

SAFETY Network

May 2018

Michigan.gov/ohsp

Howell family in new video that shares dangers of distracted driving



Maureen (second from left), Sam, and Jim Howell being interviewed about the new video.

Sam Howell was three miles from home when a cell phone dropped while he was driving. He leaned over to pick it up, and that decision changed his life forever. In the time it took to grab his phone, Sam's car left the road and crashed into a tree. His injuries were so severe that doctors gave Sam a 3 percent chance of surviving.

That was 13 years ago. Today, Sam is able to talk, walk and eat - things doctors said he'd never be able to do. Sam is back in school, studying at Oakland University. The 31-year-old is in a new video produced by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), together with his parents Jim and Maureen Howell. They are asking motorists to put their phones away while driving.

Working with the OHSP, the Howells held two press conferences in early April, to launch National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The first, at the Michigan State Police (MSP) Tri-City post in Freeland, gave the Howells an opportunity to share

their story with law enforcement officers. During the second event, in a behavioral sciences class at Oakland University, Sam interacted with classmates and implored them to be more careful while driving.

"You don't want to walk the life I've had to walk," Sam told about 80 students. "You don't want to go back to living in your parents' basement," he joked.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), 3,450 people were killed nationwide in traffic crashes involving distracted driving in 2016. That makes up approximately 9 percent of all fatal crashes.

In Michigan, the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) found that 12,788 crashes involved distracted driving in 2016. Those crashes resulted in 43 fatalities and 5,103 injuries.

CJIC also found that drivers 20 years old and younger accounted for more than 18 percent of crashes involving cell phone use. That's why Sam and his parents want to speak out and help educate students.

"I want to help other kids so this doesn't happen to them and their families," said Maureen Howell.

Sam, who was poised to attend Harvard before the crash, is now finding a new way to assist others.

"My whole life was to help people. I can't do it the way I initially planned, but I can do it in a different way now," Sam said.

The video featuring the Howell family can be found at Michigan.gov/ohsp.



GTSAC Student Award winner Madison Hertel (center) with Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP, and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. See more GTSAC award winners on pages 2 and 3.

Judge McMillen honored with Lifesaver Award



Judge Phyllis McMillen is Michigan's fifth recipient of the NHTSA Lifesaver's Public Service Safety Award. She was honored at the 36th annual Lifesavers National

Conference in San Antonio, TX. Judge McMillen joins Stewart Wang (2012), Bonnie Raffaele (2013), Kenneth Stecker (2015), and Carol Flannagan (2017) as award winners from the state.

Judge McMillen is a tireless advocate for traffic safety. She is the American Bar Association Regional Judicial Outreach Liaison for NHTSA Region 5 and is known nationally for her expertise and efforts in fighting drug and alcohol impaired driving.

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GTSAC recognizes achievements in traffic safety

The Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored 11 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 23rd Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Four 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 an award honoring a student involved in traffic safety.

2017 Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Awards

Daniel Blower, an associate research scientist emeritus at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI), was honored for a career in traffic safety spanning more than 30 years. During that time, Blower helped develop two national databases for trucks and buses. And he has studied the effectiveness of sophisticated safety systems for commercial vehicles, including collision mitigation braking and forward collision warning systems. Blower recently completed a comprehensive multidisciplinary analysis of the factors contributing to the national decline of highway fatalities and serious injuries.



Mark Bott, a traffic and safety engineer with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), was honored for his work with the Traffic Control Unit and Traffic and Safety Section. Those departments emphasize the integration of senior mobility,



pedestrian, bicyclists, and various systemic safety initiatives into everyday activities that aim to reduce fatalities and injuries as part of MDOT’s Toward Zero Deaths activities. Bott also oversees the design and standard application of signage, pavement markings, and traffic control signals on the state trunkline system.

Capt. John Halpin, commander of the MSP Eighth District, was honored for his work to develop a strong traffic safety culture in the Upper Peninsula. Captain Halpin was a founding member of the U.S. 2 Operation SABRE (Speed, Aggressive driving, Belts, Rural Enforcement) Task Force. He placed a high emphasis on directed and overtime patrols that helped decrease fatalities and serious injury crashes by 9 percent over three years on the major trunkline.



Norene Lind, the secretariat of the Michigan Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, was honored for her work in providing professional development for driver educators and assisting the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) with reviewing examination standards and professionalizing instructor and curriculum standards. Lind also takes the lead in editing the Michigan driver education textbook.



Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement Awards

Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) was honored for the teen driving safety initiative sponsored by Ford Driving Skills for Life (Ford DSFL). The S4SD program has grown from 16 high schools in 2012 to more than 60 schools in 2017. Ford DSFL provides \$1,000 to participating schools to create a peer-to-peer traffic safety campaign on a topic of their choice. In addition to cash prizes for the top five campaigns, Ford DSFL also sponsors a Ride and Drive event every spring. The event features hands-on driving taught by professional driving instructors and students learn key skills in crucial areas that are factors in more than 60 percent of teen crashes.



Grand Rapids Driving Change was honored for raising awareness about bicycle safety. The campaign was based on crash data analysis, community surveys, focus groups, input from community leaders, and reviews of existing campaigns. It included billboards, bus advertising, television and radio advertising, and social media, with most efforts happening in May and July 2016, and again in 2017.



Sgt. James Janes of the MSP Niles Post was honored for his efforts as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) to reduce traffic crashes, injuries, and death. He has been one of the most active DREs in the state, completing 200 evaluations in the last four years. Sergeant Janes instructs DRE





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courses across the nation. His experiences have been instrumental in his ability to take suspected impaired drivers consistently and successfully through the judicial process.

Rural Intersection Warning System (RIWS)/Rural Intersection Collision Avoidance System (RICAS) was honored for reducing crashes and decreasing injuries at the intersection of U.S. 131 and Intertown Road in Emmet County's Bear Creek Township. The RIWS/RICAS works to detect side street vehicles entering the intersection and U.S. 131 traffic slowing down within the intersection, thus alerting approaching motorists on U.S. 131 of possible activity within the intersection even before they can see it. Since installing the device in November 2015, there has been a 42.9 percent reduction in recorded crashes and an 80 percent decrease in injuries.



Safe Drivers Smart Options (SDSO): Keys to Lifelong Mobility was honored for helping aging adult drivers. It is an evidence-based initiative that helps older adults continue to drive safely and assists those needing to make a respectful transition to driving retirement while maintaining mobility and independence. SDSO has identified training, programs, and activities considered best practices for Michigan. The MDOS administers the SDSO website and leads the strategy's ongoing leadership and administrative support structure.



Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Emergency Mapping Project was honored for identifying safe routes for detours during traffic emergencies. The MDOT Gaylord Transportation Service Center and the MSP posts in Gaylord and Houghton Lake partnered on the TIM Emergency Mapping project. The project was piloted in Crawford, Otsego, and Roscommon counties and organizers developed color-coded maps identifying safe routes for detours off I-75 during traffic emergencies. Both digital and paper maps were developed and the pilot project has grown to include all 21 counties within MDOT's North Region.



Student Award

Madison Hertel, a student at Traverse City West Senior High School, received the second GTSAC Student Award. As part of the S4SD competition, Hertel created a four-minute video depicting the dangers of texting and driving. The video has been shown to thousands of high school students in the Traverse City area. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6Fo3Q5Aoe0>. Prior to this video, Hertel produced a video that the Catholic Human Services uses to increase awareness about the dangers of drunk driving among young people.



What's Ahead

MAY 2018

- 8 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 8 Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 8 Occupant Protection Action Team meeting.** Michigan State Police Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.
- 9 Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 10 Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.
- 16 Drivers Age 24 and Younger Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.
- 16 Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Schoolcraft College, Radcliff Campus, 1751 Radcliff, Garden City, 9 a.m.



OHSP Director Michael L. Prince congratulates Summit Chair Jessica Riley at the conclusion of the 23rd annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit.

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Oral fluid roadside drug testing pilot program underway in Michigan

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker

All eyes are on Michigan as its oral fluid roadside drug testing pilot program enters its sixth month. It is the first of its kind in the nation, created and funded by a state law.

That law is Public Act 242 and 243 of 2016. It puts the MSP in charge of running the one-year pilot program, which began on November 8, 2017. MSP's Traffic Safety Spl/F/Lt. James Flegel oversees the program. He assembled a group of traffic safety professionals to help him put together the details of the pilot program. This subcommittee includes MSP personnel, Michigan's DRE program coordinator, MSP Forensic Laboratory technical director, and Michigan's two traffic safety resource prosecutors.

Under the law, only DRE officers may participate in the pilot. DREs are officers who have undergone highly specialized training in identifying drivers impaired by drugs. Currently there are 27 DRE officers participating in this program. Even though this is an MSP-run program, DREs employed by county, township, and municipal police agencies are also involved.

