

From the Police Department

Drunk Driving

Every day, almost 29 people in the United States die in alcohol-impaired vehicle crashes—that's one person every 50 minutes in 2016. Drunk-driving fatalities have fallen by a third in the last three decades; however, drunk-driving crashes claim more than 10,000 lives per year. In 2010, the most recent year for which cost data is available, these deaths and damages contributed to a cost of \$44B per year.

How alcohol affects driving ability

Alcohol is a substance that reduces the function of the brain, impairing thinking, reasoning and muscle coordination. All these abilities are essential to operating a vehicle safely.

As alcohol levels rise in a person's system, the negative effects on the central nervous system increase too. Alcohol is absorbed directly through the walls of the stomach and small intestine. Then it passes into the bloodstream where it accumulates until it is metabolized by the liver. Alcohol level is measured by the weight of the alcohol in a certain volume of blood. This is called Blood Alcohol Concentration, or BAC. At a BAC of .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter of blood (g/dL), crash risk increases exponentially.

Because of this risk, it's illegal in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. However, even a small amount of alcohol can affect driving ability. In 2016, there were 2,017 people killed in alcohol-related crashes where drivers had lower alcohol levels (BACs of .01 to .07 g/dL). BAC is measured with a breathalyzer, a device that measures the amount of alcohol in a driver's

Interactions between alcohol and other substances in the body such as certain medications or illegal drugs increase impairment and make driving more risky.



Steps to Prevent Drunk Driving:

- If you will be drinking, plan on not driving. Plan your safe ride home before you start the party. Designate a sober driver ahead of time.
- If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, use Uber or Lyft, phone a sober friend or family member, use public transportation, etc. Download NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app which helps you identify your location and call a taxi or friend to pick you up.
- If someone you know has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Take their keys and help them arrange a sober ride home.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement. Your actions could help save someone's life.

CALL A TAXI BEFORE YOU TURN GREEN.



BETWEEN 2011–2015, 252 PEOPLE DIED IN CAR CRASHES DURING THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY.

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.



SOURCE: NHTSA, DOT

From the Police Department (continued)

Turn Around - Don't Drown

As winter starts to come to an end and temperatures start to rise, the thawing ground, melting snow, and spring showers - it is also prime time for flooding. Remember that it is better to Turn Around - Don't Drown.

- Do not walk or drive through a flooded area.
- Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet and two feet of moving water can move a car.
- Do not drive around road barriers as the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water and can cause electrocution.

If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground

Ordinance Change

Just a reminder that Village Ordinance 452.031 Prohibited parking on East 49th Street has been changed.

Previously parking was allowed on the street from Friday 6:00 p.m. - Monday 6:00 a.m., designated holidays from 12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m., and other times with the permission of the Police Chief.

The ordinance now prohibits all parking on East 49th Street.

452.03 PROHIBITED PARKING ON EAST 49TH STREET.

(a) No person shall stand or park a vehicle on either side of East 49th Street.

From the Dispatch Department



Winter Auto Supply Check List:

- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Extra gloves and hat
- ✓ Small shovel
- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Granola bars
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Extra windshield washer fluid
- ✓ Flashlight

Driving:

- Allow extra time
- Always clear your windshield and windows before driving
- Allow more space between cars when driving
- Slow down when roads are icy or snowy especially on bridges and overpasses
- Make turns more carefully
- Remember 4 wheel drive vehicles have better traction on snow, but not on icy roads
- Use your low beams during storms

Residents.....

If you are not in our SwiftReach system and would like to be, you can either use the SwiftReach portal on the Cuyahoga Heights Village Website on the Police page or contact Dispatch Supervisor Barb Cash at the Police Department directly at 216-883-6800. The SwiftReach system is used to notify our residents and businesses, by telephone, of any emergency situations that may occur in Cuyahoga Heights. The telephone numbers you supply the Police Department are kept strictly confidential and are not given out to the public.