



June 2019

Michigan.gov/ohsp

New campaign launched for *Click It or Ticket*

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) recently launched a new safety campaign that includes television and radio ads, billboards, social media posts, and banners displayed at more than 600 police and public safety offices statewide. The effort is part of the annual *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement crackdown that ran from May 20 through June 2.

"Three out of four people ejected from a vehicle in a crash will die," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "Wearing a seat belt is the simplest thing you can do to reduce injuries and save lives. Buckle up for the ones who will miss you - every trip, every time."

Two new *Click It or Ticket* ads that are part of the safety campaign by the OHSP remind motorists why it's important to buckle up. They can be viewed at:

- [A Ticket from Us](#)
- [Unsecured Loads](#)

In Michigan, the seat belt usage rate stands at 93.4 percent. The national seat belt use rate in 2018 was 89.6 percent.

Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger in any seating position to be

buckled up. The fine and associated costs for not wearing a seat belt is \$65. Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall, and children under 4 years old must be in the back seat.

The OHSP coordinates the *Click It or Ticket* effort which is supported by federal traffic safety funds.



One of the stars of the A Ticket From Us video shoot (L) and a press event at the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (R) announcing the start of the campaign.

Preliminary findings show decrease in traffic deaths during Memorial Day holiday weekend

Preliminary reports indicate 10 people lost their lives in eight separate traffic crashes during the 2019 Memorial Day holiday weekend. In comparison, 19 people were killed in 15 fatal traffic crashes during the 2018 Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Of the eight deadly crashes:

- Restraint use was unknown in five.
- Alcohol use was a known factor in one of the deadly crashes.

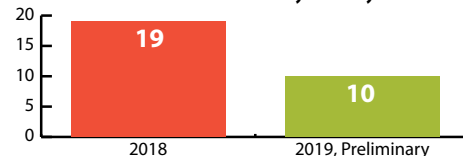
- One involved a motorcyclist; a helmet was worn.
- One victim was a pedestrian.

"These numbers are preliminary and only reflect those fatalities reported to the MSP as of 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 28," stated Spl/F/Lt. Jim Flegel, Michigan State Police (MSP) Traffic Safety Specialist. "We continue to urge motorists to make responsible driving decisions and always ensure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained. Never

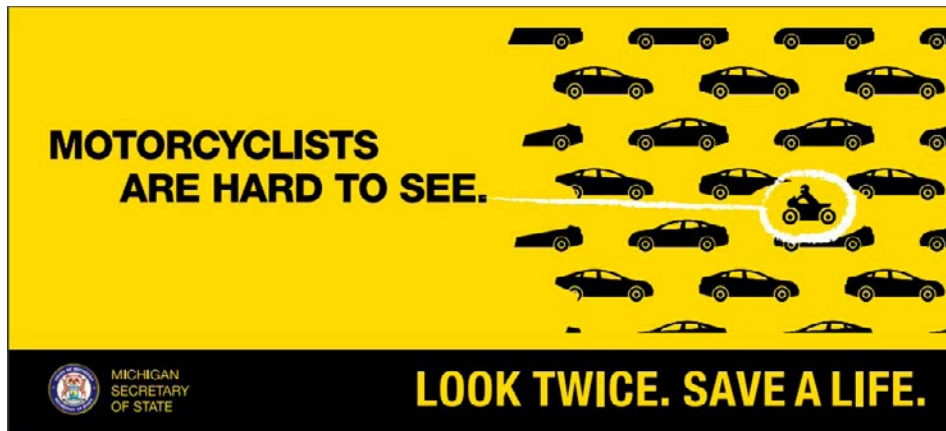
operate a vehicle impaired on alcohol or drugs and avoid distractions at all times."

The 2019 Memorial Day holiday weekend ran from 6 p.m. on Friday, May 24, through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 27, 2019.

Traffic Fatalities for Memorial Day Holiday Weekend



SAFETY Network



Department of State launches new safety campaign

To coincide with May being Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) launched a new campaign aimed at reminding motorists that motorcyclists are hard to see. According to Michigan Traffic Crash Facts, most crashes with motorcyclists happen when a vehicle turns left and 84 percent of motorcycle/vehicle crashes happen on streets, not highways. The campaign is running all summer on radio, social media, billboards, television monitors at gas pumps, and on city buses. There is also a

new website that gives motorists tips for remaining aware of motorcyclists. Some of those tips are:

- Always assume motorcyclists are closer than they appear.
- Double-check your blind spots.
- Keep your distance.
- Know their hand signals.

