

# Ohio State Highway Patrol Preble County Sheriff's Office Media Release

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For Immediate Release: July 24, 2008  
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Preble County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Mike Simpson (937) 456-6262

## **Troopers and Deputies aim to curb Sunday traffic fatalities trend**

DAYTON – While Sunday is a day of rest for many, state troopers and Preble County sheriff's deputies are planning to step up their enforcement for the remaining Sundays in July and August to address an alarming fatal traffic crash trend.

When Mark Bilyeu was killed in a traffic crash on State Route 122 in Preble County on Sunday, July 13, it brought the total of Sunday fatalities in the county to nine out of the county's 12 recorded traffic fatalities for the year. Five of the Sunday fatalities have occurred in Gratis Township in the southeast quadrant of Preble County, specifically on State Routes, 122 and 725. Twin Township has had two Sunday fatalities, and Lanier, and Washington Township have had one Sunday fatality each. All of Preble County's fatal crashes have occurred in the county's eastern townships.

"We have already doubled the total number of traffic fatalities from last year in Preble County. Not only is that troubling, but the fact that the overwhelming majority of this year's fatalities have occurred on Sundays cannot be overlooked," Lt. Douglas Eck, Dayton Patrol Post commander, said. "Along with Preble County Sheriff Mike Simpson, we have tasked our officers with focusing our Sunday enforcement efforts in this area so collectively we are committed to curbing this alarming trend."

Deputies and troopers will employ high-visibility patrols each Sunday through the end of August in eastern Preble County, which includes Gratis, Lanier and Twin Townships. Officers will aggressively enforce crash-causing and safety belt usage violations.

"We will also be educating motorists during each traffic stop on the importance of safely driving the county's roadways," Preble County Sheriff Mike Simpson said.

As part of this effort, deputies and troopers will be distributing information cards detailing the top crash-causing factors for Preble County. A copy of the card can be viewed at [statepatrol.ohio.gov](http://statepatrol.ohio.gov).

"The ultimate goal of this traffic safety partnership is to stop this unique fatal crash problem in the target area. Combined with a renewed safe driving commitment from the public, I am confident that with our committed partners from the Preble County Sheriff's Office we can make a difference and make the rest of this summer safer in the county," Lt. Eck added.

Motorists are urged to call the Patrol at 1-877-7-PATROL, or the Preble County Sheriff's Office at 937-456-6262, to report dangerous driving or to receive highway help.

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*Note to editors: To coordinate a ride-along, contact the Dayton Patrol Post at 937-832-4794.*

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