



SAFETY Network

April 2017

Michigan.gov/ohsp

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month puts drivers on alert

Michigan motorists are being reminded that *One Text or Call Could Wreck It All* during national Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April. For the first time, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is supporting distracted driving enforcement activity for more than 170 law enforcement agencies receiving federal traffic safety funds.

"Many law enforcement agencies recognize that distracted driving is a serious concern in their communities," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "It's vital that drivers keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road."

Reducing smartphone use is especially daunting. Dr. David Greenfield from the Center for Internet and Technology Addiction spoke at the recent Michigan Traffic Safety Summit and said cell phone

technology has clearly become addictive behavior.

"Dopamine, the pleasure neuro-chemical in the reward system of our brain, is one reason we feel the need to check on our smart phone so often. When those notifications go off on your phone, you feel compelled to pick it up," Greenfield said.

According to the Michigan State Police (MSP) Criminal Justice Information Center, there were 7,516 crashes in Michigan

during 2015 involving distracted driving, resulting in 28 fatalities and 3,472 injuries. Cell phones were involved in 753 crashes, with three fatalities and 377 injuries.

To help encourage drivers to remain attentive to the driving task, the OHSP has distributed banners to all law enforcement agencies and high schools across the state. Teen drivers are especially vulnerable to distractions.

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD
WRECK
IT ALL**

New study shows young millennials top list of worst behaved drivers

A recent report from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that 88 percent of millennials engaged in at least one risky behavior behind the wheel in the past 30 days, earning the top spot of worst behaved U.S. drivers. These dangerous behaviors—which increase crash risk—

included texting while driving, red-light running, and speeding. These findings come as U.S. traffic deaths rose to 35,092 in 2015, an increase of more than 7 percent, the largest single-year increase in five decades.

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Bailee McAfee, 18, and nonagenarian Robert Smith were among those honored recently at the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission Awards. Photos and stories about the recipients can be found on page 7.

Statewide seat belt campaign begins May 22

The annual national *Click It or Ticket* campaign kicks off May 22 with agencies across the state conducting increased seat belt enforcement.

The stepped up enforcement runs through June 4 and includes the heavily traveled Memorial Day holiday weekend. Michigan's 2016 seat belt use rate was 94.5 percent. Men and younger vehicle occupants, specifically those in pickups, continue to have lower belt use rates.



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OHSP Director Michael L. Prince discusses the start of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over effort.

Drunk driving crackdown unveiling highlights role of sobriety courts

Law enforcement officers and judges kicked off the start of the statewide *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* drunk driving crackdown at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals in Novi. Increased patrols focused on drunk driving enforcement took place in every county between March 16 and March 29.

The event highlighted the state's network of sobriety courts that assist offenders with overcoming issues related to alcohol and/or drugs. These programs make it much less likely a person will reoffend.

The sobriety court system is an intensive rehabilitation program. Participants are subject to frequent alcohol or drug testing, a 12-step program, counseling, home visits, and scheduled review hearings.

"Out of all the drivers I've seen in my court, not a single one has been happy to be there," said Judge Geno Salomone, sobriety court judge with the 23rd District Court in Taylor. "The choice they made to drive drunk had serious consequences. They may have injured themselves or others. It certainly cost them a lot of time and money. We want to make sure that people make the safe choice not to drive drunk

so they never have to see the inside of my courtroom."

Sobriety courts in Michigan have played a large role in the rehabilitation and education of drivers arrested for drunk driving. Chuck Larson, a graduate of Judge Salomone's sobriety court, provided perspective on how a drunk driving conviction had serious consequences.

"I made a decision that I will regret for the rest of my life," said Larson. "Drunk driving imposed a high cost to me, my family, and my friends. Sobriety court helped me get back on the right path, but I hope my story will be a lesson to others that getting a safe ride home is always the best option."

During last year's *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* spring enforcement period, more than 560 motorists were arrested for drunk driving.

"While a drunk driving arrest can be a catalyst for positive change for many drivers, some do not learn that lesson quite as quickly," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "Sobriety courts play a vital role in helping offenders overcome larger and more complex problems of abuse and addiction to reduce the number of reoccurring incidents."

GHSA seeks award nominations

Each year, in conjunction with its annual meeting, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) recognizes various organizations and individuals for achievements in the field of highway safety through its Highway Safety Awards. There are three award categories: the James J. Howard Highway Safety Trailblazer Award, the Kathryn J.R. Swanson Public Service Award, and the Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Awards.

