

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

**SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Contact Person: Teresa C. Carper  
Phone: (740) 466-4700

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – “Tis the Season Not to Drive Impaired:” Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – Traffic Safety Campaign Slated for December 12, 2012-January 1, 2013**

[Lancaster, Ohio, December 11, 2012] Safe Communities of Fairfield County and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office announce today a special Crackdown during the Holiday Period of December 12, 2012 to January 1, 2013. The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office will use their High Visibility Enforcement grant to add extra patrols to local roadways to increase safety efforts during the time period. In December 2010, 2,597 people died nationwide as a result of motor vehicle crashes. Thirty percent of that number, or 775 people, died as a result of a crash that involved an impaired driver. So, if you are planning a party, it is important to remember that “Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Impaired.”

“Our deputies, and other local law enforcement, are especially vigilant during the Christmas to New Year's Eve time period. Thanks to our recent High Visibility Enforcement Grant, we will have extra patrols out on Fairfield County roadways to make this season a season of safety. I encourage citizens to report any driver they suspect of being impaired,” stated Sheriff Dave Phalen.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that young males, ages 21-34, are the most at risk. In December 2010, 78 percent of the drivers involved in fatal crashes were male. Also, nighttime is the most dangerous time for alcohol impaired crashes. Seventy-eight percent of fatal crashes in December 2010 that involved an impaired driver were from 6:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

For those who are planning a party, Safe Communities of Fairfield County asks that you help your guests plan ahead. “It is important to remember that ‘Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving,’ and to not take the risk during this special time of year,” states Director Teresa C. Carper. “Don't wait for New Years to make a resolution...decide now to plan ahead and to ‘Drive Sober’...or you will get ‘Pulled Over.’”

The cost of driving impaired is monumental...attorney fees, court costs, fines, loss of license, loss of time at work, are just a few of these costs. The most significant, however, is the loss of life.

For more information on the Campaign, and how to plan for safety on the road, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

PR121112

**TO SERVE AND PROTECT**