

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Committee Meets to Discuss Trends in Fairfield County Fatalities**

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 1, 2013] Advocates for Traffic Safety met in September to discuss the number of fatalities in Fairfield County. Statistics show that lack of seat belt use is a major factor in motor vehicle crash fatalities. Impaired driving is also a significant fact. In reviewing fatalities that have occurred recently, and throughout this past year, the review of these reports have supported these statistics.

“Lack of Seat Belt Use and Impaired Driving have continued to be a topic of discussion throughout the year,” noted Teresa C. Carper, Director for Safe Communities of Fairfield County. “These two issues are why education and enforcement are so important to the safety of all of us who travel the roadways of our community and beyond.”

The recommendation is that education needs to continue in these areas, especially with teens, and for law enforcement to continue their work to keep impaired drivers off our roadways. By combining these efforts, the committee hopes that drivers will choose to use safe driving habits, and enforcement will deter those who decide to ignore the recommendations and the law.

The slogan “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” may be a phrase that you see on a banner or a sign, but the words carry an important message. If you choose to drive impaired, you can lose your license and possibly your life. Safe Driving habits can and do save lives. For more information on safety recommendations, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

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