



# SAFETY Network

May 2019

Michigan.gov/ohsp

## Michigan traffic fatalities drop below 1,000 in 2018

Michigan traffic deaths dipped below 1,000 in 2018 for the first time since 2015, according to recently released data from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC). The 974 fatalities in 2018 marked a 5 percent drop from 1,028 fatalities in 2017.

Injuries, crashes and serious injuries all declined:

- Injuries: 78,394 in 2017 to 75,838 in 2018, down 3 percent.

- Crashes: 314,921 in 2017 to 312,798 in 2018, down 1 percent.
- Suspected serious injuries: 6,084 in 2017 to 5,586 in 2018, down 8 percent.

The percentage of alcohol-involved fatalities also decreased by 12 percent from 359 deaths in 2017 to 315 in 2018.

“While the news is slightly better than in recent years, there is still a long way to go,” said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “Our goal is to build on

this foundation and continue reducing fatalities and injuries. The OHSP and its partners will pursue effective countermeasures, such as education and enforcement, in our ongoing effort to prevent tragedies.”

In other areas:

- Commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities increased from 95 in 2017 to 112 in 2018, up 18 percent.
- Bicyclist fatalities remained at 21 in 2018, the same as 2017.

**Fatalities** *Continued on page 7 >*



Steve Kiefer speaks at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit.

## More than 500 attend Michigan Traffic Safety Summit

Traffic safety professionals from around the country converged on the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 29 workshops including: Crash Reconstruction with Drones; New Trends in Substance Abuse—What You Need to Know; Operation Text Free

Driving; Marijuana Impairment and Driving Challenges for Education and Enforcement; Roadside Oral Testing Update; and Enforcing the 3-Foot Law. There were also four general sessions with presentations by Lynn Riemer, Jim Camp, Steve Kiefer, and Jack Enter. The two-day event began with short presentations from the new director of the Michigan State

Police (MSP), Colonel Joseph Gasper; the new director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Paul Ajegba; and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 5 Regional Administrator Jonlee Anderle. More than 500 people attended the summit.



# SAFETY Network

## GTSAC recognizes achievements in traffic safety

The Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored nine 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 24th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Three Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Awards were presented to individuals who made significant long-term contributions in the field of traffic safety. Five awards were given for Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement. The GTSAC also presented an award honoring a student involved in traffic safety. The Austin Awards were presented by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. OHSP Director Michael L. Prince made the other presentations.

### 2018 RICHARD H. AUSTIN LONG-TERM SERVICE AWARDS



**Sgt. Perry Curtis (Ret.)** was honored for 31 years with the MSP working in traffic safety. Curtis was routinely among the leaders in Operating While Impaired arrests and starting in 2000, he served as the head of the Alcohol Enforcement Unit. Curtis was a standardized field sobriety test instructor for 24 years, one of the state’s first drug recognition experts (DRE), a DRE instructor, and an advanced roadside impairment instructor. During his tenure, Curtis provided the tools and training to nearly every police officer in Michigan for OWI enforcement. While with the Alcohol Enforcement Unit, he was in charge of the drunk driving equipment and prevention fund and the statewide breath test program.



**Ty and Johanna Schmidt**, founders of Norte in 2006, were honored for developing numerous youth biking programs including: biking to and from school, summer bike camp, a Grand Traverse region youth mountain bike team and Move Mas. Norte’s programs are designed to help kids embrace active transportation and lead healthy lifestyles. In 2019, Norte is planning five miles of walk/bike improvements around the 10 Traverse City-area schools with a \$2 million Safe Routes to School grant. The Schmidts see their bicycles as powerful tools in promoting independence, freedom, confidence and stronger, better-connected communities. They started Norte to develop happy and healthy kids and hope to see other communities follow their path. Ben Boyce accepted the award on behalf of the Schmidts.



