



*SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE: July 14, 2011**

**TO: Circleville Herald**

**FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County**

**RE: Summer Months a Concern for Traffic Safety Advocates**

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Safe Communities of Pickaway County today released the most recent traffic safety numbers for the calendar year 2011. Fatalities in Pickaway County again continue to follow the trend for 2010 with three fatalities listed to date. As in 2010, the first fatality of the year was in April, and two more are listed for the month of June. Motorcycle accidents have been more deadly this year with two of the three fatalities involving motorcycles. Motorcycle safety remains a priority for the Safe Communities Program of Pickaway County.

“The increase in motorcycle related crashes and fatalities a few year back reminds us that safety must be a priority for motorcycles as well as other types of vehicles”, noted Teresa C. Carper of the local traffic safety program. “We continue to stress that all motorcycle riders should ride ‘S.M.A.R.T.’ each and every time they take to the road.”

The “Ride S.M.A.R.T.” Program, a part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s “Motorcycle Ohio” division, stresses that all who enjoy this type of transportation should ride “Sober, Motorcycle Endorsed, Alert, with the Right Gear, and Trained. Motorcycle Ohio promotes training to help new and experienced riders to gain further safety knowledge and riding skills.

“I recommend not only that motorcycle riders do all they can to ensure their safety while on the road, I also remind other drivers to be on the ‘look out’ for motorcycles and share the road responsibly”, noted Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff. “Our Safe Communities program has car

magnets that remind drivers of this simple safety tip, and I strongly encourage this practice every time we share the road.”

Safe Communities also asked that drivers continue to buckle up and to drive responsibly. Recommendations to plan ahead and designate a driver before those summer events that may involve the consumption of alcohol can, and does save lives.

For more information on Motorcycle Ohio, as well as course information for rider training, visit their website at [www.motorcycle.ohio.gov](http://www.motorcycle.ohio.gov) . For information on other traffic safety issues, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) .