

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Another Fatality in June Continues Concerns for Traffic Advocates**

[Lancaster, Ohio, July 17, 2013] Although the number of fatalities in Fairfield County is less than the high number of 18 in 2009, or 14 in 2012, traffic safety advocates are always looking to achieve the overall goal of zero fatalities. Unfortunately, the month of June added another fatality to make the total at five (5) so far this year. Summer can be a dangerous time since it is filled with events, holidays, and travel that can add to the number of cars on our roadways. Alcohol also seems to add to the risk in the summer months, and local law enforcement continues to be concerned for this behavior. In Fairfield County, impaired driving continues to be discussed as a cause for many of the crashes and fatalities. If you plan to include alcohol in whatever event you enjoy this summer, please designate a driver to make sure you arrive home safely.

“Law enforcement is always concerned with impaired driving due to the serious traffic accidents it causes,” noted Sheriff Dave Phalen. “A person is killed on average every 53 minutes in the United States due to drunk driving.”

Teens should also be aware of the risks of not driving responsibly during the summer months. The “100 Days of Summer” is the period of time from prom season/graduation to the beginning of the school year. Put down the phone, follow safe speed limits, and “Buckle Up Every Trip Every Time” to increase your safety this summer when driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

“It is important to remember that safe speed limits are as important as the legally posted speed limits,” stated Teresa C. Carper, Director for Safe Communities of Fairfield County. “Safe speed limits are those numbers we see on the yellow safety signs, and recommend speeds for the type of road we are driving on.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administrative has extensive information on traffic safety issues that can be found on their website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov). Read more about how you can help traffic safety advocates make Fairfield County roadways a safer place to travel.

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