Every year, local state troopers investigate approximately 1,500 crashes on area roads. Many of these crashes were caused by drivers who committed the same violation for which you were stopped. Motor vehicle crashes are preventable, yet far too many fatal and serious injury crashes are occurring on our roadways. Please read the following crash information and understand that this is why we ask that you obey the traffic laws of our state.

**Speeding**

In this crash on State Route 4 in Union County, a 17-year-old driver was impatient and attempted to pass with on-coming traffic. The teen driver was killed when his speeding vehicle struck another vehicle head-on. Do you feel rushed when you drive? Try to plan ahead and limit short deadlines. Speeding, just to make up time, may prevent you from reaching your destination at all.

*Did you know*…in this area in 2006/07 there were 282 speed-related crashes, including five fatal and 97 injury crashes?

**Improper Lane Change/Left of Center**

This fatal crash occurred on State Route 4 in Champaign County because the two vehicles collided when one crossed left of the center line. Minimizing driver distractions and paying close attention to the roadway is an important factor in limiting this type of serious crash.

*Did you know*…in this area in 2006/07 there were 398 improper lane change/left of center crashes, including 15 fatal and 171 injury crashes?
Failure to Yield

This fatal crash occurred at the intersection of State Route 814 and State Route 296 in Champaign County. The driver was killed after she pulled out from a stop sign and was struck by crossing traffic. Taking extra care at the stop sign to ensure no traffic was coming would likely have prevented this fatality.

Did you know… in this area in 2006/07 there were 361 failure to yield crashes, including 10 fatal and 182 injury crashes.

Assured Clear Distance Ahead/ Following Too Closely

This fatal crash occurred on U.S. Route 42 in Union County. The driver of this vehicle was killed when, waiting for on-coming traffic to clear, he stopped to turn left and was struck from behind by a commercial vehicle. Do you follow too closely? Where does it get you? Remember, you should be at least three seconds behind the vehicle in-front of you. When they pass a stationary object, it should take that long before you pass the same object.

Did you know… in this area in 2006/07 there were 330 assured clear distance ahead/failure to control crashes, including two fatal and 116 injury crashes?

Driving responsibility is about being more aware of whose lives are in your hands – literally, when you are in control of the car. Local state troopers want you to remember you only have one chance to be aware of all your surroundings when you are driving. Don’t ruin that one chance and take the risk of ending your life and someone else’s.

Please drive safely and always wear your safety belt.