

Dr. Tracy A. Caddell Superintendent of Schools

221 West Main Street Suite One Greentown, IN 46936-1455

: tracy.caddell@eastern.k12.in.us
: www.eastern.k12.in.us



CONTACT:
Michele Rhodenbaugh, EJSH Nurse / SADD Advisor
or
Jamie Vickery, Indiana SADD
765.730.1194 or jvickery@indianasadd.org

## EASTERN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON LESSON ABOUT SAFE DRIVING

SADD Visits Local School to Provide Teen Traffic Safety Educational Programming

**GREENTOWN**, Indiana – March 13, 2013, Indiana SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) traveled to **EASTERN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL** with teen traffic safety activities focused on discouraging distracted and impaired driving, and encouraging responsible driving habits.

The main event of the day was the Texting and Driving Simulator, which allowed students to "get behind the wheel" to see firsthand the dangers of distracted driving. The students took turns practicing "driving" via the simulator; once they were comfortable with the program, they were asked to get their phone out to send a text while continuing to drive. It quickly became evident to students that their phone was a distraction.

"Most don't realize just how dangerous texting and driving is. Studies show that you are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash when texting and driving — because your mind is focused somewhere else, your hands are off the wheel, and your eyes are off the road," said Indiana SADD Program Director, Geoff Grow. "That's a deadly combination."

Two other activities, allowed students to see and "experience" the dangers of impaired driving – utilizing Fatal Vision Goggles. With one activity, students got behind the wheel (of a motorized cooler) with "drunk goggles" and followed a course of cones to experience the visual impairment of someone over the legal limit. Students tried a similar activity while driving remote-controlled cars through a course. Needless to say, the students participating and watching could see the dangers of driving while impaired.

With car crashes remaining the leading cause of death among 15-20 year olds, Indiana SADD has partnered with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) and State Farm Insurance to offer free traffic safety programming to schools and communities throughout the state in efforts to lower teen fatalities. Indiana SADD visits dozens of schools each year with one goal in mind – to save lives.