A complete list of tips and other materials to share can be found at Michigan.gov/looktwice.

15 new child passenger safety technicians certified

Clarissa Santana is the state's first Spanish speaking Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Instructor after becoming certified in late April. Santana was one of 15 new CPSTs who gained certification after the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Course in Grand Rapids. In addition to Santana, four new Spanish speaking technicians were certified, five new technicians from Osceola and Lake counties (low-technician counties) were certified, and MSP Community Service Trooper Stephen Wood is now a CPST.



Clarissa Santana, injury prevention specialist at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, is the state's first Spanish speaking CPST Instructor. Her instructor mentor was Fred Doelker of Dean Transportation.



On May 17 in Birmingham, a new video was filmed to promote pedestrian safety. Pedestrian traffic fatalities dropped to 145 in 2018, from 158 in 2017. To view or share the video, go to Michigan.gov/walksafe.



Fifteen new CPSTs were certified at an event in Grand Rapids in late April.

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Strive for a Safer Drive campaign ends with repeat winner

West Shore ESD Career and Technical Education Center criminal justice students in Ludington took top honors state-wide for the second year in a row for the school's *Strive for a Safer Drive* (S4SD) campaign. The first-place selection recognizes the outstanding efforts of West Shore ESD students in educating their classmates and community about the dangers of not wearing seat belts with the campaign "Buckle Up! Or get the No Belt Prize!"

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

Fraser High School in Macomb County finished second. Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores earned third place. Grand Ledge High School in Eaton County took fourth place and Anchor Bay High School in Ira Township finished fifth.

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, 63 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 2018 and March of this year before submitting a final report.

Students from participating schools can also attend a free, hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors at the Ford Proving Grounds in Romeo on May 6. For more information about S4SD, including how to enter for the 2019/2020 school year, go to: www.michigan.gov/s4sd.



West Shore C.T.E.'s winning campaign slogan.



Nearly 200 students attended the Driving Skills for Life event.

National heatstroke prevention campaign runs all summer

The OHSP, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the MDOS are working to raise awareness about the dangers of heatstroke and offering ways to prevent such tragedies.

Since 1998, there have been 794 deaths of children from vehicular heatstroke nationwide, with 10 of those deaths in Michigan. Last year in the United States, 51 children died in vehicles, a 19-percent increase from 2017. Heatstroke is the leading cause of vehicular non-crash related deaths for children under 14.

"Heatstroke deaths among young children are 100 percent preventable," said Michael L. Prince, director of OHSP. "It's important to remind parents and caregivers about the dangers of heatstroke as we work together to save lives and raise awareness."

Children die alone in a vehicle for several reasons: 54 percent were forgotten by a caregiver; 26 percent of children gained access to unattended vehicles and became trapped; and 18 percent were intentionally left by an adult.

"Temperatures inside a vehicle can become life threatening very quickly," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "Caregivers should never leave a child alone in a vehicle and always check the back seat before you get out. No child should die of heatstroke in a vehicle."

Parents and caregivers are asked to **A.C.T** together to keep children safe:

- **A**void heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving children alone in a car, even for a few minutes. Always

lock doors and the trunk. Keep keys and key fobs out of reach.

- **C**reate reminders. Place something needed at the next stop, like a bag or cell phone, next to the car seat or booster as a reminder.
- **T**ake action. If you see a child alone in a car, take action. Call 911. Emergency personnel are trained to respond in these situations.

The National Heatstroke Prevention campaign began May 27 and runs through August 11. For more information on ways to prevent heatstroke and for helpful tools and tips, go to: www.safekids.org/take-action-prevent-heatstroke#care.

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GTSAC announces changes to commissioners

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Steve Kiefer and Muskegon County Sheriff Michael Poulin to the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC). The GTSAC's mission is to identify traffic safety challenges and develop, promote, and implement strategies to address those challenges.



Steve Kiefer

Kiefer is the founder of the Kiefer Foundation, which was created in his son's memory to actively raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. He is the senior vice president of global purchasing and supply chain for General Motors. Kiefer

is the governor's designee for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor.



Sheriff Michael Poulin

Sheriff Poulin received the Richard H. Austin Traffic Safety Award and the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety. His term expires on May 27, 2022.

Three commissioners saw their terms conclude. Lawrence Hummel served for eight years and both Jennifer Shea and Sheriff Matthew Saxton served for six years. The commission thanks all three for their contributions to traffic safety.



Lawrence Hummel (left with OHSP Director Michael Prince), Jennifer Shea (c), and Sheriff Matthew Saxton (right with Prince).

