

# SAFETY Network

June 2018

Michigan.gov/ohsp



Steve and Sallie Whelan's 2014 Chevy Impala after being hit head-on while driving on I-96. The Whelans were both wearing their seat belts and both survived the crash.

## East Lansing couple tells how seat belts saved their lives

Steve and Sallie Whelan are alive because they remembered to buckle up.

The couple shared their story at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing as law enforcement officials launched a *Click It or Ticket* mobilization in Michigan from May 21 through June 3.

October 18, 2015 was a beautiful autumn day. The East Lansing residents were headed to a concert in Grand Rapids to relax at the end of a busy weekend. Steve was driving westbound on I-96 in Clinton County when a motorist going 92 miles per hour in the eastbound lanes suddenly lost control of her vehicle, crossed the median and launched airborne into the Whelan's 2014 Chevy Impala.

Steve, a detective with the East Lansing Police Department, saw the car heading toward him.

"I remember thinking there's no way we are going to survive this," he said.

Upon impact, the dashboard of the Whelan's Impala collapsed onto them. Sallie suffered heart and lung contusions,

broken ribs, broken vertebrae, a fractured wrist, a broken ankle, and detached toes on her left foot.

"Another 18 inches closer and I would have been crushed to death," Sallie said.

Both of Steve's feet were broken in the crash. One foot was wedged under the brake pedal with his heel detached and shattered in 15 pieces. His glasses were destroyed when the air bags activated. Steve and Sallie suffered traumatic brain injuries but had periods of consciousness after the crash.

Because her lungs had been damaged, Sallie found it difficult to talk as Steve repeatedly asked her questions. Mustering all her strength she whispered, "Steve, it hurts" to her worried husband.

"That was the best thing I could ever hear," he said. "She was still alive and knew who I was."

Law enforcement officials and emergency responders quickly arrived at the scene near the Wright Road exit and used

**Saved by the Belt** Continued on page 4 >

## Community scan training teaches officers to identify current alcohol and drug trends



Officer Jermaine Galloway

Regular and consistent education on current drug and alcohol trends is essential to effectively address underage drinking and impaired driving.

One of the ways that the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has achieved this is by bringing in Officer Jermaine Galloway's *High in Plain Sight* training for law enforcement, probation officers, substance use

**Alcohol/Drug Trends** Continued on page 5 >

## Michigan traffic fatalities decreased 3 percent in 2017

Although Michigan traffic deaths remained above 1,000 for the second consecutive year, there was a 3 percent decrease in fatalities during 2017, according to the Michigan State Police (MSP) Criminal Justice Information Center. The 1,028 fatalities in 2017 marked a small decline from 1,064 fatalities in 2016.

Injuries also decreased slightly but crashes and serious injuries were up:

**Fatalities Decreased** Continued on page 3 >

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## Marijuana legalization and traffic safety

By Michael L. Prince, Director, Office of Highway Safety Planning

With marijuana legalization headed to the ballot in November, the OHSP is receiving questions on how our office is preparing for the possibility of a transportation system that includes legalized recreational marijuana. Without question, the legalization of marijuana will make it more prevalent on our roadways. In addition, with the wording of the ballot proposal, the current “zero tolerance” provision for drivers testing positive for THC will be eliminated. As a result, law enforcement officers will be required to demonstrate **impairment**, rather than simply provide evidence of a driver having a positive blood test for THC content.

Impaired driving continues to be the highest urgency for our office for the coming year, and the OHSP has conducted our usual annual planning process with an assumption that legalization will be a reality. In anticipation of this, OHSP will be providing funding support for the following initiatives:

- A \$400,000 grant for the Michigan Department of State Police to fund training for law enforcement officers on the detection of impaired driving, with the primary focus on the 16-hour Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course. The OHSP recommends that law enforcement agencies ensure that every officer with road patrol duties be trained through the ARIDE level in order to have the requisite skills to properly detect drug impairment.
- The OHSP will invest \$300,000 in the refresher training for existing Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) as well as conducting another DRE course for an additional 20 police officers and prosecutors. While training every officer to the DRE-level of training is not practical or cost-effective, it is OHSP's goal to ensure that any police officer will have a trained DRE available anytime

of the day or night to assist them with drivers suspected of being under the influence of drugs including marijuana. This will be particularly critical for cases of traffic crashes involving serious injuries or fatalities.