**Dr. Sandra Simmons** was honored for teaching driver safety classes as a volunteer with AARP. She is a trained CarFit technician, working with seniors and their vehicles, taking measurements to help modify equipment to optimize the effectiveness of safety measures. Additionally, Dr. Simmons offers a free workshop, “We Need to Talk,” where drivers and their support circle can discuss how driving provides independence and how best

to develop alternative transportation when driving is no longer an option. She is also a contributor to the GTSAC Senior Mobility and Safe Drivers Smart Options work groups. Dr. Simmons has improved the level of service to the senior community in Michigan.

### OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



**Tpr. Mark Burch** was honored for his efforts to reduce traffic crashes caused by impaired and distracted driving among high school students. Starting in 2016, Burch brought a Safety Belt Convincer to schools so students could experience firsthand how seat belts work. Then, in 2018, he developed the Fatal Vision Traffic Safety program. The program uses roadster pedal carts and impairment goggles to simulate driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Burch worked with the MDOT and local businesses to secure donations to purchase the carts and accessories. Burch is dedicated to traffic safety. His programs educate not only drivers, but also passengers. Everyone exposed to this program has a better understanding of why seat belts are important to wear and how impaired driving affects the driver, passengers, and other vehicles on the road. Burch has received high praise from local principals, teachers, and students.

**GTSAC** Continued on page 3 >



# SAFETY Network

**GTSAC** Continued from page 2 >



**MSP Commercial Vehicle Information Exchange Window (CVIEW)** was honored for increasing the identification of out-of-service (OOS) commercial vehicles and drivers. CVIEW allows officers to search multiple databases at once, in order to identify commercial vehicles and/or drivers that have an OOS order. OOS orders are issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and identify critical violations. Before CVIEW began, MSP/CVED had an OOS identification percentage of 50 percent. Since implementing the system, that percentage has climbed to 92.3 percent, one of the highest in the country. CVIEW gives motor carrier officers the tool they need to make their job more effective and efficient. It also has increased the safety of those traveling Michigan's highways. MSP Lt. John Holder accepted the award.



**The Gateway Treatment** was honored for providing an innovative, low-cost approach to increasing driver yield compliance to pedestrians. Pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries are increasing in Michigan and pedestrian risk analysis studies show that failing to yield, both by motorists and pedestrians, is the most likely risky behavior and cause. By placing "Yield to Pedestrian" signs on edge lines, lane lines and centerlines, the MDOT was able to increase driver yield compliance from 0-20 percent to 60-100 percent.

Studies showed that even when pedestrians were not present, drivers slowed as they crossed gateway treatments. This low-cost, easily-configurable, and flexible project was selected by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials as one of its highest value research projects in the nation for 2018. MDOT's Carissa McQuiston accepted the award.



**The City of Big Rapids** was honored for implementing a school traffic safety program. After studying traffic patterns during peak drop-off and pick-up times at two elementary schools, Brookside and Riverview, numerous traffic safety enhancements were made to help keep students, pedestrians, and drivers safe. For example, a road in front of one of the schools was converted to a one-way. Staff now wear reflective vests and shrubbery that was blocking sight lines was removed. Pedestrian crossing zones were re-painted and new signage was installed. The changes were implemented at the start of the 2018-19 school year and there have been no pedestrian-vehicle incidents reported in the drop-off and pick-up zones. Prior to the current school year, there were 12 crashes in the designated zones, with six happening during drop-off or pick-up hours.



**Operation Golden Eagle** was honored for helping pre- and post-concert traffic enter

and exit safely. Jeremy Farmer, a Ferris State University student and MSP intern, developed Operation Golden Eagle to help improve traffic flow and reduce distracted and impaired driving crashes before and after concerts at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Farmer worked at the casino and resort and observed increases in traffic around summer events. During the summer of 2018, the casino and resort hosted 10 concerts. The area sees a huge increase in traffic in the hours leading up to and following the events. With extra patrols by officers from the MSP Mt. Pleasant and Lakeview posts, Operation Golden Eagle helped reduce the number of crashes and distracted driving occurrences that normally happened during these events.

