FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2024

NAPOLEON POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS MOCK CRASH EVENT AT NAPOLEON HIGH SCHOOL
On May 2, 2024

Napoleon Police Department Provides Important Tips for Parents to Develop Safer Teen Drivers

Officers from the Napoleon Police Department with assistance from Napoleon Area Schools, the Henry County Sheriff's Office, The Ohio State Highway Patrol, Napoleon Fire Department, Ridgeville Twp Fire Department, Florida Fire Department, and Life Flight are conducting a mock crash event at Napoleon High School.

Mock Crashes — Dramatic Reality Check

The mock crash uses crashed vehicles set up on school grounds, and student participants to act out roles as crash victims. The school's junior and senior classes will watch the demonstration and learn how emergency responders conduct rescue efforts in real-time.

Mock crashes are a dramatic presentation to educate teens and parents about the true consequences of making poor driving decisions. When students see their friends and peers injured, carried out in a body bag, and others being handcuffed and taken to jail, it hits home. It's a strong message that aims to influence their driving choices, especially at potentially dangerous times on the road.

Traffic Crashes — One of the Leading Causes of Teen Deaths

Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of death for Ohio teens, due to inexperience, risk-taking, distractions, and poor seat belt compliance.

Important Role of Parents and Safe Teen Driving

The Napoleon Police Department is urging parents to talk to their teens about the dangers and serious consequences of underage drinking, speeding, distracted driving, and not wearing a seat belt. Parents must set a good example for their children by driving safely, never texting while driving, never driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and insisting that everyone is always buckled up to keep them safe.

Parents should also reinforce teen driving laws such as seat belt use, passenger limitation, nighttime driving, and no cell phone use.

It is so important that parents talk to their teen drivers and establish rules for the road. Just because a teen has their license does not mean they are experienced or safe drivers. Parents must stay involved with a teen's driving just as they do with their grades, athletics, and other activities.

After the mock crash, the students will break for lunch, then they will attend a Mock Trial. During this Mock Trial, the student driver who was arrested for Vehicular Homicide, OVI, and offensives involving underage persons (underage drinking) will stand trial. Also, the parent who allowed the underage party will also stand trial. Henry County Common Pleas Judge Amy Rosebrook will hear the case as Prosecutor Gwen Howe Gebers presents it in the mock trial.

A special thanks to everybody involved in helping keep our youth and roadways safe by assisting in this powerful event including Napoleon Area Schools, Napoleon Police Department, Henry County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Napoleon Fire Department, Ridgeville Fire Department, Florida Fire Department, Life Flight, Leaders Farm (Scream Acres), Greg Schuette State Farm, Ace Hardware, Gunn's Towing, Okolona Metal and Iron, Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Henry County Prosecutors Office, Judge Amy Rosebrook and the Henry County Health Department.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Officer Strickland at the Napoleon Police Department.