- The OHSP will be funding \$2.5 million in overtime traffic enforcement initiatives including four, two-week, OWI enforcement crackdowns focused specifically on removing impaired drivers from the roadways. Tentatively, these crackdowns are planned for October, December, July, and August.
- A grant for \$575,000 with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan will fund continuation of the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) Program in FY2019. This grant provides valuable training and technical assistance for prosecutors and law enforcement officers in the prosecution of impaired drivers. Michigan is fortunate to have Ken Stecker and Kinga Gorzelewski Canike as part of our TSRP program.
- The OHSP will be providing more than \$1.5 million in funding support to the State Court Administrative Office for the establishment, expansion, and training of DWI court programs to facilitate intensive supervision and treatment of repeat offenders in Michigan. Michigan continues to be a leading state in the establishment of DWI court programs, including regional DWI courts. The Judicial Outreach Liaison grant, which funds retired District Court Judge Patrick Bowler, will continue to provide guidance and technical assistance to district judges in the establishment of DWI Court programs.
- Based on discussions with states that have already experienced marijuana

legalization, the development of public information and education initiatives are critical to raise the awareness level of the public about the dangers of mixing driving and marijuana use. In recent focus group tests and surveys of Michigan drivers, the majority of those surveyed do not view marijuana as a major risk while driving. The states as well as the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) will be pursuing effective communications strategies to better inform the public and change this perception.

- OHSP will be tasking one of our program staff with being the primary point of contact for our traffic safety partners regarding studies, research and information concerning the impact of marijuana on traffic safety. We will also be creating a section on the OHSP website which will provide links for easy access to the latest information.

We encourage our partners to take time to review the recently published Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) report titled [Drug-Impaired Driving: Marijuana and Opioids Raise Critical Issues for States](#). The June 5 webinar on this report is [now available](#) (note that you will have to “register” to view), and a PDF of the slides is [here](#).



## Strive for a Safer Drive winners announced

West Shore Educational Service District Career and Technical Education Center criminal justice students in Ludington took top honors statewide for the school's *Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD)* distracted driving and seat belt safety campaign. The first place selection recognizes the outstanding efforts of West Shore ESD students in educating their classmates about the dangers of distracted driving with their campaign *Drive Focused or Die Distracted*.

S4SD, presented by Ford Driving Skills for Life and the OHSP, provides funding and resources to help teens talk to other teens about safe driving with the goal of reducing traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

Bedford Senior High School in Temperance finished second. DiAnne Pellerin Center in Clinton Township earned third place. Clarkston High School in Clarkston took fourth place. Dakota High School in Macomb finished in fifth place.

The top schools are selected based on creativity, execution and compliance with the S4SD participation requirements. The top five campaigns will receive a cash prize ranging from \$500-\$1,500.

This school year, a record setting 61 Michigan high schools each received \$1,000 to create a student-led, peer-to-peer traffic safety awareness campaign. Campaign topics included distracted driving, seat belts, underage drinking/impaired driving, speeding and winter driving. The students conducted activities between

December 2017 and March of this year before submitting a final report.

Students from participating schools also attended a free hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors at the Ford Proving Grounds in Romeo on May 7.



West Shore Educational Service District Career and Technical Education Center (Mason County) finished first in this year's *Strive for a Safer Drive* distracted driving and seat belt campaign.

### Fatalities Decreased *Continued from page 1 >*

- Injuries: 79,724 in 2016 to 78,394 in 2017, down 2 percent.
- Crashes: 312,172 in 2016 to 314,921 in 2017, up 1 percent.
- Serious injuries: 5,634 in 2016 to 6,084 in 2017, up 8 percent.

The percentage of alcohol-involved fatalities increased 32 percent from 271 in 2016 to 359 in 2017. This rise reflects, in part, better reporting methods and data collection.

"Attention must be paid when we see nearly half of all traffic crash fatalities involving alcohol or drugs," said Michael L. Prince, director of the OHSP. "This

noteworthy change is causing great concern, and effective safety strategies to address this issue require a comprehensive approach in coordination with our local, county, state, and federal partners. The OHSP will continue to allocate resources in the form of federal funding to improve our capabilities in the detection, apprehension, prosecution, and treatment of impaired drivers.

