

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



**PRESS RELEASE**

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office  
Dave Phalen, Sheriff  
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Lancaster, OH 43130

**SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July Tally for Fatalities Equals One**

[Lancaster, Ohio, August 14, 2013] July garnered another traffic fatality in Fairfield County. Traffic safety advocates continue to work to eliminate fatalities in Fairfield County through education and awareness, however the lack of seat belt use and impaired driving often play a major role in the reasons for traffic fatalities. Although the summer months are coming to a close, one major holiday exists for the season. Labor Day is often known for the increase in impaired driving, thus the reason for the National Crackdown known as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.” Law enforcement locally, statewide, and nationally will increase patrols with the goal of keeping motorists safe.

“Driving impaired is one of the most common crimes committed, and the Sheriff’s Office with our partners continue to do all we can to eliminate motor vehicle fatalities in this county,” stated Sheriff Dave Phalen. “Drivers should also watch their speed, limit their distractions, and ‘Buckle up, Every Trip, Every Time’ to improve our overall crash fatality rate in Fairfield County.”

Safe Communities of Fairfield County, a program within the Sheriff’s Office, continues to monitor the trends in the community in regards to traffic crashes and fatalities. With the pending school year Director Teresa Carper reminds drivers to prepare to become more aware of pedestrians, and for parents to remind their younger drivers of the importance of safety. Parents can play a major role in the safety of their teen driver by simply setting limits and discussing the need to put down the cell phone, and limit other distractions.

For more information reducing motor vehicle crashes and fatalities, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

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