

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Monthly Commander's Column



Patrol joins Guns-N-Hoses Blood Donation Campaign to fight against summer blood shortages

It is that time of year again for baseball games, fishing trips, summer vacations and fireworks. This time of year also marks the beginning of trauma season in Ohio. The time of year when motor vehicle crashes and traumatic injuries increase and the need for blood often exceeds the supply.

In addition, with all of the summer activities coming up, the amount of people that donate blood decreases. That's why the Ohio State Highway Patrol is teaming up with the American Red Cross for the 15th Annual Guns-N-Hoses blood donor campaign which runs June 24 through July 31.

Troopers, as law enforcement officers and first responders, see first-hand what the gift of donating blood can do for those impacted by traffic crashes and other emergency situations.

There are people alive today, people who are not suffering from debilitating injuries, and people whose quality of life is filled with hope because someone decided to donate blood. I am encouraging everyone in our community who is eligible to donate blood this trauma season and for them, in-turn to encourage their friends and family to join us in helping to save lives.

Guns-N-Hoses began in 1996 as a friendly competition between police officers and fire fighters to see who could bring in the most blood donations. Those who donate during the campaign can make their donation a vote for either fire fighters or police officers. In the end, the patients who benefit from the available blood products are the real winners.

Community participants who donate blood and cast their ballot for either fire fighters or police officers will be eligible for incentives that include: an "I Voted" sticker, a T-shirt and a chance to win a up to \$1000 in gasoline gift cards from Marathon.

Counties participating in this year's campaign include: Athens, Champaign, Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Guernsey, Hardin, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Richland, Ross, Tuscarawas, Union, and Vinton. People who live in counties not located in the central Ohio region of the American Red Cross are encouraged to give blood as well this July to help save lives.

More than 16,900 pints of blood are expected to be collected during Guns-N-Hoses, and more than 1,500 pints come from fire fighters and police officers alone. The rest are from those who support everyday heroes and want to save lives. The Red Cross and the Ohio State Highway Patrol encourage you to help make this campaign a success, and to help save lives this summer.

Troopers make a difference in our community every day by keeping highways safe. This trauma season I encourage all of you, to join us in giving blood and helping to ensure a stable blood supply this trauma season.

How to Donate Blood

To schedule an appointment to donate please call 1-800-RED -CROSS, visit www.redcrossblood.org, or contact your local Red Cross Chapter. And don't forget to vote for either Guns or Hoses!

About the American Red Cross

The Central Ohio Blood Services Region serves 27 counties, and needs to collect about 650 pints of blood each day to meet patient need in 41 hospitals. In addition to providing blood to the community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.