



# Stark County Safe Communities

October—December 2010 Volume 2 Issue 4



Ted Strickland, Governor  
Funded by: US/DOT/NHTSA and ODPS/OTSO

## TRAFFIC CRASHES ON AN INCREASE

As of September 15, 2010, preliminary data from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office show that there is a statewide increase in traffic fatalities in Ohio. This data shows there were 775 traffic fatalities in 2010, compared to 712 traffic fatalities for the same time period in 2009. That is an alarming increase of 63 deaths. Unfortunately, Stark County has followed this trend. As of October 1, 2010, we have had 24 fatal traffic crashes, with 28 traffic fatalities. This is more traffic deaths than we had for all of 2009. In addition to alcohol and drugs, prescription medications and medical conditions may be contributing to the increase in traffic fatalities on our roadways. A countywide committee is being formed to research these new statistics and determine best practices to target these areas.

### 2010 STARK COUNTY TRAFFIC FACTS

- ◆ Over 39% of the fatal crashes in Stark County involved a motorcycle rider fatality.
- ◆ Approximately 35% of the known at-fault drivers were 60 years of age or older.
- ◆ Teens represented almost 9% of the known at-fault drivers.
- ◆ Seat belts were used in only 64% of the fatal crashes.
- ◆ Motorcycle helmets were used in only 33 % of the fatal motorcycle crashes.
- ◆ Preliminary statistics show that 38 % of our fatal crashes involved alcohol or drug use.

Stark County Traffic Fatalities 1/1 - 9/30/10

	2010	2009
Fatal Crashes	23	19
Traffic Fatalities	27	19
Motorcycle Fatalities	9	4
Alcohol/Drug Involved Fatalities	10	12
Seat Belts Used	9	6
Helmets Used	3	1

### PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY

**OCTOBER 10, 2010**

The tenth annual "Put The Brakes On Fatalities Day" will be held throughout the country. This program was initiated to reduce fatalities on our roadways. This year's theme is "Don't be Driven to Distraction—Drive to Arrive"

Safe Communities is joining organizations across the nation to encourage drivers to consider their driving habits and make the necessary changes to prevent traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities. An average of 93 people died in motor vehicle crashes each day in the U.S. in 2009—approximately one every 15.4 minutes. That is almost 34,000 traffic fatalities every year and evidence that it is time to consider changes in our driving habits.

On October 10th, (and every other day) please think when you get behind the wheel. Traffic crashes are preventable and each one of us can make a difference.

Listen at noon on October 10th, for church bells to ring 25 times—one for each Stark County traffic fatality in 2009. Think about the lives lost, the devastation left behind and what you can do to prevent it from happening to you, your family and friends.

**Always Drive Safe and Buckle Up!**



## SAFE DRIVERS ON HALLOWEEN

Submitted by: Theresa Simoncic

Halloween is right around the corner and drivers should start to think of safe driving. Halloween is a time for fun, costumes, candy, and parties. Many children and adults dress up as baseball players, dragons, Dracula, and other unique characters. However, these festivities can turn into a tragedy in a heartbeat. Don't let your decision to drive impaired put our trick-or-treaters or responsible drivers at risk this Halloween. Here are a few good tips from Stop Impaired Driving:

Plan a safe way home before the entertainment begins

Make sure you have a designated driver

If you are impaired and do not have a designated driver, use a taxi, call family or friends, or use public transportation in order to get home safe.

If you see a person that is impaired do not hesitate to call your local law enforcement.

### HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HALLOWEEN!

For more information contact Sharon George: (330)-430 3835

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Stark County Safe Communities  
 c/o Stark County Sheriff's Office  
 4500 Atlantic Blvd. NE  
 Canton, OH 44705

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>

2010—2011 Meeting Schedule

- November 10, 2010—10:00 AM
- January 13, 2011—10:00 AM
- March 10, 2011—10:00 AM
- May 12, 2011—10:00 AM
- July 14, 2011—10:00 AM
- September 8, 2011—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**

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| SCSO Car Seat Inspection         | October 2, 2010  |
| Walk This Way                    | October 8, 2010  |
| Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day | October 10, 2010 |
| Start Smart Event - GlenWood     | October 11, 2010 |
| University of Mt. Union          | October 12, 2010 |
| Start Smart—Mt. Union            | October 21, 2010 |
| Stark State Open House           | October 24, 2010 |
| Trunk or Treat                   | October 28, 2010 |
| Start Smart @ Jackson HS         | November 5, 2010 |
| Thanksgiving Campaign            | November 2010    |
| Christmas/NY Campaign            | December 2010    |

**Driving Safe During the Holidays**

By: Theresa Simoncic

Thanksgiving and Christmas are two important holidays in our society. People spend time with family and friends and forget to be safe while driving. If anyone is driving this holiday, he or she should be a cautious driver. Here are a few tips to remember:

Make sure you properly fasten your seat belt.

Remember seat belts save lives!

Make sure your vehicle is in tip-top shape.

It would be very unfortunate if your car broke down on the road, especially during adverse weather conditions.

Be flexible in your holiday schedule.

Make sure you give yourself enough time to get to your destination. Do not rush, especially during bad weather. If weather is horrible, do not travel if not absolutely necessary. You and your family's safety is the most important part of any holiday.

Stay awake and be attentive.

Make sure you get enough sleep. If you get tired, pull over and rest for awhile. Driving with 6 hours of sleep or less may triple your risk of a crash.

Do not speed.

Roads may be dangerous so keep a good distance from the vehicle in front of you. Let aggressive drivers pass and do not respond to their behavior.

Do not drink and drive.

If you plan on drinking, make sure you use a designated driver.

Do not use your cell phone.

If you need to use your phone pull over. Risk of collision is increased by up to 400% when talking on a cell phone while driving.

HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY AND STAY SAFE!

**TRAFFIC WORD SEARCH**



**WORD BANK**

- |         |            |               |           |
|---------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| BRAKE   | CHECKPOINT | TRAFFIC LIGHT | COMMUNITY |
| CAR     | CRASHES    | OFFICER       | SEAT BELT |
| AIR BAG | STOP SIGN  | YIELD         | CAR SEAT  |
| ALCOHOL | KEY        | DISTRACTION   |           |