



City of Monroe Police Department
Chief of Police Charles F. McCormick IV



04/23/2018

PRESS RELEASE

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SPLT TO CONDUCT MOCK AUTO ACCIDENT WITH STUDENTS

MONROE, MI – St. Mary Catholic Central's Student Prevention Leadership Team (SPLT) has organized a mock accident to take place at St. Mary's Park on **Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 10:20 a.m.** The mock crash aims to send a hard-hitting reminder of the dangers and consequences of unsafe driving behaviors – such as drinking and driving, distracted driving and not buckling up – prior to prom and the graduation season.

SMCC's SPLT is also using the event to remind parents, grandparents and caregivers about the importance to talk with their teen to reinforce safe driving behaviors, and to set their own family driving rules. The mock accident is a part of SMCC SPLT's week long campaign on Alcohol Awareness. The slogan "Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Sober" has been used by SPLT at SMCC for the past two years.

The mock crash will use real crashed vehicles set up across the street from the school at the St. Mary's Park parking lot. West Elm Avenue will be closed to traffic from Monroe Street to Borgess Ave. from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 11:15 a.m. to allow the emergency vehicles access to the scene as well as to allow all students to walk safely across to the parking lot to observe. The parking lot will be closed to the public beginning at 6:00 a.m. until the event's conclusion and clean up around 1:00 p.m. Student participants will dramatically act out roles as crash victims. The school's entire student body will watch the demonstration and learn how emergency responders conduct rescue efforts in real-time.

Participating in the event are the **City of Monroe Police Department, City of Monroe Fire Department, Monroe Community Ambulance, Life Flight of Michigan, Merkle Funeral Services and Jim's Towing.** The community is advised to expect the presence of numerous emergency vehicles and the landing of a medical helicopter all planned as part of the mock accident event.

"Mock crashes are a dramatic presentation to educate teenagers about the devastating consequences of poor driving decisions," says Mrs. Laura Strube, SMCC's SPLT Advisor. "When students see their friends and classmates being taken away in ambulances, police cars and a hearse, it hits home. It's a strong message that aims to influence their driving choices, especially during prom and graduation season but hopefully beyond as well."

In only its second year, SMCC's SPLT program has 45 student members. Currently, every high school in Monroe County participates in the SPLT program. The SPLT program is coordinated through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and funding for the SPLT prevention efforts is paid for by the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan.

****It is requested that media personnel who wish to attend, please arrive prior to 10:00 a.m. Designated parking and filming/photo areas have been established for media attending. For additional information, please contact Public Information Officer, Captain J.D. Wall with the Monroe Police Department at (734) 243-7502 or john.wall@monroemi.gov****