

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 – Don’t Start the Celebration without Planning Ahead! – “Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving” this Fourth of July

[Lancaster, Ohio, July 3, 2013] The Fourth of July is probably the most popular holiday of the summer season. It is also one of the most deadly. Impaired driving, unfortunately, seems to go hand-in-hand with picnics, special events, and fireworks. Safe Communities of Fairfield County is reminding everyone who wants to celebrate this holiday that “Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving.”

The Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office, along with other members of local law enforcement, will be out in force to make sure that everyone knows that you need to “Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over.” The Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office is the recipient of the HVEO or High Visibility Enforcement Grant, which provides funds for extra patrols during holidays and other special enforcement periods that increase the potential for motor vehicle crashes and fatalities.

“Drivers who choose to not drive responsibly should note that they are increasing their chance for a crash, and could seriously injure or kill themselves, passengers in their vehicle, or innocent motorists,” stated Sheriff Dave Phalen. “Hosts of parties and events should consider promoting designated drivers to keep our roadways safe on this holiday.”

During the last five years (2007-2011), 780 people lost their lives nationwide in a motor vehicle crash during the Fourth of July holiday that involved a driver that had a blood alcohol level that was .08 or higher. This number accounts for 40% of all motor vehicle fatalities during the same five-year period. Furthermore, during the Fourth of July 2011, 38% of motor vehicle fatalities were alcohol related. Young drivers are a major concern for driving impaired. During the Holiday in 2011, 52% of those killed in a motor vehicle crash in this age bracket were legally impaired.

Teresa Carper, Director for Safe Communities of Fairfield County, reminds motorcyclists to also make sure they follow the suggestion of safety during the July 4th holiday. “Impaired driving has been an ongoing concern in Fairfield County,” noted Carper. “Motorcyclists are no exception, and they should take extra care with an increase in traffic on our roadways. Driving impaired just adds to the concern for safety. Park the Ride, or Ride Sober this Holiday.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides information and suggestions for this holiday and traffic safety in general. Visit their website at www.nhtsa.gov.

PR070313

TO SERVE AND PROTECT