These tests are occurring in five counties: Berrien, Delta, Kent, St. Clair, and Washtenaw. These counties were chosen by the subcommittee, which looked at several criteria including the number of impaired driving crashes, impaired driving arrests, and active DRE officers in that county, and geographic diversity.

Under the pilot program, a DRE may require a person to submit to a preliminary oral fluid analysis to detect the presence of a controlled substance in the person's body if he or she suspects the driver is impaired by drugs. Refusal to submit to a preliminary oral fluid analysis upon a lawful demand of a police officer is a civil infraction.

The preliminary oral fluid analysis consists of a mouth swab using a handheld device which can be used to test for drugs at the roadside. The instrument being used in Michigan's pilot program is the Alere DDS2. It can test for the following six classes of drugs in oral fluid: marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, opiates, and benzodiazepines. It was chosen for Michigan's pilot program for its portability, ease of use, and rapid test results (within five minutes).

Nothing in the pilot program changes the normal protocol in a drugged driving investigation. Even though the Alere DDS2 can indicate the presence or absence of drugs in a driver's oral fluid, it cannot determine whether that driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired. Officers in the pilot program will still need to establish a driver's impairment through a roadside investigation, which may include observations of driving, physical observations, driver's admissions, and field sobriety testing. The oral fluid swab will also not substitute the 12-step evaluation that DREs are trained to perform on suspected drugged drivers.

Drugged driving investigations also include the collection of blood from that driver, oftentimes through a search warrant. The same will continue to be done in this pilot program. First, two oral fluid swabs are collected—the first one is put in the handheld device by the officer for an immediate reading, and the second swab is sent to Forensic Fluids Laboratory in Kalamazoo for confirmatory testing. This swab is voluntary and there is no penalty if a driver refuses. Second, a blood draw is taken and sent to the MSP Forensic Laboratory to confirm the oral swabs.

The oral fluid samples collected pursuant to the pilot program are not admissible in court. Under Michigan law, only breath,

blood, and urine samples are admissible as evidence in impaired driving investigations. The oral fluid results are to be used similar to preliminary breath test results in drunk driving cases.

Organizers of the pilot program hope it will provide solutions for dealing with drugged driving. Their goal is to show that oral fluid testing is accurate and reliable, and they hope to one day see it used by all road officers in the state. Michigan has seen a steady increase in fatal crashes involving drivers impaired by drugs. Drug-involved traffic fatalities rose more than 30 percent, from 179 in 2015 to 236 in 2016.

This problem is not unique to Michigan. A 2015 National Roadside Survey by the NHTSA showed that drugged driving is rising all over the country. About 20 percent of drivers in the national survey tested positive for at least one drug—an increase from 16.3 percent in 2007. Of that number, 12.6 percent had evidence of marijuana use in their systems.

Oral fluid collection may also be a better tool for investigating drugged drivers than blood. Getting a mouth swab is quicker, easier, and less invasive than a blood draw. In the United States Supreme Court decision *Birchfield v. North Dakota*, 136 S. Ct. 2160, 2177 (2016), the Supreme Court even acknowledged this when it referred to the swabbing of the inside of a person's cheek

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Fatal crashes involving older drivers in Michigan rising

Older drivers in Michigan are involved in an increasing number of fatal crashes. That's according to a new report from The Road Improvement Program (TRIP), a national transportation research group. The report found from 2012 to 2016, the number of fatalities involving at least one driver 65 or older increased 16 percent.

The report, *Preserving the Mobility and Safety of Older Americans*, was released in March. In it, Michigan was found to have the eighth highest number of licensed drivers 65 years or older. That equates to 20 percent of the licensed driver population in the state. That's a 14 percent increase from 2012.

The report also found 22 percent of all Michigan traffic fatalities in 2016 involved at least one driver 65 or older. That's a 16 percent increase from 2012.

Nationwide, the number of older drivers killed or involved in fatal crashes has increased significantly in the last five years.

McMillen *Continued from page 1 >*

Judge McMillen has been instrumental in influencing state leadership to implement evidenced-based programs such as DUI courts and State Judicial Outreach Liaisons within NHTSA Region 5 and nationwide.

The Lifesaver's Public Service Safety Award annually recognizes the vigorous dedication certain individuals and organizations demonstrate to achieve the safety of passengers on American roadways. Judge McMillen was one of 16 people or groups to receive the award in 2018.

