



## Portage County Combined General Health District

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Press Release

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### **Portage County Ends 2024 With 11 Fatal Crashes and 12 Related Deaths**

**Ravenna, OH** – The Portage County Fatal Crash Review Board reviewed four fatal crashes that occurred between October and December 2024, resulting in five fatalities. In comparison, no fatal crashes were reported during this same period in 2023.

Throughout 2024, Portage County recorded 11 fatal crashes, leading to 12 deaths. These crashes occurred between January 22, 2024, and December 28, 2024. Notably, no fatal crashes occurred during the holiday season. By comparison, 2023 saw 19 fatal crashes and 19 related deaths, all occurring between January 23 and September 28.

The leading contributing factors in Portage County's fatal crashes this year were "driving left of center" and "distracted driving." Of the 11 crashes, 7 were due to "driving left of center," while 2 were caused by "distracted driving." Additional contributing factors included "failure to yield" and "following too closely."

The Fatal Crash Review Board, a requirement of the Safe Communities program, is responsible for reviewing fatal crashes, identifying trends, and recommending countermeasures. In 2024:

- 26% of at-fault drivers in fatal crashes were under age 24, while 18% were over age 50.
- 7 of the 11 fatal crashes occurred on rural roads.
- Mondays and Saturdays accounted for 54% of the total fatal crashes, while Wednesdays accounted for 27%.
- Of the 12 traffic-related deaths in 2024, 7 were drivers, three were passengers, and 2 were pedestrians.
- There were two fatal motorcycle crashes, with one rider at-fault and one not at-fault.
- One fatal crash involved a commercial vehicle, in which the commercial driver was not at fault.
- While not all toxicology reports have been received, at least two fatal crashes involved drugs and/or alcohol.

With traffic-related fatalities decreasing from 19 in 2023 to 12 in 2024, the Fatal Review Board recommends continued traffic safety education and enhanced enforcement of Ohio traffic laws, particularly those related to distracted driving, seat belt usage, and impaired driving.

Safe Communities is a program of the Portage County Health District.

#### **Contact Information**

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