## STUDENT AWARD



**Brooke Hinz**, a junior at Mattawan High School received the GTSAC Student Award. In 2018, Brooke participated in the *Strive for a Safer Drive* initiative. She helped lead a school campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. Through guest speakers, posters, and driving simulators, the "Every Distraction Limits Reaction" campaign reached more than 1,200 students at Mattawan High School. A survey done before and after the campaign showed students and faculty had an increased awareness about the consequences of driving distracted. Brooke was nominated for the award by MSP F/Lt. Angel Ouwinga.

# SAFETY Network

## Distracted driving fatal crashes in Michigan increase

Michigan saw a seven percent increase in distracted driving fatal crashes from 2017 to 2018, according to the MSP CJIC. That's why law enforcement agencies around the state participated in a nationwide distracted driving mobilization period from April 11-15, in the middle of Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"When you are behind the wheel, keep your phone out of reach," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "Studies show that texting while driving takes your attention off the road more than any other activity."

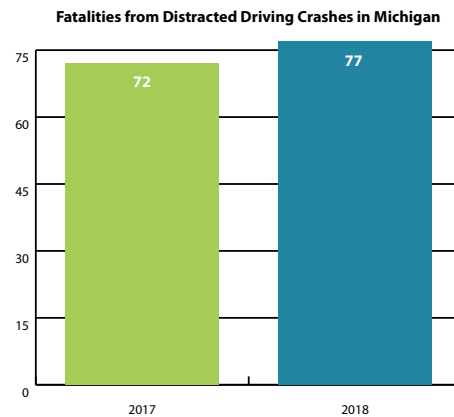
According to the MSP CJIC, there were 77 fatal crashes in Michigan during 2018 involving distracted driving. In 2017, there were 72.

"This is a noteworthy increase in fatal crashes and about seven percent more fatalities. We have to do everything possible to get those numbers trending in the opposite direction," said Prince.

To help encourage drivers to remain attentive to the task of driving, the OHSP

has distributed materials to every law enforcement agency across the state. On April 11, to kick off the five day mobilization period, agencies across the state patrolled looking for distracted drivers.

Michigan law prohibits a driver from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message while driving. Driving is defined as: operating a moving motor vehicle on a street or highway. Exceptions are in place for reporting crashes, crimes or other emergencies.



## What's Ahead

### MAY 2019

- 8 Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Action Team meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 9 Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.
- 14 Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

### JUNE 2019

- 13 Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

### JULY 2019

- 10 Impaired Driving Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, 10 a.m.
- 16 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 16 Distracted Driving Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, 1 p.m.
- 16 Traffic Records and Information Systems Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.



OHSP Director Michael L. Prince congratulates Summit Chair Jon Ross at the conclusion of the 24th annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit

## Kelsey's Law Scholarship

This month is also an opportune time for Michigan high school juniors and seniors to start thinking about submitting their applications for the "2019 Kelsey's Law Scholarship" to stop distracted driving contest. Not only will students have the chance to persuade their peers to refrain from distracted driving, but they may win a scholarship to help pay their college tuition. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2019. For more, go to [www.michiganauto-law.com/scholarships/kelseys-law/](http://www.michiganauto-law.com/scholarships/kelseys-law/).

**Toward Zero Deaths**  
 April 30, 2019  
**246**  
 Traffic Deaths in Michigan this Year

# SAFETY Network

## Distracted Driving: Dangerous and Deadly

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker

April was National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Distracted driving continues to make headlines around our state.

In July 2017, former Michigan State University basketball strength coach Todd Moyer's pickup truck rear ended a car, killing Gladys Johnson and her 5-year-old daughter Za'Kira. Moyer sent numerous text messages shortly before the crash as he traveled southbound on US-23 in Monroe County. He failed to notice he was entering a construction zone despite large orange warning signs. A jury convicted Moyer of two counts of reckless driving causing death, and he was sentenced to 7 to 15 years in prison.

In September 2016, 18-year-old Mitchel Kiefer was driving westbound on Interstate 96 in Ingham County when he was rear ended after his car slowed with the traffic flow. The 21-year-old woman in the vehicle behind him never slowed down and collided into Kiefer's car at 82 mph. Her car pushed Kiefer's car across a 52-foot-wide median into eastbound traffic where he was hit broadside by a tractor trailer truck and killed.<sup>1</sup>

Distracted is more than just texting. It's any activity that takes your attention away from driving and puts you at a greater risk of being involved in a crash. There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual—taking your eyes off the road.
- Manual—taking your hands off the road.
- Cognitive—taking your mind off of driving.