She was appointed judge of the State of Michigan Sixth Circuit Court in 2010 and elected in 2012. In 2005, Judge McMillen received a special recognition award from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy for her pioneering work in the creation of sobriety court as an alternative for handling drug and alcohol-related cases.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that people over age 65 will outnumber people 18 and under for the first time in 2035.

Older Americans are more mobile and active today and want to maintain that lifestyle for as long as possible, TRIP says. Among those 65 and older, 90 percent of travel takes place in a private vehicle and 79 percent live in car-dependent suburban and rural communities.

The complete report is available at tripnet.org



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 drive drunk. 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 about 30 minutes from the time you drive in to the time you leave. Here is a list of upcoming CarFit events in Michigan:

Date	Time	Location	Contact Person	Reservation Phone
May 22	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Marshall	Sarah Hughes	269-789-7144
June 11	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Marshall	Sarah Hughes	269-789-7144
June 21	10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Okemos	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
July 16	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lansing	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
Aug. 8	1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Lansing	Mickie Kreft	517-364-3743
Sept. 10	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Marshall	Sarah Hughes	269-789-7144

Car seats: Installed, checked, destroyed

March was a busy month for Car Seats in South Central Michigan. Certified Safety Technicians checked 94 children, distributed 58 new car and booster seats and destroyed 33 unsafe car seats over a three-week span. Events were held on March 3 in Adrian, March 10 in Jonesville and March 24 in Monroe. The next event for Car Seats in South Central Michigan is scheduled for May 19 at the Walmart in Niles. For more events and information, click here: [Car Seats in South Central Michigan](#).





Ignition interlock device manufacturer suspended

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced that Alcohol Detection Systems (ADS), a national supplier of ignition interlock devices, has been summarily suspended and may no longer supply breath alcohol ignition interlock devices in Michigan. The devices manufactured by ADS failed to require the necessary start-up tests and periodic retests as mandated by Michigan law. The company also failed to report violations in which drivers were able to start or continue driving without providing a breath sample. ADS supplies Waterford-based Michigan Interlock.

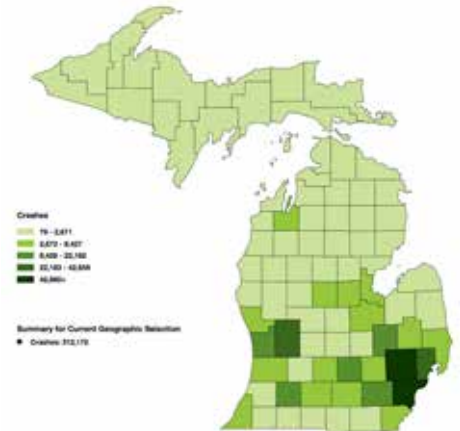
Like a breathalyzer, an ignition interlock device measures the alcohol in a person's system. If the amount of alcohol detected exceeds a pre-programmed level, then the interlock temporarily locks the vehicle's ignition.

Information about other ignition interlock manufacturers in Michigan is available on the Secretary of State website. Customers with an ADS ignition interlock system installed by Michigan Interlock who have questions may contact the MDOS at 888-767-6424.

Michigan Traffic Crash Facts update

The Michigan Traffic Crash Facts (MTCF) website announced some exciting additions. New in 2018, statewide maps were added that show crash density by county. Within those county maps, you can search for all manners of crashes, going back to 2004. In addition to viewing maps by crash count, you can also view them by licensed driver and vehicle miles traveled.

Patrick Bowman of the UMTRI said the new crash density maps are shareable, and that the next step is making them downloadable. You can see the new crash density by county maps at michigantrafficcrashfacts.org.



Crashes for the Year 2016

PAAM Continued from page 4 > for DNA as a "negligible" intrusion under the Fourth Amendment.

Results from Michigan's pilot program won't be available until after the completion of the one-year pilot. If the program goes well, oral fluid testing may give law enforcement in Michigan another valuable tool to keep dangerous drugged drivers off the road.

For more information on this article and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker or Kinga Gorzelewski Canike, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, at 517-334-6060 or e-mail at steckerk@michigan.gov or gorzelewskik@michigan.gov. Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. Discuss your practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.

TZD **Toward Zero Deaths**

May 1, 2018
229
Traffic Deaths
in Michigan this Year

SAVE THE DATE JUNE 1-2, 2018

Rolling FORWARD

Michigan Bicycle Conference

L.V. EBERHARD CENTER AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, PEW CAMPUS, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN