



# SAFETY Network

June 2010

[www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp)

## Traffic fatalities in Michigan jump 6 percent in first four months

Based on a review of provisional crash data for the period of January through April, 2010, traffic fatalities in Michigan have increased 6 percent in 2010. Based on that pace, the current projection is an increase of fifty traffic fatalities in 2010 compared to 2009. If this were to occur, it would be the first increase in traffic fatalities in Michigan since 2003.

According to Michael L. Prince, director of the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), "We are continuing to monitor the data and will adjust this projection accordingly over the coming weeks and months. But more important is an analysis to determine why we are seeing an increase in traffic fatalities

for the first four months of the year, where this is occurring, and why."

OHSP conducted a more in-depth analysis to determine which areas of the state might be seeing the largest increases, and three counties were found to be having a particularly bad start, including Berrien, Saginaw, and Macomb counties. Berrien and Saginaw counties have already more than doubled their year-to-date fatal traffic crashes and fatalities. Berrien County's crash data shows an increase in fatalities from four (2009) to nine (2010), and Saginaw County has gone from three fatalities in 2009 to ten in 2010.

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## Ride Smart Motorcyclist Safety Conference is September 11



Skilled Motorcyclist Association—Responsible, Trained and Educated Riders, Incorporated (S.M.A.R.T.E.R.) and the Office of Highway Safety Planning are hosting the Ride Smart 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Conference on September 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The one-day event at the Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant will feature information about the

latest motorcycle safety gear, riding techniques, research, and technology.

Registration is \$40 on or before July 30 and \$45 after July 30. S.M.A.R.T.E.R. members can register at the reduced rate of \$35 on or before July 30 and \$40 after July 30. The Comfort Inn Hotel & Suites is the official hotel for the conference. Lodging is \$89 per night. Participants can make their reservations by calling (989) 772-4000. Mention the Ride Smart 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Conference when making the reservation.

To register or for more information, visit <http://smartermotorcyclesafety.eventbrite.com>.

## Texting while driving ban goes in effect July 1

Effective July 1, the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit a person from reading, typing or sending text messages using



a wireless two-way communication device, including a wireless phone located in a person's hand or lap, while operating a moving motor vehicle on a street or highway in the state. A violation is a civil infraction that results in a \$100 fine for a first offense and a \$200 fine for a subsequent offense.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving distracted drivers, and more than half a million were injured. The National Safety Council, which estimates that 80 percent of all crashes are related to driver inattention, reports that nearly 40 percent of teenagers and young adults surveyed admitted to sending or receiving text messages while driving. Also, a recent study conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety indicates that drivers who use hand-held devices are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.

Michigan was the twenty-fourth state to ban texting while driving.



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## Director's Corner

Michael L. Prince, Director  
Office of Highway Safety Planning

I was first introduced to the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and the traffic safety profession in 1980 while attending a Michigan State Safety Conference in Lansing. Over the next thirty years, I had the opportunity to work with, and be mentored by, some exceptionally talented and committed people in the public safety field.

Two of them are retiring from the Michigan State Police (MSP) this month, Traffic Safety Division Commanding Officer Captain Robert Powers and Commanding Officer of the First District Captain Dan Smith. Together, these two represent more than seventy years of service to Michigan citizens, with the majority of those years, either directly or indirectly, related to traffic safety, enforcement, and administration.



Cpt. Robert Powers

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Captain Powers over the last seven years as my MSP counterpart on the Michigan Truck Safety Commission and the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission. Captain Smith and I worked closely in the 1990's when he was commander of the Traffic Services Section and I was Police Traffic Services Coordinator at OHSP. Both gentlemen are outstanding law enforcement officers, but also exemplify what all public servants should aspire to be like.



Cpt. Dan Smith

I want to extend my personal thanks to Captains Powers and Smith for their many years of service, and for their numerous contributions to the efforts to make Michigan roadways safer for everyone. While they will be missed, we wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.



### IGNITION INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM PROVIDES INFO ON NEW LAW

Nearly 200 law enforcement officers, court officials, probation officers, and prevention specialists attended the Michigan Ignition Interlock Symposium on June 17.

Michigan's new law for first-time high blood alcohol content drunk driving offenders goes into effect on October 31. The conference was an opportunity for members of the traffic safety community to learn about and discuss how the new law will be implemented.

MADD National President Laura Dean-Mooney opened the conference with the organization's mission to eliminate drunk driving. Robyn Robertson, president and CEO of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation in Ottawa, Ontario, spoke about the benefits of ignition interlocks in combating drunk driving.

## Traffic safety organizations team up with Detroit Tigers to promote safe teen driving

Car crashes end more teen lives every day than cancer, suicide, and homicide combined. That's why AAA Michigan, the Detroit Tigers, Michigan State Police (MSP), and the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) joined together May 27 to encourage teens to be safe drivers throughout the summer.

