

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 – The National Crackdown on Impaired Driving Begins August 16, 2013 – “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”**

[Lancaster, Ohio, August 15, 2013] The National Crackdown on impaired driving, better known as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over,” begins August 16th and runs through Labor Day locally and nationwide. The Campaign, sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, not only works with law enforcement to increase patrols and visibility to combat the problem, but uses the period for education. Nearly 10,000 people die each year as a result of impaired driving. In 2011, there were 9,878 fatalities where a drunk driver or motorcyclists was involved. That is an average of one death every 53 minutes. Safe Communities of Fairfield County asks all drivers to remember that “Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving,” and to remember a designated driver is one of the best ways to solve this growing problem.

“Safe Communities is aware how much this issue influences the number of fatalities in Fairfield County each year,” stated Teresa C. Carper, Director for the Program. “Sadly, many of the fatalities that we see on our nation’s highways is that of an innocent victim.”

Local law enforcement will use the period to increase patrols. Visibility is often a great deterrent to drunk or impaired driving. By forming partnerships and increasing patrols, the goal is to highlight the problem and to keep the Labor Day holiday safe. The end of summer often brings about parties, family outings, and events. With the increase of travel on highways, safety is extremely important. Motorcyclists need to also be aware of their safety during this period, and plan to “park the ride” when they are impaired.

“All drivers need to remember that safety should be the most important part of your plans during this holiday period,” stated Sheriff Dave Phalen. “All drivers need to remember to ‘Drive Sober or (they) WILL get Pulled Over,’ so that all drivers can feel safe on our roadways.”

Safe Communities will join the Ohio State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement to kick off the mobilization on August 16th. Anyone who wants more information on the dangers of driving impaired, along with other safety tips, can visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

PR081513  
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