



News Release
Ashland Police Department
www.ashlandpolice.us
Douglas A. Goodman, Chief
Date: March 3, 2011

The Ashland Police Department is participating in the “St. Patrick’s Day Impaired Driving Campaign” and will host a Safe and Sober Teen Driving Event on March 12, 2011. Additionally, officers will be out in full force conducting special DUI enforcement patrols and DUI checkpoints through the month of March.

The Safe and Sober event will be held from 12:00pm to 4:00pm in the Ashland/Hanover Shopping Center, located at the intersection of England Street at North Washington Highway. Officers and representatives from the **Mothers Against Drunk Drivers** organization will be on hand to educate drivers as to the dangers and consequences of driving impaired. Although this event is specifically designed for young drivers, all drivers are welcome to participate. Volunteers will wear “fatal vision goggles” while maneuvering a golf cart through traffic cones to simulate the effects that alcohol has on a person who operates a motor vehicle under the influence. Officers will also offer field sobriety tests to the volunteers after they complete the driving course.

On St. Patrick’s Day 2009, 37 percent of the drivers and motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or above, according to statistics by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additional NHTSA statistics show that in 2009, there were 103 fatal crashes on St. Patrick’s Day. Out of that number, 47 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Please remember that *Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk*. Designate your sober driver before the St. Patrick’s Day parties begin.