The GHSA is now seeking nominations for its 2017 awards. **Nominations must be submitted online no later than May 25, 2017.** Winners will be determined in July, and the awards will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY, on September 19.

For more information, go to <http://www.ghsa.org/about/safety-awards>

State DRE training concludes

Twenty law enforcement officers successfully completed all three phases of Michigan's seventh Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training on February 24 to become certified DREs. The 20 graduates included five troopers, six deputies, and nine city/township officers.

Certified DREs are specially trained to identify, apprehend, and document drivers impaired by drugs and/or alcohol/drug combinations.

The DRE School includes a rigorous 72 hours of classroom training and 40 hours of field certification training. Seven prosecutors attended and completed the classroom portion.

These officers and prosecutors join the ranks of 106 officers and 27 prosecutors in Michigan that have completed DRE training.

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Distracted driving is a serious problem

By Mark Reene, Kenneth Stecker, and Kinga Gorzelewski

Thousands die needlessly every year from distracted driving. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. We should use this as an opportunity to evaluate our current efforts to change driving attitudes and habits.

A 2015 Erie Insurance distracted driving survey reported that drivers do all sorts of dangerous things behind the wheel including brushing teeth and changing clothes. The survey also found that one-third of drivers admitted to texting while driving and three-quarters said they've seen others do it.¹ Text messaging, which requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, continues to be by far the most alarming distraction with 169.3 billion text messages sent in the United States every month.²

DISTRACTED DRIVING IN MICHIGAN

Distracted driving is an immense threat to Michigan drivers. MLive.com reported that more than 9,000 car crashes in Michigan involved cell phone use in the past decade while more than 34,000 other crashes were caused by some other form of distraction.³

Reporters across Michigan reviewed hundreds of crash reports, interviewed victims, and analyzed a decade of records obtained from the MSP's Traffic Crash Reporting Section.⁴

Facts they discovered include:

- Young drivers on cell phones are far more likely to be involved in crashes than older drivers. Half of these were in their 20s or younger; 18 year olds were the worst.⁵

- Older drivers are not blameless. Almost one-third of those using a cell phone at the time of the crash were in their 30s and 40s. The oldest was 97.⁶

WHAT IS MICHIGAN DOING?

A 2010 texting ban signed into law in Michigan reads, in part, as follows:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not read, manually type, or send a text message on a wireless two-way communication device that is located in the person's hand or in the person's lap, including a wireless telephone used in cellular telephone service or personal communication service, while operating a motor vehicle that is moving on a highway or street in this state."⁷

Fines are \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a subsequent offense, and it is a civil infraction.⁸ However, the law does not cover such activities as reading and writing e-mails, checking Facebook, or watching a streaming Detroit Tigers baseball game.

Kelsey's Law was signed in 2013. The law is named after Kelsey Raffaele, a teenager from Sault Ste. Marie who died in a 2010 car crash while talking on her cell phone. It reads in pertinent part as follows:

"Except as provided in this section, an individual issued a Level 1 or Level 2 graduated license under section 310e shall not use a cellular telephone while operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or street. For purposes of this subsection, "use" means to initiate a call; answer a call; or listen to or engage in verbal communication through the cellular telephone."⁹

A violation of the law is a civil infraction and carries a \$100 fine, court costs, and

potential license suspension or extension of the probationary period.¹⁰

In 2013, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to crack down on distracted commercial motor vehicle and bus drivers. The law now prohibits these drivers from reading, typing, or sending a text message on a wireless two-way communication device that is located in the person's hand or lap, including a wireless telephone used in cellular telephone service or personal communication service.

HOW DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAY A ROLE?

There are no published Michigan Court of Appeals or Supreme Court cases regarding a driver texting and being stopped by a police officer.

A published California Court of Appeals case may offer guidance to Michigan law enforcement on this issue. California, like Michigan, is a primary enforcement state that enables an officer to stop and ticket a driver for texting, regardless if any other offense was committed.

In *People v. Corrales*, 213 Cal. App. 4th 696 (Cal. App. 2d Dist. 2013), an officer observed defendant parked on the side of the road using his cellphone to send a text message. Five minutes later the defendant began driving and the officer was right behind. The officer observed defendant leaning while looking down and making movements with his hand as if he was texting. Defendant continued to do this for 30 to 40



PAAM Continued on page 4 >

¹ <https://www.erieinsurance.com/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/2015/distracted-driving>

² <http://www.ctia.org/industry-data/ctia-annual-wireless-industry-survey>

³ http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/02/distracted_driving_series_driv.html

⁴ http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/02/dangerous_mix_distracted_drive.html

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

⁷ Michigan Compiled Law 257.602b

⁸ Id.

