



SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: April 27, 2011

TO: Circleville Herald/Pickaway County Sheriff's Webmaster

FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County

RE: Prom Season starts with Safe Driving message

As local High Schools begin to prepare for Prom and all the activities surrounding this important event, Safe Communities of Pickaway County encourages motorists to remember that being safe is as important as the choice of who to ask to the big dance.

"One of the best parts of the High School experience is Prom", notes Teresa Carper, Director for the Safe Communities of Pickaway County Program. "I, and all the members of the Safe Communities Program, encourage students to not drive impaired or distracted so that this Prom season can be filled with only good memories."

Statistically, the number one killer of teens in the United States is motor vehicle crashes. Approximately 3,000 teens aged 15-19 years died in 2009 and 350,000 were treated in emergency rooms as a result of a motor vehicle crash. This brings the average to 8 teens dying every day according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol played a factor in 25% of deaths from motor vehicle crashes in 2008 for those 15-20 years, with drivers registering a BAC of .08 or higher. And, $\frac{3}{4}$ of those who died of alcohol related crashes were not wearing a seat belt.

"I encourage parents to become involved in this issue, and talk to their teen drivers to strengthen the message of safe driving habits", noted Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff. "Statistics have shown that parents who are more involved are key to safer driving habits."

All the members of the Safe Communities Program hope that this prom season is filled with good memories and safety. For more information on Teen Driving Initiatives, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.nhtsa.gov.