



For Immediate Release: August 16, 2021
Contact Person: Sheriff Jamie Patton
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**Sheriff's Office Investigating Fatal Motorcycle
Crash on State Route 31**

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, at approximately 4:39 am, the Union County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call reporting a motorcycle crash in the 26000 block of State Route 31. Deputies and units from the Northwestern Fire District and the Northern Union County Fire and EMS District responded to the scene and found one victim in the roadway and a 2007 Kawasaki motorcycle lying next to the roadway. The driver of the motorcycle was pronounced deceased at the scene and has been identified as David P. Winkle Jr., age 39 of Kenton. The preliminary investigation has determined Winkle was driving northbound on State Route 31 when he lost control and drove off the right side of the road and struck a mailbox. After striking the mailbox, he then struck a guardrail. He was ejected from the motorcycle and the motorcycle then struck a guardrail on the west side of the road and slid back across the road and came to rest in the northbound lane of travel. The victim was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. At this time, investigators suspect alcohol may have been a factor in the crash. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Union County Emergency Management Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Union County Coroner's Office. The crash remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Office.

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State Route 31 Crash Scene Photo:

