



Stark County Safe Communities

January—March 2010 Volume 2 Issue 1



Ted Strickland, Governor
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PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER DRIVING

Winter driving can be both frightening and dangerous for even the most skilled driver.

Preparing your vehicle for the weather can be your first line of defense against winter driving conditions. The following list is just a few items to check on your vehicle before driving on winter roads.

- * Check windshield wiper blades to make sure they are working properly
- * Check to see that the anti-freeze/coolant are at the correct level for the weather
- * Check to make sure your tires are properly inflated and have good tread
- * Keep your gas tank at least half full at all times
- * In rear-wheel drive vehicles, extra secured weight in the trunk may be helpful
- * Scrape the ice and snow from **every** window and exterior mirrors **before** entering the roadway
- * Carry an emergency kit in your vehicle with items such as blanket, flares, small shovel, flashlight, etc

Once on the roadway be sure to practice caution. Allow extra time and accelerate, turn and brake slowly. During winter road conditions slow down and allow at least three times the normal distance between vehicles in order to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. If you find yourself beginning a skid, **DO NOT BRAKE**. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and gently turn your car in the direction you want your front wheels to go. During heavy snow, drive with your lights on for better visibility. If you get stuck in the snow, avoid spinning your wheels, this will only dig you in deeper. Always buckle your seat belt and be sure all passengers are restrained. The leading cause of death during winter storms is motor vehicle crashes. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

Remember, sometimes the best strategy is to stay home. Even if you do not have a problem on snowy or icy roads, some people do. Don't take unnecessary chances: If you don't have to drive - stay home!



SEATBELT CHALLENGE

May 22, 2010 - 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Pro Football Hall of Fame

The Seatbelt Challenge is a safety event for teens involving fun, athletic competitions and education in which both seatbelt use and sober driving are emphasized. It is sponsored by a number of local groups, organizations, and businesses that feel that this is an important issue in our county.

The leading cause of death for teenagers is vehicle crashes. Low seatbelt use is one of the principal reasons why the teen driver and the teen passenger traffic fatality rate remain high. It is estimated that in 2007 seatbelt use saved the lives of over 15,000 people. According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety alcohol-impaired drivers are involved in approximately 38% of all fatal crashes on Ohio's roadways.

During the Seatbelt Challenge, teams from all local high schools are invited to compete in a timed obstacle course. The competition consists of four-person teams who first must "buckle up" in each seat in a Humvee and then two of the team must wear "Fatal Vision" goggles to simulate impaired driving and run through a large inflatable Red Zone and obstacle course. The winning teams take home a large rotating trophy, as well as other prizes. There will also be adult teams representing local law enforcement and the partners of the event. Contact Sharon George at (330) 430-3835 if you are interested in having a team compete.

Free food, goodie bags, T-shirts for competitors, and drawings for other prizes are some aspects of the event. Other activities may include a football toss, deejay from local radio station, DARE and police vehicles, free admission to the Hall of Fame for participants, Aultman Hospital WOW vehicle, the National Guard's rock wall, Intoxiclock, Fatal Reaction Program, Fatal Reflection Program, Walk the Line, vertical jump contest and educational booths.

The event is free and everyone is welcome to come out and watch the fun or support their team!

SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!!!





CONTACT INFORMATION:

Stark County Safe Communities
c/o Stark County Sheriff's Office
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Phone: 330-430-3835
Fax: 330-430-3816
E-mail: 207@starksheriff.org

Or visit our website at:
<http://www.sheriff.co.stark.oh.us/SafeCommunity/sc-links.htm>

2009—2010 Meeting Schedule

November 12, 2009—10:00 AM
January 14, 2010—10:00 AM
March 11, 2010—10:00 AM
May 13, 2010—10:00 AM
July 8, 2010—10:00 AM
September 9, 2010—10:00 AM

All meetings are held at :

Sippo Lake Park
Exploration Gateway Building—Room C
5712 12th St. NW—Canton, OH

Anyone interested in joining the coalition should call Sharon George at 330-430-3835 or send e-mail to 207@starksheriff.org. Membership is free - no fees or dues. All that is required is a desire to help reduce traffic crashes and fatalities in Stark County and make our community a true

“Safe Community”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Super Bowl Sunday	February 7, 2010
St. Patrick' Day Campaign	March 17, 2010
Safe Kids Day	May 1, 2010
Seat Belt Challenge	May 22, 2010

Top Ten Traffic New Year Resolutions

1. To always wear my seat belt.
2. To make sure everyone in my vehicle is buckled up.
3. To not let others drink and drive.
4. To never drink and drive.
5. To use my common sense by paying attention when I drive and to drive responsibly.
6. To be courteous to other drivers and to use my turn signals.
7. To give myself plenty of time and not to rush.
8. To give myself plenty of distance between me and the vehicle in front of me.
9. To slow down and move over when approaching an emergency vehicle on the side of the road.
10. To yield to pedestrians.



Safe Kids Day 2010
Theme: “Sports Safety”



Safe Kids Stark County, in conjunction with Perry Township, will be hosting the annual event on May 1, 2010 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park. This year the event will focus on all areas of safety for all children – with a special emphasis on sports safety! This free interactive safety fair will include safety stations, food prizes and fun!

This safety fair will provide parents, caregivers and children the opportunity to learn about safety together, through interactive displays and games. Safety stations will encourage parents and children to ride safe, wheel safe and walk safe.

If you have questions, please call 330-493-9904 x 282!

We hope to see you at Safe Kids Day!



REDUCE YOUR BLIND SPOT

AAA reports there is a simple yet powerful technique to reduce the size of your vehicle's blind spots. It involves only a couple of adjustments to your vehicle's side mirrors.

From a parked position, follow these steps:

1. To adjust the left side mirror, rest your head against the closed window and set the mirror to barely show the edge of your vehicle.
2. To set the right mirror, lean to the right so that your head is directly below the rearview mirror or above the center console. Adjust this mirror the same way, so you can just barely see the edge of the right side of your vehicle.

With the side mirrors now angled outward slightly more, you'll gain increased visual coverage of your blind spots. You should still perform a quick head check before changing lanes, but you'll now have almost seamless visual contact with all areas behind your vehicle.

Try this simple technique to see if it works for you!

ALWAYS TREAD WITH



STARK COUNTY TRAFFIC FATALITIES

	2008	2009
Total Fatal Traffic Crashes	20	25
Total Traffic Fatalities	22	25
Car/Truck Fatalities	18	18
Seat Belts Not Used	10	9
Motorcycle Fatalities	1	5
ATV Fatalities	1	1
Bicycle Fatalities	0	1
Helmets Not Used	2	6
Rural Fatalities	18	19
City Fatalities	4	6
Alcohol/Drug Related Fatalities	8	17

Stark County's latest seat belt survey results showed that only 66.3% of our residents buckled up. Seat belts save thousands of lives each year. **Don't take unnecessary chances, Buckle Up-Every Trip-Every Time!**