1 Jamie L. LaReau, "GM exec's heart-breaking mission after son killed by distracted driver," Detroit Free Press, August 4, 2018, <https://www.freep.com/story/money/cars/general-motors/2018/08/04/ending-distracted-driving/850284002/>

Distracting activities include using a cellphone, eating, drinking, grooming, reading, and talking to passengers. While all these activities can endanger a driver and others sharing the same road, texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines all three types of distractions. Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. That's enough time to cover the length of a football field when traveling at 55 mph.

Distracted driving is deadly. In 2017, 3,166 people were killed in distraction-affected crashes around the country. That number was 8.5 percent of total fatalities for 2017. In 2017, 271 drivers under the age of 20 who were involved in fatal crashes were distracted.<sup>2</sup>

Michigan enacted a texting ban for drivers in 2010. The law prohibits a driver from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message on a wireless two-way communication device located in the person's hand or lap. Michigan's texting ban law is a civil infraction, which carries fines of \$100 for a first offense and \$200 for subsequent offenses. The law is one of primary enforcement, meaning an officer may cite a driver for text messaging without any other traffic offense taking place.<sup>3</sup>

Around the country, 47 states and the District of Columbia have similar text messaging bans for drivers. Talking on a handheld cellphone while driving is banned in 15 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>4</sup> Michigan does not ban talking

2 Department of Transportation, NHTSA, Teens and Driving – 2017, DOT HS 812 667, February 2019.

3 Michigan Compiled Law 257.602b

4 National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2019, January). Driver electronic device use in 2017 (Traffic Safety Facts Research Note. Report No. DOT HS 812 665). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety

on a handheld cellphone while driving except for drivers issued a level 1 or 2 graduated license, commercial motor vehicle drivers, and school bus drivers.<sup>5</sup>

*Please consult with your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. Discuss practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.*

*For more information on these cases, statutes and PAAM training programs, contact your Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, Kenneth Stecker and Kinga Canike, at 517-334-6060 or email at [steckerk@michigan.gov](mailto:steckerk@michigan.gov) and [canikek@michigan.gov](mailto:canikek@michigan.gov). Please consult your local prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. The court decisions in this article are reported to help you keep up with trends in the law. Discuss your practices that relate to these statutes and cases with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practices in reliance on a reported court decision or legislative changes.*

Administration.

5 Michigan Compiled Laws 257.602b and 257.602c





# SAFETY Network

## Cellphone use by drivers continues to increase

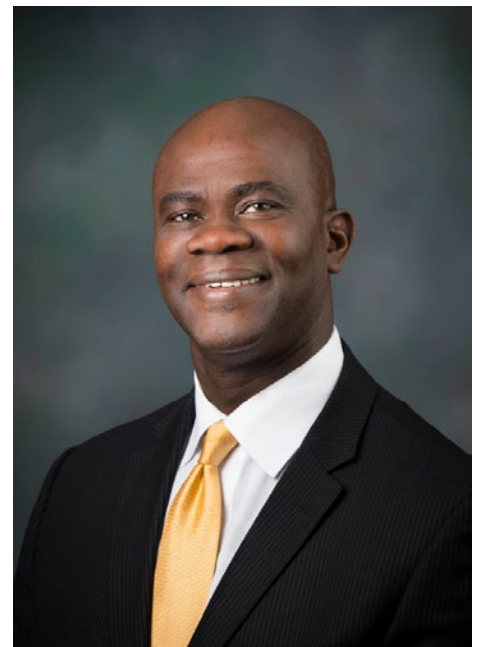
A new study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) shows drivers are 57 percent more likely to be manipulating a cell phone than drivers in a 2014 study. Manipulating a call phone was a contributing factor in more than 800 crash deaths in the U.S. in 2017.