"Clearly, our most basic safety countermeasures, focused on increasing seat belt use and reducing impaired driving, remain just as important now as they have ever been," he added.

In other areas:

- Bicyclist fatalities decreased from 38 in 2016 to 21 in 2017, down 45 percent.
- Teen fatalities decreased from 94 in 2016 to 64 in 2017, down 32 percent.
- Commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities decreased from 120 in 2016 to 95 in 2017, down 21 percent.
- Motorcyclist fatalities decreased from 141 in 2016 to 137 in 2017, down 3 percent.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 165 in 2016 to 158 in 2017, down 4 percent.
- Deer-involved fatalities increased from 14 in 2016 to 17 in 2017, up 21 percent.

This information is available in the Michigan Traffic Crash Facts query tool, which can be accessed [here](#).

Michigan Traffic Crashes	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Crashes	314,921	312,172	297,023	298,699	289,061
Injuries	78,394	79,724	74,157	71,378	71,031
Fatalities	1,028	1,064	963	876	951

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**Saved by the Belt** *Continued from page 1 >*  
the Jaws of Life to extract the Whelans. The other driver was unbelted and died after being ejected from her car during the crash.

The next several months were a whirlwind of surgeries and rehabilitation for both Whelans at Sparrow Hospital. Their adult children – Tim, Sam, and Grace – all served as caregivers. Even though doctors told Steve it was improbable that he would work again, the detective was back on the force by May 2016.

In the years since the crash, the Whelans have had the opportunity to watch Grace graduate from Saginaw Valley State University. Their oldest son, Tim, started a new job. Their youngest son Sam married his fiancé Brittany and they have a daughter Kate.

If they hadn't worn their seat belts, the Whelans would have missed all these landmark events.

"I can't imagine us staying in the car without the seat belts," said Steve. "We would have gone through the windshield and died."

To recognize the Whelans for their life-saving decision, the OHSP and AAA Michigan presented the couple with the *Saved by the Belt* award.

"Because the Whelans made a wise choice, they are still here to mark important family milestones as well as enjoy the everyday pleasures of life," said Michael L. Prince, director of the OHSP. "So many



*Steve (right) and Sallie (center) Whelan are presented with a Saved by the Belt Award by OHSP Communications Section Chief Kendall Wingrove.*

tragedies could be prevented if everyone just wore their seat belts."

No one agrees more than Detective Whelan, who has handled dozens of fatal crash investigations during his career. He urged everyone to buckle up this summer season and throughout the year.

"We always wear our seat belts. We encourage everyone to do the same," he said. "I'm so grateful that I had my seat belt on the day of the 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.

According to the NHTSA, 10,428 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants were killed in crashes in the United States in 2016—203 in Michigan. The NHTSA estimates that seat belts saved the lives of 14,668 vehicle occupants age 5 and older nationwide in 2016.

## NHTSA names Jonlee Anderle new Region 5 administrator

Jonlee Anderle was selected as the new NHTSA Region 5 Regional Administrator.

Anderle is a retired lieutenant from the Laramie (Wyoming) Police Department (LPD), where he served from 1993 until 2013. After retiring from the LPD, he served as the impaired-driving program manager for the Wyoming Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office until 2017, and has maintained certification as a DRE since 2007 and DRE Instructor since 2009. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a master's in business administration.

Anderle also served on the Ivinson Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, the Wyoming Governor's Council on Impaired Driving, as the chairman of the Wyoming Governor's Leadership Team to Prevent Impaired Driving, and on the Technical Advisory Panel to the IACP Highway Safety Committee as the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Region I Coordinator.

NHTSA Region 5 also has a new Regional Project Manager (RPM). Jeffrey Welter takes over that post from Curtis Murff, who retired after 35 years working of federal service, the last 26 of those with NHTSA. Welter will be RPM for both Michigan and Ohio.



*OHSP Director Michael L. Prince recently presented Alyson Kechkaylo with a pin commemorating 10 years of service with the state. Alyson started in 2008 in the communications section with OHSP before becoming a department analyst coordinating the occupant protection program.*



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**Alcohol/Drug Trends** *Continued from page 1* > preventionists, and others over the past several years.

Officer Galloway has been involved in law enforcement in Idaho since 1997. He's worked on a DUI task force, crime scene investigations, alcohol compliance and enforcement, and been a field training officer. He's trained more than 105,000 people and conducted more than 1,000 community scans.