⁹ Michigan Compiled Law 257.602c

¹⁰ Id.



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Flannagan receives Lifesaver’s Public Service Safety Award



Carol Flannagan, Ph.D., director of the Center for the Management of Information for Safe and Sustainable Transportation, recently received the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Lifesaver’s Public Service Safety Award.

The award recognizes the vigorous dedication certain individuals and organizations demonstrate to achieve the safety of passengers on American roadways.

Flannagan was honored for her leadership in the analysis of large, state-level crash databases. She joined the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute in 1991. Flannagan has more

than 20 years of experience conducting data analysis and research on injury risk related to motor vehicle crashes. She has also applied statistical methods to understanding of the potential benefits of crash-avoidance technologies.

The awards were presented at the 35th Lifesavers Conference in Charlotte, NC, the largest annual gathering of highway safety professionals in the United States.



More than 600 people attended the 22nd annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit from March 21-23 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. The summit is sponsored each year by the OHSP. In addition to five general sessions, there were more than 30 workshops. Joel Feldman, president and co-founder of End Distracted Driving, (pictured above) led a workshop on what strategies succeed when discussing distracted driving with teens.

TZD Toward Zero Deaths

April 18, 2017
266
Traffic Deaths
in Michigan this Year

PAAM Continued from page 3 >

seconds at which point the officer pulled defendant over for texting while driving.

Defendant challenged the legality of the traffic stop alleging it was unreasonable for the officer to conclude that he had been texting while driving. The California Court of Appeals disagreed and ruled that the decision to stop the defendant was reasonable.

This case is illustrative as to what a police officer may observe of a driver’s behavior to give rise to a reasonable suspicion that he/she is texting while driving. Officers should also make sure to fully document their reasonable suspicion in the police report. The prosecutor can then effectively argue these facts should a traffic stop’s legality be challenged later in court. Enforcement on this violation is key to keeping our Michigan roadways safe.

Editor’s Note: Mark Reene is the Tuscola County Prosecuting Attorney and the current president of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. Kenneth Stecker and Kinga Gorzelewski are the Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors.

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By rank and by age group, the percentage of drivers who reported engaging in speeding, red light running, or texting behind the wheel in the past 30 days include:

RANK AGE GROUP RISKY DRIVING BEHAVIOR

19-24.....	88.4 percent
25-39	79.2 percent
40-59	75.2 percent
16-18.....	69.3 percent
75+	69.1 percent
60-74.....	67.3 percent

For more information visit <http://newsroom.aaa.com/2017/02/young-millennials-top-list-worst-behaved-drivers/>

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Teen driver receives *Saved by the Belt* Award

Mason Korhonen of Bark River is alive today because he buckled up.

On January 8, Korhonen lost control of his vehicle on the snow- and ice-covered road. He struck five trees and overturned his vehicle but was able to walk a quarter mile to call for help. Without the use of his seat belt, the outcome would have likely been very different.

The OHSP and AAA Michigan recently honored him with the *Saved by the Belt* Award. The 16-year-old was nominated for the award by Tpr. Mark Erickson of the MSP Gladstone Post. Trooper Erickson works closely with Korhonen's school and presented the award.

"I have no doubt in my mind Mason would have been ejected from his vehicle if he did not have his seat belt on," Erickson said. "Had Mason been ejected, he would have suffered from much more serious or potentially fatal injuries."

The teen suffered a concussion and a severely broken left wrist and arm.

"Every driver can learn from Mason's story," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "The lessons that children learn about seat



belt use last a lifetime and can be the life-saving difference in the event of a crash."

The *Saved by the Belt* program is a joint effort between the OHSP and AAA Michigan which encourages law enforcement agencies to recognize safe motorists and help increase public awareness about the life-saving value of seat belt use.

Kenneth Stecker appointed to NACP Traffic Safety Committee



Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) Kenneth Stecker was recently appointed to serve on the Traffic Safety Committee of the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NACP).