The IIHS conducted a roadside survey in Virginia in both 2018 and 2014. The percentage of drivers observed manipulating a cell phone rose from 2.3 percent in 2014 to 3.4 percent in 2018. The survey

also found that drivers were less likely to be seen talking on a phone than in the previous survey. According to the IIHS, this finding is consistent with research indicating drivers are talking on hand-held phones less and typing/manipulating them more often than in recent years.

A 2018 national survey by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found 64 percent of respondents consider distracted driving a much bigger problem today than it was three years ago.

## Lifetime achievement award goes to MDOT Director



MDOT Director Paul Ajegba was honored by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) with the Transportation and Infrastructure Special Interest Group Lifetime Achievement Award. It was the first time the NSBE has presented this award which celebrates industry trailblazers who exemplify outstanding contributions in the field of transportation. Ajegba received with the award on March 28 at the NSBE's 45<sup>th</sup> annual convention, held in Detroit.

"I am truly humbled to be the very first person to receive this high honor by an exceptional organization," Ajegba said. "Together with my colleagues in the industry, I hope we can inspire the next generation of students to become future engineers."

Ajegba has been with the MDOT for 28 years and began as director on Jan. 1, 2019.

### STAFF PROFILE

## Emily Shinevar

### Vulnerable Roadway Users Program Manager



Emily has been with the OHSP for two years and has been with the state for almost nine years. Emily and her husband Wes have two whippets named Zoey and Stella.

#### What do you like most about your job?

*Working with colleagues and partners to find creative solutions.*

#### What are you most proud of at work?

*Collaborations—any successful project I've been a part of at work is because of a diverse team of great people.*

#### What are your interests or hobbies?

*Traveling, especially to visit lighthouses. I'm getting close to my goal of seeing every Michigan lighthouse—currently at 91.*

#### What personal achievement are you most proud of?

*I recently completed my studies and received a master's degree in management from Davenport University.*

#### What is your favorite vacation spot?

*I love exploring cities, states and countries that I haven't been to yet. But my go-to vacation spot is Gaylord, Michigan at any time of year!*

#### What's something people don't know about you?

*I've been snowmobiling since I took the DNR's snowmobile safety course and got my safety certificate at age 12.*



# SAFETY Network

## Julie Bogart named Michigan Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year



Julie Bogart, a child passenger safety technician (CPST) from west Michigan, has been selected as the 2018 CPST of the Year by the OHSP. The annual recognition program honors those who serve as an example to other technicians by educating families about the proper installation

and use of car seats, booster seats and seat belts.

Since becoming a technician in June 2018, Bogart has assisted at more than 30 car seat events. Prior to her role as a CPST, she was an assistant at car seat checks and fitting stations for more than six years.

Michigan has a network of more than 1,000 CPSTs in 98 percent of the counties in Michigan. Each must complete a four-day certification 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 <https://cert.safekids.org/become-tech/certification-course>. To learn more about car seats in Michigan, including a link to car seat events statewide and links on the proper fit for car seats and booster seats visit <https://www.michigan.gov/carseats>.

## CARFiT

Helping Mature Drivers Find Their Safest Fit



## CarFit event coordinator training scheduled

Older drivers are more likely to be killed or seriously injured when a crash occurs due to the greater fragility of their aging bodies. They can however, improve their safety by ensuring their cars are properly adjusted for them.

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them to enhance their safety as drivers and increase their mobility in the community.

A special CarFit event coordinator training has been set-up. By becoming a CarFit event coordinator you will be able to hold CarFit events in your community.

**May 13 and 14**, at the Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Boulevard, East Lansing.

**May 13, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** (lunch provided)

**May 14, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn Okemos. Call 517-347-6690 by May 3<sup>rd</sup> and use the code CARFIT/AARP.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact Karen Kafantaris at [kka-fantaris@aarp.org](mailto:kka-fantaris@aarp.org) or 517-267-8916.

