

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 1, 2008

Contact: Lindsay Komlanc, Media Relations Director (614) 752-4325

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORTS LOCAL SAFETY EFFORT

Department Encourages Motorists to Be Aware and Drive with Care

(COLUMBUS) – The weather is warming up, school will soon be out, and everywhere you look, kids are running, playing and getting rid of winter cabin-fever. May is National Youth Traffic Safety Month and the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is joining a national effort to remind motorists to drive with care.

The month kicks off with the observance of the second annual **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25® Day**. **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25®** is a non-profit organization that works to increase the observance of residential speed limits through education and actively engaging citizens. In most towns and cities throughout the U.S. the residential speed limit is 25 mph, so the campaign adopted the slogan: **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25®**.

“This program can directly impact our neighborhoods, towns and cities,” said ODPS Director Henry Guzmán. “The Department of Public Safety is committed to working with partners at all levels to support programs and efforts that will keep Ohioans safe whether they are on interstates, state highways or local roads.”

In 2007, 13 pedestrians who were between 0 and 15 years old were killed on or near Ohio’s roads and more than 600 pedestrians in this age group were injured.

ODPS is encouraging neighborhoods, schools, businesses, civic organizations and city leaders to get involved and help engage citizens in making streets safer for everyone in the community. This includes children, pedestrians of all ages, drivers and passengers. In Ohio, participating cities include: Akron, Columbus, Eastlake, Parma, Piqua, Toledo, Vermillion, Wakeman, Waterville and Xenia.

Through its Governor’s Highway Safety Office, ODPS supports more than 30 Safe Community organizations across the state as well as more than 70 local law enforcement partners through grants to combat impaired or unsafe driving. GHSO also promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and public information campaigns focused on highway safety. All of these efforts support the Department’s mission to save lives and reduce injuries and economic loss in Ohio.

For more information about National Youth Traffic Safety Month or **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25®**, log onto <http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/>. For more information about ODPS/GHSO’s efforts to reduce deaths and injuries, log onto <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/odps.asp>.

###

ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries on Ohio’s roads through the efforts of its eight Divisions including the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Investigative Unit, Ohio Homeland Security, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Governor’s Highway Safety Office.