

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

FIVE DIE IN DELAWARE COUNTY HIGHWAY CRASHES IN AUGUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Sept. 9, 2009 – The Delaware Safe Communities Program reports that there were five traffic deaths in August, 2009 in Delaware County. August 2008 also was a deadly month on local highways, with four fatalities.

Most of last month's fatal accidents occurred when drivers traveled left of center, ran stop signs, or were distracted while driving.

The Ohio Traffic Safety Office has released goals to decrease traffic fatalities, injuries, and crashes and improve highway safety by 2010. Goals include:

- Decreasing fatalities 15 percent. Ohio saw an average of 1,288 traffic fatalities per year in 2006-2008.
- Decreasing by 10 percent serious traffic injuries (average 58,276 per year), alcohol-related fatalities (average 377 per year), speeding-related fatalities (average 267 per year), and motorcyclist fatalities (average 186 per year).
- Increasing seat belt usage to 85 percent and decreasing fatalities among unrestrained vehicle occupants (average 490 per year) by 10 percent.
- Decreasing fatalities among unhelmeted motorcyclists (average 128 per year) by 10 percent.
- Decreasing the number of drivers under age 20 involved in fatal crashes (average 213 per year) by 10 percent.

“Please drive carefully and don't become a statistic,” advises Gail Root, coordinator for the Delaware County Safe Communities Coalition.

The Safe Communities program was developed through the Ohio Department of Public Safety to encourage community safety partnerships throughout Ohio.