Michigan Traffic Crashes	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Crashes	312,798	314,921	312,172	297,023	298,699
Injuries	75,838	78,394	79,724	74,157	71,378
Fatalities	974	1,028	1,064	963	876

**Fatalities** *Continued from page 1 >*

- Teen fatalities decreased from 64 in 2017 to 63 in 2018, down 2 percent.
- Motorcyclist fatalities decreased from 137 in 2017 to 134 in 2018, down 2 percent.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 158 in 2017 to 145 in 2018, down 8 percent.

- Deer-involved fatalities decreased from 17 in 2017 to 14 in 2018, down 18 percent.

**Note:** *More detailed 2018 crash information will be posted to [Michigantrafficcrashfacts.org](http://Michigantrafficcrashfacts.org) in the coming months. Statewide crash information can be found at [Michigan.gov/crash](http://Michigan.gov/crash).*



# SAFETY Network

## OHSP Welcomes Ronald Puruleski

Ronald Puruleski is the new Grant Monitoring & Compliance Auditor with the OHSP financial management team. Prior to joining OHSP, Ron served as a financial auditor for the Victims of Crime Act at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Audit.

Ron holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Grand Valley State University and plans on going back to school to earn his master's degree in the science of accounting at the University of Michigan. He is currently studying for the Certified Fraud Examiners certification and plans on taking those exams this spring or summer. Ron lives in Holt with his wife and two dogs, Remmy and Jordan.



## Below 100 trainings held in northern Michigan

Every year, law enforcement officers tragically lose their lives in the line of duty. Below 100 was created to eliminate preventable on-the-job deaths and injuries, with the goal to reduce them to under 100 deaths per year, a number not seen in the United States since 1943.

Sixty-five law enforcement officers from northern Michigan attended two Below 100 training programs offered recently in Mackinaw City and Houghton, MI.

Below 100 focuses on five key tenets by which an officers' is safety can be enhanced. These include:

- Wear Your Belt
- Wear Your Vest
- Watch Your Speed
- WIN- What's Important Now?
- Remember: Complacency Kills!

Capt. John Halpin, commander of MSP Eighth District, has been an instructor

with the program for four years. "The main goal of this program is to help get law enforcement officers back home safely at the end of their shift. Too many lives are senselessly lost on traffic stops or while policing crashes, and we need to do everything we possibly can to prevent them," said Halpin.

There have been 595 line-of-duty deaths in Michigan, with 174 deaths involving incidents with motor vehicles.

Captain Halpin reflected, "It's so easy to get complacent, and not take the time to put on a seat belt or wear a reflective vest. If Below 100 saves even one family from the pain of losing their loved one, it is well worth it."







# SAFETY Network

## Safety Center offers tips for rural road safety

Michigan has a population of more than 10 million people, with 82% of residents living in a metro area. Yet, the Great Lakes State is also the eleventh largest in the USA by land area. While only 18 percent of residents reside in rural Michigan counties, 39 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths in the state were on rural roadways in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

The National Center for Rural Road Safety (Safety Center) is a Center for Excellence funded by the Federal Highway Administration. It was created to research and identify best practices for safety countermeasures and improvements on rural roadways. Their website can be found at: [www.ruralsafetycenter.org](http://www.ruralsafetycenter.org)

With a comprehensive and holistic approach to reducing injuries and deaths on rural roads, the Safety Center involves the 4E's:

- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Education
- Emergency Medical Services

The center considers not only the behavior of a motor vehicle operator before, during and after a crash, but also considers the roadway, the vehicle being driven and the culture of safety in an organization or community. Coordinating resources across multiple disciplines is believed to be the most successful strategy for effecting changes and saving lives.

### TRUSTED SAFETY SIDEKICK

The Safety Center calls itself “your trusted safety sidekick” with the goal of being a central location for all rural safety questions. A resource library is available with

more than 270 traffic safety articles, videos, research reports and fact sheets.

Multi-disciplinary training programs for local, state and tribal road owners are offered monthly, with past webinars archived and accessible to the public.

Technical assistance is available with a focus on integrated and systemic approaches. Resources are customized to be rural-focused, easy-to-access and cost-effective.