The NACP provides training, technical assistance, and membership services to the nation's state prosecutor associations. The seven-member committee offers advice on traffic safety training

programs and legislative issues for NACP members. It also manages NACP's grant from the NHTSA and oversees the following programs:

Stecker is the co-chair of the DUI defense expert database project. He selects the experts to be studied and coordinates the work of the TSRPs who meet semi-annually to prepare precise cross examination worksheets for the defense experts who appear most frequently in multiple states.



Stop! Trains Can't campaign underway

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently launched the *Stop! Trains Can't* ad targeting young male motorists and encouraging them to act cautiously at railroad crossings. The campaign is the latest in a two-year effort by the department to reduce crashes and fatalities at railroad crossings around the country. NHTSA and the Federal Railroad Administration have partnered in the nationwide effort.

Although rail incidents have declined over the last 10 years, railroad crossing fatalities spiked in 2014. According to preliminary statistics, 233 people died in railroad crossing crashes during 2015. Approximately every three hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States.

Male drivers are involved in nearly 75 percent of all railroad crossing incidents.

By law, trains always have the right of way because they cannot swerve, stop quickly, or change directions to avert collisions. A freight train travelling at 55 mph takes a mile—the length of 18 football fields or more—to come to a stop once the emergency brakes are applied.

To watch the ad or learn more about the *Stop! Trains Can't* campaign, visit www.transportation.gov/stop-trains-cant



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Updates from the Traffic Crash Reporting Unit

By Sgt. Scott Carlson, Michigan State Police

DRIVER DISTRACTED BY

The entire UD-10 Traffic Crash Report is the investigating officer’s opinion as to how they interpret the events of the traffic crash. There is no burden of proof needed on the part of the investigating officer when completing the UD-10. The Driver Distracted By field is no different, and the officer is not obligated to prove beyond a reasonable doubt or any other standard that one of the choices truly distracted the driver. It is simply the officer making a decision based upon their personal observations while investigating the traffic crash.

A special note on choice #8, involving distractions outside the vehicle. It is extremely helpful for traffic safety experts when officers list the specific distraction that was observed in the remarks section on the UD-10.

Also note that distractions should also be listed for other units if applicable (pedestrians, train engineers and bicyclists). Many times these types of units are distracted when they are struck by a motor vehicle. A bicyclist can be distracted by something in the environment, or a

pedestrian could be texting while crossing the road, etc.

- | DRIVER DISTRACTED BY |
|--|
| 1. Not Distracted |
| 2. Manually Operating an Electronic Communications Device (Texting, Typing, Dialing) |
| 3. Talking on Hands-Free Electronic Device |
| 4. Talking on Hand-Held Electronic Device |
| 5. Other Activity, Electronic Device (Book Player, Navigation Aid) |
| 6. Passenger |
| 7. Other Activity Inside the Vehicle (Eating, Personal Hygiene) |
| 8. Outside the Vehicle (Includes Unspecified External Distractions) |
| 9. Unknown |

NARRATIVE/REMARKS

The narrative is a free text area for the officer to provide a brief description as to the events of the traffic crash and to provide any additional remarks about the crash that need to be noted. It is extremely

important that personal information never be included in the narrative section or on the diagram. The general public has various ways of obtaining traffic crash reports, but only has access to sanitized UD-10s through the Freedom of Information Act. A sanitized UD-10 does not contain personal information such as names, dates of birth, driver’s license numbers, addresses, or phone numbers, which could be used to steal an identity.

Another important factor is the length of the narrative. With electronic crash reporting the narrative cannot exceed 2,048 characters, and can include letters, numbers, spaces, and punctuation.

DRIVER IS OWNER

This new field was added for the 2016 UD-10 revision and is used to indicate if the driver of the vehicle is also the vehicle’s registered owner. This is meant to simplify completing the UD-10 by no longer having to repeat this information in the owner section on the UD-10. Because this is not a required field, be aware that by not selecting this box, the printed UD-10E may populate the word NO under this field.

CarFit training

At a CarFit event, a team of trained technicians and/or health professionals work with older adults to ensure they “fit” their vehicle properly for maximum comfort and safety.

The program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers and increase their mobility in the community.

Older drivers are more likely to wear seat belts and less likely to speed or drunk drive. They are also more likely to be killed or seriously injured when a crash occurs because of the greater fragility of their aging bodies.

