

On Wednesday, May 2nd and Thursday, May 3rd, Pleasanton High School will get a chilling look at the effects of drinking and driving when the Shattered Dreams program is presented in what will appear to be a fatal car accident.

The program is designed to increase the awareness among the community's young people regarding the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol. In 2009, The U.S. Department of Transportation reported 47% of auto fatalities in Texas were alcohol-related which surpassed the national average. In addition, According to the Centers for Disease Control, an average drunk driver has driven drunk 80 times before their first arrest. These statistics are alarming and indicate a need for community awareness. This begins with the education of our youth.

The Shattered Dreams prevention program includes a mock car crash, which will be staged in the PISD Performing Arts Center parking lot on the corner of Stadium Drive and Long Street. Local law enforcement, fire and EMS units and a Methodist Air Care helicopter will respond to the scene as if the accident had actually occurred. This will be done to add a sense of realism to the scenario. PHS students will be taken out of class and will assemble at the "accident site" to witness the aftermath of the crash.

The staged car crash and emergency unit response scenario will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012.

The two day program also includes a mock memorial service on Thursday, May 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

The staged event will appear very real, and calls will go out over local emergency response radios. School administrators want to advise the community in advance that the accident is staged to avoid alarming citizens should they observe or hear of an emergency situation at the school.