

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

**PRESS RELEASE**

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office  
Dave Phalen, Sheriff  
221 E. Main St.  
Lancaster, OH 43130

Contact Person: Teresa C. Carper  
Phone: (740) 466-4700

**SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month – “Share the Road” and “Ride SMART”!**

[Lancaster, Ohio, May 1, 2013] Safe Communities of Fairfield County announces today the beginning of the most recent national safety awareness campaign sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA). May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and whether riding for leisure or as a form of transportation, drivers need to be aware that motorcycles are out there sharing the roadways. Increasing safe riding and cooperation between all road users will help to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our nation’s highways.

“This time of year is when we see the greatest increase in motorcycles on our local highways and roadways,” noted Sheriff Dave Phalen. “By being aware of motorcycles sharing the road, we can make great strides towards our goal of zero motor vehicle fatalities in Fairfield County.”

Drivers need to remember that motorcycles are often difficult to see. By not driving distracted, drivers can focus on the road and be more aware of motorcycles and other traffic situations. Also, it is important to remember that motorcycles are legal vehicles, and have the same rights as other types of motor vehicles. By allowing motorcycles a full lane length, and by remembering to signal when changing lanes or making turns, drivers can help to keep these riders safe. Riders can also take the initiative in their own safety by making sure they use the right equipment, follow safe speed limits, and never drive impaired.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety has a division known as “Motorcycle Ohio,” and the department has fantastic resources and training opportunities for riders of all levels. Motorcycle Ohio information can be obtained by visiting their website at [www.motorcycle.ohio.gov](http://www.motorcycle.ohio.gov).

“All drivers and motorcycle riders can also improve their chances for arriving safe by never driving distracted or impaired, and always following safe speed limits,” stated Safe Communities Director Teresa C. Carper. “Making Fairfield County roadways safe is the goal of our organization and by all our partners.”

“Ride S.M.A.R.T.” encourages a motorcyclist to ride “Sober,” ride “Motorcycle endorsed,” ride “Alert,” ride with the “Right gear,” and ride “Trained.” For more information on motorcycle safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

PR050113

**TO SERVE AND PROTECT**