

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

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SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-The Scariest Part of Halloween-Not Designating a Sober Driver!
"Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving"**

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 25, 2012] A campaign to keep one of those frightening things at bay this Halloween is underway in Fairfield County. "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" is the theme this Halloween, as law enforcement plans to be out to ensure the safety of Fairfield County drivers. Halloween is a great time of year. Whether you and the kids plan to trick or treat, or you plan to attend a fabulous party, getting there safe and driving home sober is a decision that is more important than your choice in a Halloween costume.

Safe Communities of Fairfield County reminds drivers that in 2010, 31 percent of all fatalities nationwide involved a driver that was legally drunk....this was a grand total of 10,228 fatalities. For a driver to be considered alcohol impaired, their blood alcohol level will test at .08 grams per deciliter or higher. Just a couple of drinks could "trick" you into believing you are just "buzzed"...but "Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving."

In that same year, it was estimated that an alcohol related traffic fatality happened statistically every 51 minutes. Although this is only a number, knowing someone who has lost their life in an alcohol impaired driving crash makes the issue all too clear-impaired driving kills, and often an innocent person will lose their life due to someone's bad choices.

"This holiday has become extremely popular with adults over the past few years," noted Teresa C. Carper, Director for the Safe Communities of Fairfield County Program. "But some of the parties and activities surrounding Halloween often involve alcohol. The solution is simple: designate a sober driver before the fun begins."

Sheriff Deputies will be out in force this Halloween thanks to the new High Visibility Enforcement Overtime Grant obtained by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

"I am pleased that one of our first chances to increase patrols through our HVEO grant is Halloween," stated Sheriff Dave Phalen. "My office takes safety seriously, and this includes traffic safety and potentially saving lives by removing impaired drivers from the road. We ask the public to get involved, and report anyone they suspect of driving impaired."

For more information on safe driving tips, especially designating a sober driver, visit the National Highway Traffic Administration website at www.nhtsa.gov.

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