This May, the OHSP took Officer Galloway's training to a new level with a first-ever "Community Scan" training, which provided a comprehensive overview on how to conduct community scans to find alcohol and drug paraphernalia, indicators, and concealment methods. A diverse group of nearly 30 students included DRE officers, OHSP underage drinking enforcement grantees, preventionists, narcotic intelligence analysts, drug task force officers, school resource officers, and a K-9 handler, conducted the scans in the metro Detroit area.

The community scans covered alcohol and drug clothing, alcoholic energy drinks, alcopops, alcohol and drug concealment methods and containers, drug paraphernalia, drug related music and groups, logos, stickers, clothing, new technology, youth party tendencies, party games, non-traditional alcoholic beverages, synthetic drugs, over-the-counter drugs, inhalants, concentrates, vaping, and popular party drugs. Training also covered common stash compartments that can be used to hide alcohol, drugs, and weapons inside everyday clothing containers and other items.

Feedback for the training was overwhelmingly positive, with plans to conduct another training in 2019.

## Uber and GHSA team up to promote belt use



In advance of the busy summer travel season, Uber and the GHSA announced a national partnership called *Make it Click: Every seat. Every ride* to bring education and awareness regarding the dangers of riding unbuckled to millions of Uber riders and drivers.

According to the latest data from the NHTSA, more than 900 unrestrained rear seat occupants age eight and older died in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. More than 450 of them would have likely survived if they had buckled up.

"We're thrilled to partner with Uber on this effort," said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. "Increasing belt use – particularly in the backseat – is one of the most persistent challenges for states. This

campaign is a rare opportunity to reach millions of riders with the message that belt use is critical, no matter the vehicle or seat."

Through Uber and GHSA's *Make it Click* public awareness campaign, riders and drivers will receive reminders to buckle-up and information on the risks of driving and riding without a seatbelt.



In Michigan in 2016, 196 of the 1,064 traffic fatalities were people not wearing their seat belt. Seat belt use across the state is at 94 percent, well above the national rate of 89.7 percent.

The awareness campaign is timed to coincide with the NHTSA's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement period.



Area motorcyclists participated in the filming of the Fallen Brothers television commercial.

## New ad campaign targets drinking and riding motorcycles

Starting in late June, a new ad campaign will begin on both television and highway billboards. The *Ride Sober* campaign reminds motorcyclists about the dangers of drinking and riding. In counties with the most number of endorsed riders (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Kent, Genesee, and Kalamazoo), highway billboards will be posted with the *Ride Sober* message.

A new TV commercial, filmed in Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery in May, will start airing on cable channels throughout the state during the last week of June. The 30-second commercial involved 21 riders and was produced by Brogan & Partners and Radish Creative Group.

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Secretary of State Ruth Johnson gives a speech on the importance of motorcycle safety.

## Motorcycle safety promoted at events

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson toured Michigan last month, promoting motorcycle safety. She spoke in Detroit, Flint, and Lansing as part of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month activities. There are nearly 500,000 endorsed riders in Michigan. To operate a motorcycle legally on public roads in Michigan, operators must have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement.

Statewide, motorcyclist fatalities were down in 2017. 141 riders were killed in 2016 and 137 in 2017. More than 13 percent of the state's traffic deaths annually involve motorcycles. Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle occupants in the event of a crash. According to the GHSA, motorcyclists are 28 times more likely to die in a crash than a vehicle occupant. Unendorsed riders account for roughly half of all motorcyclist involved crashes and fatalities.

Preliminary data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia shows that 4,990 people were killed on motorcycles in 2017, a decrease of 5.6 percent from 2016. But motorcyclists remain significantly over-represented as a proportion of all traffic deaths.

Secretary Johnson urged all riders to get endorsed. State sponsored motorcycle training courses cost as little as \$50 and are available throughout the state. For a complete list of training facilities, please visit [Michigan.gov/motorcycling](http://Michigan.gov/motorcycling).

## Stephanie Parker named Michigan Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year

Stephanie Parker, a prevention specialist at the Safe and Sound Child Advocacy Center in Midland, has been selected as the 2018 Child Passenger Safety Technician (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 and seat belts.