What's Ahead

JULY 2019

- 10 Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Action Team meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 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.

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- 13 Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 21 Drivers Age 20 and Younger Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.

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An Overview of Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act

On November 6, 2018, Michigan became the first state in the Midwest to legalize recreational marihuana. It now joins nine other states, the District of Columbia, and Canada who have all passed similar laws. The law is officially called the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA). Though the new law will need to work its way through the legal system, the following article provides a brief overview on what is currently stated in the law.

When did the law take effect?

MRTMA took effect on December 6, 2018.

The act allows the following:

1. Allows a person, 21 years of age or older to possess, use or consume, internally possess, purchase, transport, or process 2.5 ounces or less of marihuana, except that not more than 15 grams of marihuana may be in the form of marihuana concentrate. Section 5.1(a).
2. Allows a person 21 and older to possess, store, and process not more than 10 ounces of marihuana and any marihuana produced by marihuana plants cultivated on the premises and cultivate not more than 12 marihuana plants for personal use, provided that no more than 12 marihuana plants are possessed, cultivated, or processed on the premises at once. Section 5.1(b).
3. Allows a person to assist another person who is 21 years of age or older. Section 5.1(c).
4. Allows a person to give away or otherwise transfer without remuneration up to 2.5 ounces of marihuana, except that not more than 15 grams of marihuana may be in the form of marihuana concentrate, to a person 21 years of age or older, as long as the transfer is not advertised or promoted to the public. Section 5.1(d).

What is prohibited:

1. Operate, navigate, or being in physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft, snowmobile, off-road vehicle, or motorboat while under the influence of marihuana;
2. Transfer of marihuana or marihuana accessories to a person under the age of 21;
3. Any person under the age of 21 to possess, consume, purchase or otherwise obtain, cultivate, process, transport, or sell marihuana;
4. Separation of plant resin by butane extraction or another method that utilizes a substance with a flash-point below 100 degrees Fahrenheit in any public place, motor vehicle, or within the curtilage of any residential structure;
5. Consuming marihuana in a public place or smoking marihuana where prohibited by the person who owns, occupies, or manages the property, except for purposes of this subdivision a public place does not include an area designated for consumption within a municipality that has authorized consumption in designated areas that are not accessible to persons under 21 years of age;
6. Cultivating marihuana plants if the plants are visible from a public place without the use of binoculars, aircraft, or other optical aids or outside of an enclosed area equipped with locks or other functioning security devices that restrict access to the area;
7. Consuming marihuana while operating, navigating, or being in physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft, snowmobile, off-road recreational vehicle, or motorboat, or smoking marihuana within the passenger area of a vehicle upon a public way;

8. Possessing marihuana accessories or possessing or consuming marihuana on the grounds of a public or private school where children attend classes in preschool programs, kindergarten programs, or grades 1 through 12, in a school bus, or on the grounds of any correctional facility; or
9. Possessing more than 2.5 ounces of marihuana within a person's place of residence unless the excess marihuana is stored in a container or area equipped with locks or other functioning security devices that restrict access to the contents of the container or area. Sections 4.1(a) – 4.1(i).

Civil/criminal penalties:

Section 15 of the act provides as follows:

A person who commits any of the following acts, and is not otherwise authorized by this act to conduct such activities, may be punished only as provided in this section and is not subject to any other form of punishment or disqualification, unless the person consents to another disposition authorized by law:

1. Except for a person who engaged in conduct described in sections 4(1)(a), 4(1)(b), 4(1)(c), 4(1)(d), 4(1)(g), or 4(1)(h), a person who possesses not more than the amount of marihuana allowed by

Marihuana Act Continued on page 6 >



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Marihuana Act *Continued from page 5 >*