A CarFit check takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Here is a list of upcoming Michigan CarFit events:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON	RESERVATION PHONE
April 27	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Livonia	Maurice Cox	734-655-1310
May 9	11:30 a.m.-1:30p.m.	Owosso	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
May 11	11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Eaton Rapids	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
May 18	9:40-11 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m.	Scottville	Holly Alway	231-672-4910
May 23	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Muskegon	Holly Alway	231-672-4910
June 14	1-4 p.m.	Lansing	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
July 13	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Lansing	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
July 24	1-4 p.m.	Okemos	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743

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GTSAC recognizes achievements in traffic safety

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored 10 individuals and organizations at the group's annual awards presentation in March at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

The event was part of the 22nd Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Three Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Awards were presented to individuals that made significant long-term contributions to the field of traffic safety. Six awards were given for Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement. The GTSAC also presented a new award honoring a student involved in traffic safety.

2016 RICHARD H. AUSTIN LONG-TERM SERVICE AWARDS



Mary Groom, a retired bus driver for the Ionia Public Schools, was honored for helping to develop and sustain a school assembly on school bus safety. The bus safety initiative began in 2004. The goal is to increase safety awareness for children, specifically those just starting school, while providing a refresher for returning students. The assembly focuses on bus danger zones, correct riding protocol, and emergency evacuation.



Terry Jungel, who recently retired as CEO and executive director of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA), was honored for his efforts to increase safety among teen drivers. Sheriffs Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers (STOPPED) is a parental notification system developed by the MSA to reduce the number of young drivers injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes. Parents voluntarily register with the MSA any vehicle that will be operated by a driver under age 21. If the registered vehicle is stopped by sheriff's deputies while a young driver is at the wheel, a notification is sent directly to the parents. More than 30,000 young drivers participate in STOPPED. Jungel implemented this program throughout the state.



Robert Smith of Franklin was honored for his dedication to the AARP Driver Safety Program. During the last two decades Smith has taught 235 driver safety courses with more than 3,670 participants. The volunteer, who recently turned 92, continues to teach an eight-hour refresher course. The program uses safe driving strategies that inform participants about the most common problems associated with aging

and operating a vehicle, as well as offering solutions which may help them drive safer longer. Smith received the AARP State Shining Star Award in 2002 and 2014. He also has been recognized as the AARP State Driver Safety Volunteer of the Year.

STUDENT AWARD



Bailee McAfee, a 2016 graduate of Croswell-Lexington High School, received the first student recognition given by the GTSAC. The 18-year-old, now a freshman at Michigan State University, was chosen for her efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. McAfee worked with the Croswell Police Department, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and high school officials to develop her campaign against distracted driving. She presented a program at a school rally and distributed contracts so students could pledge not to text and drive. McAfee also organized a dodge ball game to illustrate how distractions can affect performance. The distracted driving program also helped McAfee earn the Girl Scouts Gold Award, the highest achievement the organization offers in the United States.



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OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The **Grand Blanc Township Police Department** was honored for *Operation Safe Arrival*, now in its 13th year. The department partners with the Grand Blanc School District and the Grand Blanc City Police Department to remind the public that school is starting and drivers need to pay attention and slow down in school zones and near bus stops. Law enforcement officials work closely with local media to share safety messages with area residents. The program focuses on drivers speeding in school zones and vehicles failing to stop for buses with flashing lights. Marked patrol cars, with their emergency lights activated, sit in school zones during the first week of classes. As part of the initiative, officers patrol problem bus stops looking for violations.



The **Ionia County Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** was honored for *Strive 2 Arrive Alive (S2AA)*, its teen driver safety initiative. YAC students plan, organize, and implement the annual S2AA Teen Driver Safety Conference for high schoolers from across the state. The sixth annual conference drew nearly 600 students from 13 school districts. The 2016 event included

six breakout sessions where students could hear speakers share their impactful stories about distracted driving. Participants also had the opportunity to try out a distracted driver simulator, meet first responders, and drive a golf cart while wearing impairment goggles.



Angie Kremer was honored for her expertise in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) at the Michigan Department of Transportation. TIM is the planned and coordinated multidisciplinary process to detect, respond, and clear traffic incidents as quickly as possible while protecting the safety of responders and the traveling public. Thanks to Kremer's leadership as co-chair of the Michigan TIM Action Team, 4,500 responders have been trained. Her efforts have substantially improved the way Michigan's first responders are clearing incidents, reducing the number of secondary crashes on the system, and returning workers and the public home safely.



