Carper, Director of the local Safe Communities Program. “May is Motorcycle Awareness Month; however it is never too early to keep safety in mind.”

Meanwhile the month of April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and with Prom Season upon us Safe Communities of Fairfield County reminds everyone to put down the phone and observe the new distracted driving laws. In Ohio it is illegal to text and drive, and those drivers under 18 years of age have specific penalties if they are caught using any hand held device while behind the wheel. Distracted driving kills thousands of people each year, and is a factor in a high percentage of crashes nationwide. “One Text or Call CAN Wreck It All.”

Sheriff Dave Phalen also notes that speed continues to be a factor in many of the crashes in Fairfield County. “Remember to follow the speed limits and ‘Buckle Up, Every Trip, Every Time’ to keep our fatalities in Fairfield County low. As always, we strive each month for a fatal-free period on our roadways.”

For more information on traffic safety issues and statistics, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.nhtsa.gov.

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