Do you want to know more about resources for rural road safety? Sign up to receive notice of training programs, conferences, research and noteworthy practices at <http://ruralsafetycenter.org/about-our-center/contact-us/>

<https://www.ihs.org/ihs/topics/t/general-statistics/fatalityfacts/state-by-state-overview>

## Railroad crossing safety tips:

April 16 – May 12 is the 2019 National Rail Grade Crossing Safely campaign. From 2013-2017, there were 682 fatalities involving a motor vehicle at a public rail grade crossing in the U.S.

## Seat Belt Convincer visits Grand Ledge High School

The Grand Ledge High School Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) program demonstrated the importance of wearing a seat belt by having students use The Convincer. The Convincer simulates a head-on crash at 5 m.p.h. For more on S4SD, please visit [Michigan.gov/s4sd](http://Michigan.gov/s4sd).



AS A MOTORIST	AS A PEDESTRIAN	AT A PASSIVE CROSSING (without active warning devices)
Be prepared to stop at the crossing	Stay alert—it is easy to get distracted, especially by phones, music, and conversation	Be extra cautious as passive crossings do not have flashing lights and gates
Slow down, look both ways, and listen	Stop, look both ways, and listen	Be prepared to stop at the crossing
Understand the signs and warning devices	Follow all signs and instructions	Slow down, look both ways, and listen
Check that you have enough room on the other side of the tracks for your vehicle to cross safely	Cross tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings	Understand the signs
Never race a train	Cross quickly, never stop on the tracks	Never race a train
Never stop on tracks	Cross at a 90° angle if crossing with a bike, stroller, or wheelchair, as your wheels can become stuck	Never stop on tracks

# SAFETY Network



## OHSP Staff:

Contact	Program Area	Phone	E-mail
Michael L. Prince	Director	517-284-3066	princem@michigan.gov
Kara Rueckert	Executive Assistant	517-284-3066	rueckertk1@michigan.gov
Mallory Fox	Administrative Assistant	517-284-3091	foxm12@michigan.gov
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Anne Readett	Section Chief	517-284-3120	readetta@michigan.gov
Susan Bishop	Grants Technician	517-284-3059	bishops2@michigan.gov
Charlotte Kilvington	Analysis & Evaluation	517-284-3068	kilvingtonc@michigan.gov
Jessica Riley	Traffic Records	517-284-3112	rileyj9@michigan.gov
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Kendall Wingrove	Section Chief	517-284-3147	wingrovek@michigan.gov
Kari Arend	Communications Strategist	517-284-3045	arendk@michigan.gov
Jonathan Benallack	Graphic Design	517-284-3048	benallackj1@michigan.gov
Jon Ross	Senior Editor	517-284-3141	rossj7@michigan.gov
<b>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>			
Spencer Simmons	Section Chief	517-284-3136	simmonss6@michigan.gov
Ron Puruleski	Grant Monitoring & Compliance Auditor	517-284-3060	puruleskir@michigan.gov
Julie Roth	Secondary Road Patrol	517-284-3121	rothj3@michigan.gov
Heidi Ruis	Federal Programs	517-284-3122	ruish@michigan.gov
Jean Shattuck	Accounting Technician	517-284-3123	shattuckj@michigan.gov
<b>PROGRAM MANAGEMENT</b>			
Alicia Sledge	Section Chief	517-284-3140	sledgea@michigan.gov
Jessica Butterfield	Occupant Protection	517-284-3067	Butterfieldj@michigan.gov
Jamie Dolan	Northern Michigan	517-331-6140	dolanj@michigan.gov
Pat Eliason	Police Traffic Services	517-284-3061	eliasonp@michigan.gov
Linda Fech	Teens/Seniors/Distracted Driving	517-284-3063	fechl@michigan.gov
Michael Harris	DUI Enforcement Training	517-420-7889	harrism13@michigan.gov
Christy Sanborn	Impaired Driving	517-284-3135	sanbornc@michigan.gov
Emily Shinevar	Vulnerable Roadway Users	517-284-3071	shinevare@michigan.gov

Safety Network is published by the  
Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning  
Editor: Jon Ross  
Designer: Jon Benallack  
Office of Highway Safety Planning  
P.O. Box 30634  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-284-3332