



SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: August 24, 2011

TO: PCSO Website

FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County

RE: School Begins.....Safety Continues

As a new school year begins, Safe Communities of Pickaway County encourages all students to remember the message from last year and “Buckle Up, Every Trip, Every Time”. Whether you drive just a few, or several miles to school each day, buckling your seatbelt is one of the best ways to ensure your safety when behind the wheel or as a passenger.

“I encourage students to take the lead in their own safety, and remind their friends and family that seat belt usage can improve your chances of survival in a crash by 50%”, noted Safe Communities Director Teresa C. Carper. “Students last year improved seat belt usage by 12 percentage points and I challenge students this year to beat last year’s average.”

The “Save Face Teen Seat Belt Challenge” and Safety Program will continue this year with some new additions to the program. The Safe Communities Program Coalition had suggested at the end of the program last year to add more student input into the program. Last year, Teays Valley High School won the seat belt challenge, and students from that school took an active role in encouraging students to get involved and be responsible for their own safety. Seat Belt surveys at all this high schools will take place over the next several months, and a new Challenge winner will be announced next Spring.

“I wish all the students in Pickaway County a successful and safe school year”, noted Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff. “Losing any citizen of Pickaway County in an auto crash is tragic, but it is especially difficult when it is one of our youth.”

Parents have many resources to help encourage their teen's safety while behind the wheel. The Centers for Disease Control and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration both have websites for traffic safety, with sections specifically designated for teen drivers. Parent can also request information from the Safe Communities program located within the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office by calling 420-5794.