The Safe and Sound Center provides instruction on the correct use of car seats to Midland County families as part of the OHSP Community Car Seat Program. Since being hired two years ago, Stephanie initiated the program and coordinated training for nine others. Prior to this program, the center and the community had a shortage of CPSTs and no trainings conducted in the area.

"In the past 16 months, I was able to provide 105 car seats and education to caregivers in regards to car seat safety," Parker said. "These 105 caregivers now have the means and information to keep their children safe when they may not have had the financial means or knowledge to do so. These caregivers are now able to teach others caring for children the same car seat education and support I was able to share."

Michelle Waskevich, executive director at the center, stated in a letter of support, "Stephanie goes above and beyond with the car seat program at our agency. She is friendly and patient, treats everyone with respect, and is always open for questions or concerns."

The OHSP also posthumously recognized Amy Dishman, a former pediatric physical therapist and CPST at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The day before her unexpected death from a brain aneurysm, Amy was in Ann Arbor attending a special needs car seat continuing education class, one of her specialties. During her time at Beaumont, Amy consulted with parents of premature babies and children with special transportation needs, including fitting kids with large Spica casts. She had a special bond with many of Beaumont's youngest patients.

The awards were presented at the 2018 Child Passenger Safety Conference in Mt. Pleasant. More than 120 safety technicians and instructors, as well as corporate exhibitors and sponsors attended the event. The conference convenes every two years with the next one scheduled in 2020.



Stephanie Parker (right) was named the Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year. OHSP Program Management Section Chief Alicia Sledge presents her with the award at the Child Passenger Safety Conference.



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## Drug positive traffic fatalities on the rise

A new report from the GHSA titled *Drug-Impaired Driving: Marijuana and Opioids Raise Critical Issues for States* found that, in 2016 in the U.S., 44 percent of fatally-injured drivers with known results tested positive for drugs, an increase of 16 percent from 10 years prior. And is higher than alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities over the same time.

The report found that in 2016 among drug-positive fatally-injured drivers, 38 percent tested positive for some form of marijuana, 16 percent tested positive for opioids, and 4 percent tested positive for both marijuana and opioids. That makes up more than half of all drivers killed with known positive results.

The presence of alcohol in fatally-injured drivers is slightly lower than it was a decade ago, decreasing from 41 percent in 2006 to 38 percent in 2016.

The report was funded by the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility and authored by Dr. Jim Hedlund, a former NHTSA senior official and nationally-recognized issue expert.

The full report can be read [here](#).



*Bicyclists prepare to start a guided tour of Grand Rapids as part of the Rolling Forward bicycle safety conference.*

## Bicycle safety conference meets in Grand Rapids

*Rolling Forward*, a bicycle safety conference met at Grand Valley State’s Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids June 1-2. About 100 people attended the conference, which had 12 workshops and more than 30 speakers. The conference focused on identifying ways to make bicycling better and safer in the state.

*Rolling Forward* was presented in partnership with the League of Michigan Bicyclists, the city of Grand Rapids, the Greater Grand Rapids Bicycle Coalition, Grand Valley State University, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan State University, and the OHSP.

## What’s ahead

### JULY 2018

- 11 **Michigan Truck Safety Commission Action Team meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 11 **Impaired Driving Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.
- 17 **Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 17 **Distractions Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1 p.m.
- 17 **Traffic Records & Information Systems Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1 p.m.



*MDOT Director Kirk Steudle speaks at the Rolling Forward bicycle safety conference.*

## MSP Museum and Learning Center now open to the public

The MSP Museum and Learning Center is now open to the public every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located on the first floor of MSP Headquarters, the museum features exhibits that document the 101 year history of the MSP.