The organizations promoted a key traffic safety message aimed at all drivers—but especially important for new teen drivers—pay attention while driving, buckle up, and avoid alcohol.

AAA teamed with the Detroit Tigers to bring the teen traffic safety message to Comerica Park through state-of-the-art driving simulators available for use at the



ball park May 28-29 for teens to test their driving skills.

OHSP's *Click It or Ticket* campaign and MSP's *Operation C.A.R.E.* (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) were also pro-

moted during the event. Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement kicked off May 24 to ensure all motorists buckled up and ran through June 6.

*Operation C.A.R.E.* operates during all three summer holiday weekends, with additional patrols on the freeways and free coffee and traffic safety literature at many of the state's rest stops.

All of the organizations encouraged parents to play a leading role in developing their teen driver through regular dialogue, selecting a quality driving school, using a parent-teen driving contract, extensive practice driving, and choosing a safe vehicle for their new teen driver.

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## New booster seat campaign employs shock value to encourage compliance

Southeast Michigan parents are seeing something shocking on TV. A new ad features children riding on top of cars may alarm some viewers, but the message is clear - without a booster seat, kids ages four to eight could be in just as much danger.

The television ad, shot on a green screen and digitally enhanced to ensure no children were in danger, reminds parents of Michigan's booster seat law which requires all children to ride in a booster seat until they reach 8 years old or 4'9" tall. A 2007 survey conducted before the booster seat law was passed found booster seat use was only 27 percent; since the law passed it has risen to nearly 50 percent, but still

falls short of the state's record high adult seat belt use rate of 97.9 percent.

Booster seats are designed to lift children up so seat belts fit them properly. When used correctly, booster seats can reduce a child's chance of being injured in a crash by approximately 60 percent.

Research uncovered several reasons parents didn't use booster seats. Some did not understand the law while others intended to use seats, but often didn't feel the risk of injury was imminent and seats were not necessary if traveling only short distances.

A radio commercial and billboards will accompany the television ad in Metro Detroit, the area with the lowest booster



seat use rate in the state. Ads will run throughout the summer. OHSP also partnered with Radio Disney at River Days in Detroit to raffle off free booster seats.

Advertising production and placement was paid for with federal traffic safety funds administered by OHSP.

The television ad can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/ohsp](http://www.youtube.com/ohsp).

## Gorski named new MSP lieutenant colonel



Michigan State Police (MSP) Captain Gary Gorski was promoted to lieutenant colonel and commander of the Field Services Bureau (FSB) on May 30.

In his new position, Gorski will serve as one of the department's three deputy directors and as a member of the department's Executive Council. As commander of the FSB, Gorski will provide executive

direction and leadership to more than 1,800 enlisted and civilian employees assigned to the department's districts and posts, as well as the Criminal Investigation, Special Operations, and Traffic Safety divisions.

Since 2005, Gorski has served as the MSP Sixth District commander. There, he was responsible for the delivery of MSP services to twelve counties in central-west Michigan including: traffic patrols, criminal investigations, emergency services and staffing for task forces, and special investigative units.

During his nearly 25-year career with MSP, he has served at the Coldwater, Flat Rock, Gaylord, Grand Haven, Paw Paw, and Rockford posts, as well as the Training Division, Criminal Investigation Division, and First District Headquarters. In 2001, Gorski graduated from the 204th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

## Topics sought for 2011 Traffic Safety Summit

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is seeking ideas for general sessions and workshops for the 16th annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, March 22-24, 2011, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

### Suggested topics should:

- >> Appeal to a broad range of traffic safety professionals
- >> Not have been covered at a recent summit
- >> Be relevant for this venue

A topic submittal form can be found at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp) and is due by September 3.

For more information, contact Kathy Farnum at [farnumk@michigan.gov](mailto:farnumk@michigan.gov) or at (517) 241-2528.

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## Fighting drugged driving in Michigan

By Kenneth Stecker

Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan

In the past few decades, society has become all too familiar with the tragedies of drunk driving. Just recently in Michigan, Frances Dingle was sentenced in Macomb County to 22 1/2 to 25 years in prison for her plea to second-degree murder and operating while intoxicated in connection with a crash that killed four teenagers.

Our society is now becoming aware of the dangers with distractions such as text messaging or talking on a cell phone. Effective, July 1, motorists are banned from texting while driving.

Yet, there is another growing problem that poses threats to public safety and the welfare of Michigan citizens - drugged driving.

It is well known that drugs, even those prescribed by a physician, can impair perception, judgment, motor skills, and memory. Recent surveys have shown how pervasive drugged driving has become in the United States.

The National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers, a national survey by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), found that in 2007, 16 percent of weekend nighttime drivers (roughly one in six) tested positive for licit or illicit drugs. Moreover, approximately one in ten high school seniors responding to the 2008 Monitoring the Future Study (MTF) reported driving after smoking marijuana within two weeks prior to the survey interview.

These results highlight the seriousness of drugged driving, and reinforce the importance of traffic safety enforcement in this area.

### HOW IS MICHIGAN ADDRESSING DRUGGED DRIVING?

Through the support of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), efforts to further reduce drugged driving in the state continue to be addressed through a number of avenues, including

training programs. With the support and the cooperation of OHSP, the Michigan State Police, and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training is being offered.

ARIDE training was developed by NHTSA with input from the IACP and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. It was created to address the gap in impaired driving training between Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, commonly referred to as the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training Program.

ARIDE bridges the gap between these two programs by providing police officers with general knowledge related to drug impairment and by promoting the use of DREs in states that have the DEC Program.

Significantly, ARIDE requires students to demonstrate their SFST proficiency. The ARIDE program also stresses the importance of securing the most appropriate biological sample in order to identify substances likely to cause impairment.

ARIDE is not intended to replace DRE training, which is much more intensive and skill-based. ARIDE is not a prerequisite for DRE training, but officers who complete ARIDE may decide to enhance their skills and complete DRE training. For states that do not yet provide DRE training, or for agencies with limited training budgets, ARIDE meets the need for increasing officers' knowledge base for identifying drugs that impair driving.

If you are interested in attending the ARIDE Program, contact Sergeant Michelle Robinson of the Michigan State Police at (517) 322-1507 or robinsonm@michigan.gov.

Additionally, in the past six months, with the support of OHSP, PAAM has put on the following training for prosecutors

and law enforcement throughout the state to help better address this issue:

**Protecting Lives, Saving Futures:** This impaired driving training program was developed by the American Prosecutors Research Institute's National Traffic Law Center, with input from NHTSA and the IACP. The program is designed to train both law enforcement and prosecutors in a single class in detecting, apprehending, and prosecuting impaired drivers. The program brings law enforcement officers and prosecutors together as a team to successfully prosecute impaired driving violators. It also helps ease the challenges and difficulties that prosecutors and law enforcement officers face in impaired driving cases.

**Prosecuting the Drugged Driver:** This curriculum was developed in cooperation with NHTSA and the National Traffic Law Center. The course is designed to build a team of prosecutors and law enforcement officers to help detect, apprehend, and prosecute impaired drivers. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers participate in interactive training classes taught by a multidisciplinary faculty.

The course includes an overview of the drug-impaired driving problem in the United States and the substantive areas of training that police officers receive to

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## Drunk driving crackdown begins July 1

Summer is heating up and so is a statewide drunk driving crackdown. More than 200 law enforcement agencies across the state are participating in a July 4th *Drunk Driving, Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* crackdown.

Increased patrols begin July 1 and will run until July 11. Local law enforcement agencies in thirty counties will take to the streets working to prevent drunk driving injuries and deaths by arresting impaired drivers.

During last year's July 4th holiday time period, one person was killed in an alcohol-

related traffic crash.

This annual enforcement effort is paid for with federal funds earmarked specifically for traffic safety efforts. The funding is used to pay for advertising and officer participation.

Federally-funded drunk driving enforcement is occurring in the following counties: Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Chippewa, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon,

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be certified as DREs. Learning about drug categories, signs, and symptoms of drug influence, the role of the DRE in establishing impairment, and the role of toxicology in these cases will assist the prosecutor to effectively and persuasively present this information in court.

The course also addresses how to qualify the DRE as an expert witness in court and how to respond to common defense challenges. Participants are given the opportunity to prosecute a mock case including direct examinations of a DRE and a toxicologist. Throughout every stage of the course, participants receive direct feedback on their courtroom skills with assistance in how to compose more persuasive arguments and deliver more dynamic presentations.

**Lethal Weapon DUI Vehicular Homicide:** This four-day course is designed for the experienced DUI prosecutor. It highlights the importance of creating and improving police-prosecutor teams in investigating and prosecuting vehicular homicide cases. It features extensive presentations on crash reconstruction, including direct and cross-examination of crash re-constructionists. Additional topics include the role of the prosecutor at the

scene of a fatality and working with hostile witnesses and with victims' families.

PAAM again intends to offer the above-mentioned seminars in the near future.

In conclusion, a crash involving drugged driving is one of the most frequently committed crimes in the United States. The above-mentioned training courses will assist law enforcement officers and prosecutors to fight drugged driving, and make Michigan's highways a safer place to drive.

*Note: The roadside report can be found online at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) ov. Monitoring the Future is available online at [www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org). Weekend Nighttime Drivers Testing Positive for Drugs, by Drug Category Source: 2007 National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers: Drug Results, U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2009. Note: "Medications" includes prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Percentages are weighted. Results are based on oral fluid and blood testing; 83.7 percent of drivers tested negative for drugs.*

For more information on PAAM training programs, please contact Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, at (517) 334-6060 or e-mail at [steckerk@michigan.gov](mailto:steckerk@michigan.gov).



Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Wexford.

A second wave of grant-funded drunk driving enforcement will take place during the Labor Day holiday period, August 20–September 6.

## Jorgenson named FHWA Michigan Division head

Russell Jorgenson was recently named administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Michigan Division. He replaces James Steele who retired in April.

Jorgenson began his career with FHWA in 1983 as a surveyor and construction inspector with the Central Federal Lands Highway Division. In 1988, he entered FHWA's Highway Engineer Training Program. After assignments in Arkansas and Georgia, Jorgenson became the assistant bridge engineer in the South Carolina Division in 1990 and an area engineer in 1995. In 1997, he was promoted to the Illinois Division as a safety and traffic operations engineer.

In 2000, he accepted the position of Engineering Team Leader in the Idaho Division. Following special assignments in Washington, D.C. and Maryland, he was promoted to the assistant division administrator position with the New Jersey Division in 2004.

Jorgenson has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is a registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.



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## OHSP awards winners of High School Seat Belt Program

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for teenagers in Michigan. To address this urgent traffic safety issue, the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) launched Making It Click – Michigan High School Seat Belt Program earlier this year.

The program aims to raise awareness among the state’s teen population and encourage compliance with Michigan’s seat belt law.

An easy-to-follow manual was posted to OHSP’s website outlining the steps to take to implement a local program. An array of activity options were provided to engage students in promoting seat belt use to their peers, along with instructions on conducting pre- and post-seat belt observation surveys.

A dozen schools participated in the program this year with Ottawa County schools

accounting for eleven of the twelve submissions. Each school submitted a program report highlighting their activities as well as their pre and post belt use rates.

Three schools were selected as winners and received plaques from OHSP:

Anchor Bay High School (St. Clair County) Largest increase in safety belt use of all participants (12 percent)

West Ottawa High School (Ottawa County) Highest safety belt use rate (97 percent)

Spring Lake High School (Ottawa County) Largest increase in safety belt use for Ottawa County (9 percent)

To download a copy of the Making It Click – Michigan High School Safety Belt Program manual, visit [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp).

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Macomb County fatalities are up 40 percent, from twelve in 2009 to seventeen in 2010.

The June-August time frame is always key with regard to traffic crash and fatality reduction. According to OHSP, the months of June through August will be especially critical this year if Michigan is to see a fatality reduction in 2010.

This information is being disseminated to law enforcement agencies so they may maximize the visibility of traffic enforcement patrols on Michigan roadways for seat belt use, drunk driving, and other dangerous driving behavior over the coming weeks. OHSP will continue to generate visibility of these efforts through state and local media outlets, the Internet, and public awareness campaigns. Enforcement campaigns yet to take place this summer include a high-visibility enforcement effort on I-94, the July 4 holiday *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* enforcement campaign, and the *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Labor Day holiday campaign.

## Seat belt enforcement effort also nets marijuana seizure, drunk drivers

Seat belt citations decrease by 17 percent

Seat belt offenders weren’t the only ones who saw flashing lights during the annual *Click it or Ticket* campaign. Officers wrote nearly 9,600 seat belt tickets - 1,909 less than last year, but also ticketed 367 drivers for suspended licenses, arrested 114 drunk drivers and made 54 drug-related arrests.

During this year’s two-week mobilization, which included the busy Memorial Day weekend, officers in 30 counties made more than 18,212 traffic stops, including a

stop which resulted in the seizure of 700 pounds of marijuana in Berrien County and the apprehension of a driver with nine prior license suspensions and an outstanding warrant in Bay County.

The enforcement effort is paid for with federal traffic safety dollars. Officers worked in highly visible seat belt enforcement zones as well as roving nighttime patrols. Seat belt use in fatal crashes is 83 percent during the day, but drops

to 55 percent at night as the instance of impaired driving increases.

Preliminary results show there were nine traffic fatalities in Michigan over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, one of which was unbelted, three were motorcyclists and three involved alcohol, according to the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. In 2009, 11 people were killed during the same time period.

### JULY

- 1-11 **Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. crackdown**  
[www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp)
- 25-28 **International Forum on Traffic Records and Highway Safety Information Systems**  
[www.atsip.org](http://www.atsip.org)

### AUGUST

- 2-8 **National Stop on Red Week**  
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/redlight/srlr/#week>
- 20-9/6 **Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. national crackdown**  
[www.stopimpaireddriving.org](http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org)

### SEPTEMBER

- 19-25 **National Seat Check Saturday and Child Passenger Safety Week**  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

## What’s Ahead

# SAFETY Network



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