Tpr. **Jack Neveau** of the MSP Tri-City Post was honored for his efforts to reduce traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths in Bay, Midland, and Saginaw counties. After reviewing the traffic crash data for I-75 and US-10 in three counties, he began

aggressive patrols along these roadways. From January 2014 through September 2016, Trooper Neveau conducted 5,936 traffic stops, issuing 4,870 traffic citations, and 3,232 verbal warnings. The trooper's high-visibility enforcement helped reduce traffic crashes on these roadways. The traffic crash yearly average for these roads from 2010-2014 was 1,323 crashes. Trooper Neveau's strategy helped to decrease the crashes reported in 2015 to 1,190.



The **Paw Paw Public Schools chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** was honored for efforts to reduce distracted driving and impaired driving. The SADD chapter shared its safety messages with more than 500 area students during the last two years. Students took an online quiz and pledged not to text and drive. The school also used websites to educate students about the dangers of distracted driving. The chapter also sponsored events to raise traffic safety awareness. Students had access to a driving simulator and drunk goggles at the school so they could experience the difficulty of driving while impaired.



Tpr. **Gregory Primeau** of the MSP Iron Mountain Post was honored for his efforts
GTSAC Awards *Continued on page 9 >*



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Norma Sower named Michigan Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year



Norma Sower of Gowen has been selected as the 2016 Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) of the Year by the OHSP. The annual recognition program, now in its third year, honors those who serve as an example to other technicians

by educating families about the proper installation and use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

Sower works with the car seat program at Spectrum Health United Lifestyles in Greenville as well as the local hospital, Spectrum Health United Memorial.

Described as “professional, knowledgeable, caring, and passionate,” Sower is respected throughout Montcalm County for her expertise and willingness to help new mothers.

“Norma is the go-to person when one needs advice or help with a car seat installation,” said Kristine Sheffer, a social worker at Spectrum Health United Lifestyles, in a letter of support.

Sower is grateful to be part of a generous community that nurtures strong partnerships to help families without car seats.

“Having the opportunity not only to educate but equip and form continuing relationships with parents as their children grow is what keeps me involved,” said Sower. “When you make a difference it is such a great feeling.”

The OHSP is also recognizing three other CPSTs. They are:

Tpr. **Joshua Burell**, MSP Iron Mountain Post

Maria Santoro, MomShare, a nonprofit organization in Ionia County

Shirley Terpstra, Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids

All four CPSTs were honored at a March 20 ceremony in East Lansing.

Michigan has a network of more than 1,000 CPSTs. Each must complete a three- to four-day course which includes hands-on activities, skill assessments with car seats and vehicles, classroom instruction, and tools for teaching parents and caregivers how to properly protect their family on the road.

For more information about becoming a CPST, visit cert.safekids.org/certification-course.

Shinevar joins OHSP staff



Emily Shinevar recently joined the OHSP staff as the vulnerable roadway users program coordinator. She will be responsible for

implementing the pedestrian and bicycle safety and the motorcycle safety sections of the Highway Safety Plan and overseeing grant development and program coordination with state and local vulnerable roadway user partners.

Before coming to the OHSP, Emily worked at the MDOS as an analyst for the driver education section and the Michigan Rider Education Program. Emily earned a bachelor’s degree in art history from Michigan State University and is currently working toward a master’s degree in management at Davenport University.

GTSAC Awards *Continued from page 8 >* as a DRE to reduce traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths. He became a Standardized Field Sobriety Test instructor in 2010 and a DRE in 2011. The trooper’s training and experiences have been instrumental in his ability to take suspected impaired drivers consistently and successfully through the judicial process. Since transferring to the Iron Mountain Post in 2011, Trooper Primeau has arrested 151 motorists who were driving under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. Of those arrests, 57 were specifically drug related. He gives numerous drug-related presentations and is sought after as a speaker throughout the region.

What’s Ahead

MAY 2017

- 9 **Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Vehicle City Harley-Davidson, 2400 Austins Parkway, Flint, 8:30 a.m.
- 9 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

- 17 **Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 24 **Drivers Age 24 and Younger Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.

JUNE 2017

- 7 **Traffic Incident Management Action Team meeting.** Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 W. O Avenue, Kalamazoo, 9:30 a.m.

SAFETY Network

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Safety Network is published by the
Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
Editor: Kendall Wingrove
Designer: Jon Benallack
Office of Highway Safety Planning
P.O. Box 30634
Lansing, MI 48909
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