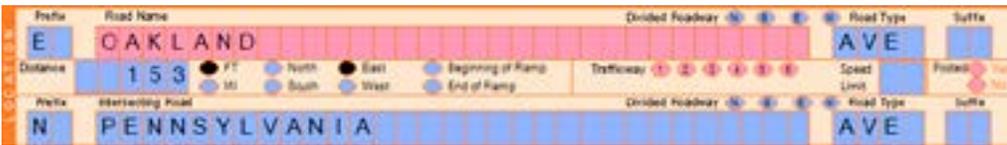
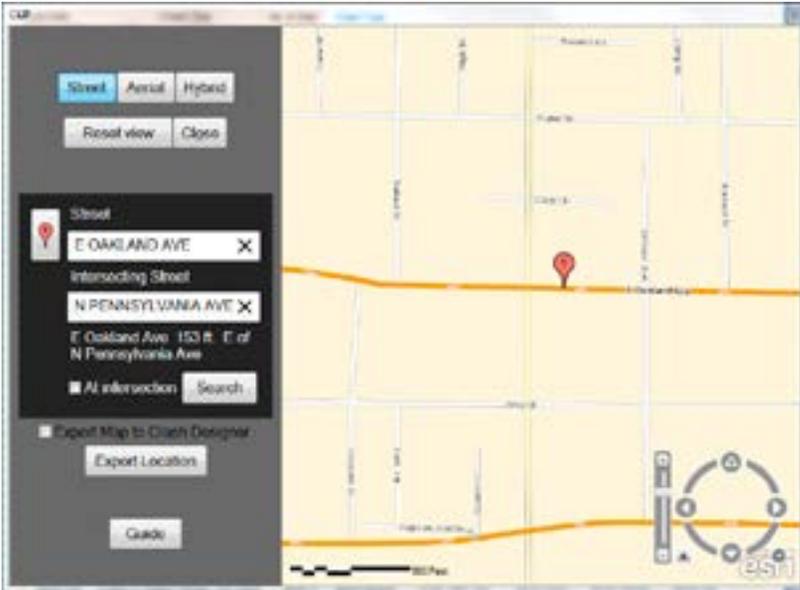


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## Updates to the UD-10 Traffic Crash Locating & Diagramming Tool

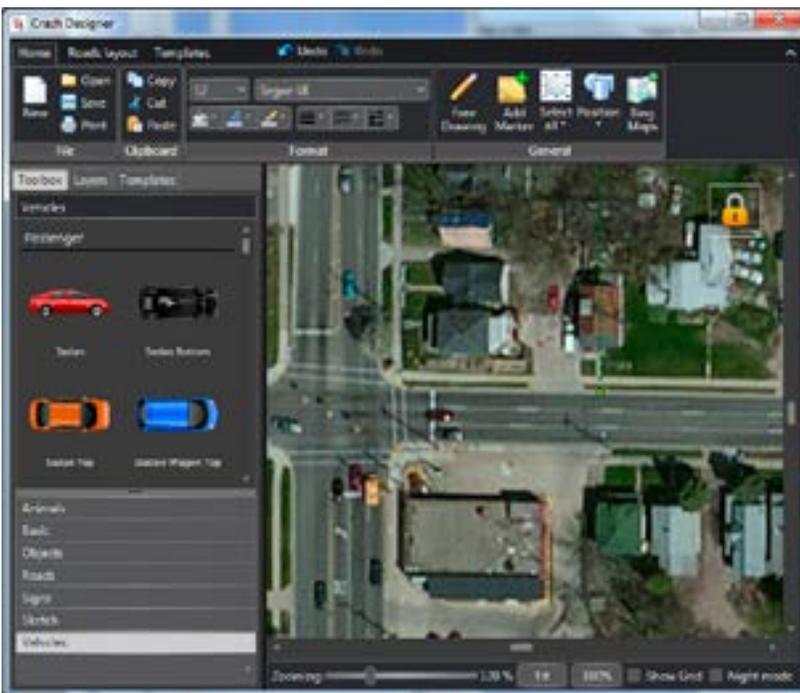
The MSP Traffic Crash Reporting Unit is excited to announce a new traffic crash locating tool and diagramming tool, developed by LexisNexis for their eCrash module within iyeTek. These new tools will allow the officer to accurately locate the crash by pinpointing a location on a map, thereby populating the location field and the diagram on the UD-10.

From the map, the officer can either enter a street and intersecting street and select search, or simply zoom into the crash location on the map. Once the general location is displayed, grab and drop the red push pin on the map where the crash occurred. The export location button will populate the fields of the location block on the UD-10, as seen below.



Selecting the export map to crash designer button will save the location you pinned and create an aerial view base layer on the UD-10 diagram as shown below.

From this point, simply add the vehicles, pedestrians, road objects, etc. as you normally would. The iyeTek Crash Designer is a very robust diagramming tool that allows for total customization of the roadways and objects. Note: All objects can be sized to meet the scale of the roadway and placed in the proper lane.



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