



**Media Advisory
OVER THE LIMIT! UNDER ARREST!
Campaign Kickoff**

**Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.
Allen County Fair – Grandstand Park**

***To remind local residents and Allen County Fair attendees about the dangers of impaired driving, volunteers will tie 473 ribbons on trees in Grandstand Park – one MADD red ribbon for each person killed in Ohio during 2007 as a result of impaired driving.
A nationwide crackdown on impaired driving is scheduled through September 1.***

August 18, 2008 (Lima, Ohio) – Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and local law enforcement agencies are joining together at **Grandstand Park at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 20 to kick-off the annual Labor Day public awareness campaign - “Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”**

From now through September 1, local law enforcement will be out in full force enforcing Ohio’s impaired driving laws “With so many people expected to be on the road - coming to the Allen County Fair, enjoying end of summer festivities, getting ready for school, or enjoying the Labor Day holiday - local law enforcement will be vigilant, especially during high-risk nighttime hours when impaired drivers are most likely to be on the roads”, Evelyn Smith, Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coordinator. “Our message is simple – if you drive impaired you risk arrest. We encourage anyone planning to drink alcohol to be responsible and designate a sober driver. ”

Impaired driving is one of America’s most-often-committed and deadliest crimes. Violators will be spending their money on bail, court, lawyers and towing fees instead of on the last days of their summer vacations. Refuse a sobriety test and you can lose your license on the spot and have your car impounded.”

In every U. S. state as well as the District of Columbia it’s illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter or higher. According to the latest data, 32 percent of motor vehicle driving fatalities involved a driver or motorcycle rider with a BAC of .08 or higher – an average of one fatality every 39 minutes. In Allen County, in 2007 over 46% of all 2007 traffic related fatalities were alcohol related.

“If you find it hard to figure out if you’ve had too much alcohol to drive – don’t risk it! **Remember: Over the Limit! Under Arrest!!**

- Be responsible and don’t risk it ... you will be caught.
- If you plan to drink, choose a non-drinking designated driver before going out.
- Take transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always buckle up – it’s your best defense against an impaired driver.

For more information about the campaign, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org
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