- section 5, cultivates not more than the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, delivers without receiving any remuneration to a person who is at least 21 years of age not more than the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, or possesses with intent to deliver not more than the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, is responsible for a civil infraction and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 and forfeiture of the marihuana.
2. Except for a person who is engaged in conduct described in section 4, a person who possesses not more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, cultivates not more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, delivers without receiving any remuneration to a person who is at least 21 years of age not more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, or possesses with intent to deliver not more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5:
 - (a) for a first violation, is responsible for a civil infraction and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 and forfeiture of the marihuana;
 - (b) for a second violation, is responsible for a civil infraction and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and forfeiture of the marihuana;
 - (c) for a third or subsequent violation, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 and forfeiture of the marihuana.
 3. Except for a person who engaged in conduct described by section 4(1)(a), 4(1)(d), or 4(1)(g), a person under 21 years of age who possesses not more than 2.5 ounces of marihuana or who cultivates not more than 12 marihuana plants:
 - (a) for a first violation, is responsible for a civil infraction and may be punished as follows:
 - (1) if the person is less than 18 years of age, by a fine of not more than \$100 or community service, forfeiture of the marihuana, and completion of 4 hours of drug education or counseling; or
 - (2) if the person is at least 18 years of age, by a fine of not more than \$100 and forfeiture of the marihuana.
 - (c) for a second violation, is responsible for a civil infraction and may be punished as follows:
 - (1) if the person is less than 18 years of age, by a fine of not more than \$500 or community service, forfeiture of the marihuana, and completion of 8 hours of drug education or counseling; or
 - (2) if the person is at least 18 years of age, by a fine of not more than \$500 and forfeiture of the marihuana.
 4. Except for a person who engaged in conduct described in section 4, a person who possesses more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, cultivates more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, or delivers without receiving any remuneration to a person who is at least 21 years of age more than twice the amount of marihuana allowed by section 5, shall be responsible for a misdemeanor, but shall not be subject to imprisonment unless the violation was habitual, willful, and for a commercial purpose or the violation involved violence.

All other laws:

All other laws inconsistent with this act do not apply to conduct that is permitted by this act. Section 4.1 5.

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.

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 and 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.



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STAFF PROFILE

Mallory Fox

Administrative Assistant



Mallory has been with the OHSP since January 2018 and before that worked for the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate. Mallory and her husband Joe have been married five years and have two daughters, Charlotte Monroe (4) and Vivian Evelyn (1); two lazy house cats, Buddy (9) and Bear (7); and a beta fish named Goldie.

What do you like most about your job?

What I enjoy most about my position is being able to work in various sections and programs in the office and the

opportunity to learn different parts of many positions.

What are you most proud of at work?

There are a few different projects that I am proud of but I think overall, I am mostly proud of being an employee of the MSP. It is a great department to work for and knowing all the hard work MSP employees put in for Michigan residents makes me extremely proud to be a part of it.

What are your interests or hobbies?

I enjoy golfing, camping, online shopping, boating, vacations to the Upper Peninsula, watching Game of Thrones, and hanging with my super adorable kiddos (and husband).

What is your favorite vacation spot?

My husband and I just recently went to Key West, Florida and I would say that is my favorite vacation thus far. We are looking at dates to go back soon!

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

Many people don't know that I was born in the U.P. specifically, Hancock. My parents are true Yoopers and most of my family still resides in Delta County.

Rueckert named 2020 Summit chair



Kara Rueckert was recently named the chair of the 2020 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit planning committee. She is the executive assistant for OHSP Director Michael Prince and has been with the OHSP for the last five years. The 2020 conference will be the 25th annual Summit and it will take place on March 10-11 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. To nominate a speaker, please [click here](#).

MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT



Judy Wojcik of McLaren Northern Michigan with Click It the Cricket and Tigger. Click It the Cricket appeared at the 29th annual McLaren Northern Michigan Children's Health Fair on April 13 in Petoskey. To request the Click It the Cricket costume for your event, please email trafficsafety@michigan.gov.

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PARTNER PROFILE

Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole



Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole is as committed to traffic safety now as he was in 1985 when he started as a Secondary Road Patrol (SRP), or 416 deputy. Sheriff Cole has worked to improve the safety on U.S. 10, is a member of the GTSAC's Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team, is a crash reconstructionist, and was named the 1990 Mason County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year.

Currently, Sheriff Cole is the chairperson of the Michigan Sheriff's Association's 416 Committee and was appointed by former Governor Rick Snyder to the state's marijuana advisory panel. He also recently collaborated with the local school district to provide proactive response training to bus drivers.

SRP INFO

Michigan's SRP/416 program began on October 1, 1978, with 78 participating counties. SRP deputies are responsible for services on primary county roads and local roads outside the boundaries of cities and villages. Those services include; patrolling and monitoring traffic violations, investigating traffic crashes, providing emergency assistance to persons on or near a secondary road, and enforcing the state's criminal laws observed while providing SRP services.

Bishop, Stoneham retire from MSP

Two longtime State of Michigan employees retired in May. Susan Bishop, most recently the grants technician at OHSP, retired after 22 years. Cindy Stoneham, most recently from the Resource Management Unit retired after 26 years with the MSP. We wish a very happy retirement to both!



Susan Bishop



Cindy Stoneham with OHSP Director Michael Prince

