



SAFETY Network

November 2020

Michigan.gov/ohsp

Operation Safe Stop runs during school bus safety week

Law enforcement officers throughout Michigan recently ramped up patrols of motorists illegally passing school buses. *Operation Safe Stop*, part of National School Bus Safety Week, ran from October 19-23. In 2019, nearly 2,100 citations were issued to drivers for failing to stop for a school bus, the most in the last 10 years.

“We learn it as kindergarteners—red means stop. It’s as simple as that,” said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “Even with remote learning happening throughout the state, buses are still on the road. When you see the flashing lights, stop.”

According to the Michigan State Police (MSP), Criminal Justice Information Center, there were 1,197 crashes involving school buses in Michigan in 2019. Of those, 114 happened at bus stops. From the bus stop crashes, there were 42 injuries. Michigan bus drivers conducted a one-day survey in May 2019. In just that one day, the 1,373



participating bus drivers reported 508 times that a motorist passed a school bus illegally.

“Every time a driver ignores the flashing lights or stop arm of a bus, they are putting a student’s life in danger,” said Kellie Dean, president and CEO of Dean Transportation. “*Operation Safe Stop* helps keep students safe and educates drivers on how to safely share the road with buses.”

Drivers should prepare to stop when they see the overhead flashing yellow lights of a bus, and stop at least 20 feet

away from a bus when the overhead lights flash red. Drivers who pass stopped school buses may be charged with civil infractions carrying a fine between \$100 and \$500. Violators may also be required to perform up to 100 hours of community service at a school. Drivers who pass a stopped school bus and cause a death are subject to a felony with either a fine up to \$7,500 or up to 15 years in jail. Drivers who pass a stopped school bus and cause an injury face a misdemeanor charge and either a fine up to \$1,000 or up to one year in jail.

The MSP Calumet Post received a 2019 Outstanding Traffic Safety Award for its efforts in reducing illegal school bus passing in the Calumet area. The post distributed educational materials and dedicated 74 hours to patrol for this violation. At the conclusion of the initiative, school bus drivers reported fewer problems.

Results from the 2020 campaign will be available later in the year.

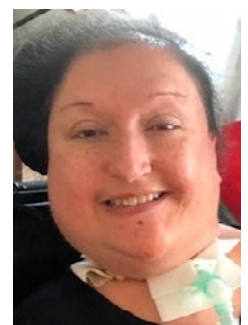


Kitchen, Elisha’s Law inspiration, dies at age 37

Elisha Kitchen, a lifelong resident of Hancock, Michigan, passed away on September 8 at age 37.

At age six, Elisha was hit by a car while exiting a school bus, leaving her a quadriplegic and with numerous health problems. In 1998, the state of Michigan passed *Elisha’s Law*, which increased the penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus.

Despite her injuries, Elisha graduated from Hancock Central High School in 2002 and maintained a positive attitude throughout her life.



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State studying ways to combat distracted driving

Researchers from Michigan State University (MSU) are working with police agencies in Kent and Wayne counties to evaluate methods of enforcing distracted driving and cell phone use violations.

During a two-week period running from October 5-19, dynamic message signs were used off-and-on to alert drivers to the highly visible enforcement. Researchers seek to determine if targeted safety messages have any measurable impact on driver behavior.

"Distracted driving, and cell phone use specifically, continue to be significant traffic safety concerns nationwide," said Dr. Peter Savolainen, MSU Foundation Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "This project aims to assess the effectiveness of high visibility enforcement, in combination with different types of messages that discourage cell phone use by drivers."

Dynamic message signs are roadside signs with easily changeable electronic messages.

Participating law enforcement agencies are the Detroit Police Department, MSP Second District, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Grand Rapids Police Department, Wyoming Police Department, MSP Sixth

District, and Kent County Sheriff's Office. They will conduct up to 1,000 hours of distracted driving enforcement.

In Michigan during 2019, 70 people were killed in distracted driving crashes.

"Texting while driving is one of the most dangerous acts one can do behind the wheel," said Michael L. Prince, Michigan OHSP director. "We hope this research will provide us with new strategies in combating this deadly problem."

This research is part of a nationwide project sponsored by the National Safety Council. It will continue from April 5, 2021 through April 26, 2021.

Kent and Wayne counties were selected to participate because of their high number of fatal and serious injury crashes. From 2016-2018, there were 188 fatal or serious injury distracted driving crashes in Wayne County and 128 in Kent County, the two highest in the state.

Michigan law prohibits a driver from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message while driving. Exceptions are in place for reporting crashes, crimes, or other emergencies.

Thomas-Wright joins S4SD program

Kayla Thomas-Wright is Transportation Improvement Association's new Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) Program Coordinator, integrating the education of students about distracted driving, safety belts, impaired driving, speeding, and winter driving.



Previously, Kayla was a lead registered behavior technician at The Center for Therapeutic Learning and Communication. She also participated in Residence Life at Central Michigan University (CMU), presenting college-wide programs throughout the institution.

Kayla earned her bachelor's degree in child development from CMU and a master's degree in behavior analysis from Ball State University. She currently resides in Macomb County.

Work zone crashes increase

According to research by Stateline, work zone crashes have risen in some states, despite fewer people being on the roads due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The article highlighted Michigan, which has seen vehicles strike three county employees and a state contractor in separate incidents, killing two.

"Last year, there were three worker fatalities, total. To have two fatalities and four hits within a week is very alarming," said Courtney Bates, a Michigan Department of Transportation spokesperson.

You can read the entire article on the Pew Charitable Trusts website, by clicking [here](#).

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Operating while intoxicated—marihuana investigation checklist

With the passage of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA), it is anticipated that officers will have to establish impairment in all Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) investigations involving marihuana. To establish impairment in these cases, the law requires that officers show that because of the consumption of marihuana, a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle in a normal manner was substantially lessened.¹

We know from the science that tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) disappears from the blood stream very quickly (90% gone within 90 minutes).² So, the sooner a blood draw can occur, the better.

If possible, it is recommended that two officers (at least one should be advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement or Drug Recognition Expert trained) get involved given how quickly THC dissipates from the blood.

- Once probable cause is established, one officer can secure the blood draw while the second officer searches for evidence from the scene or vehicle.

Potential evidence to look for that can be seized pursuant to an inventory search (make sure your inventory search policy is up to date):

- Any liquid that could contain THC.
- Any edible substance that could contain THC.
- Vaping devices that could contain THC.
- Skin patches on the driver—could be THC—take a picture and secure it as evidence.

- Any oil/shatter/wax.
- Any article that could be used to smoke marihuana.
- Any container that could be used to carry THC (note the label information or lack of).

INVESTIGATION

1. Vehicle in Motion
 - a. Look for normal signs of impairment (e.g., weaving, excess speed, slow driving, etc.).
2. Personal Contact
 - a. Indicators of impairment:
 - i. Smell of marihuana (make sure this is not the only indicator).
 - ii. Blood shot eyes.
 - iii. Poor perception of time and distance or location and direction of travel.
 - iv. Body tremors.
 - v. Eyelid tremors.
 - vi. Disorientation.
 - vii. Lack of concentration.
 - viii. Lack of convergence in the eyes.
 - b. Statements by driver related to use:
 - i. What did they use?
 - ii. What form (e.g., smoked/vaped/ate)?
 - iii. How much?
 - iv. What time was their last use?
 - v. Where did they use it?

3. Pre-Arrest Screening

- a. Standardized field sobriety tests:
 - i. Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Test.
 1. According to the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, cannabis alone usually does not cause HGN.³
 - ii. Walk and turn.
 - iii. One leg stand.
- b. Field Sobriety Tests
 - i. Lack of convergence.
 - ii. Modified Romberg.
 - iii. Other tests.
- c. Preliminary Breath Test—should still be administered to rule out alcohol impairment.

A law enforcement officer's decision to arrest or not to arrest in marihuana-impaired driving cases should always be based on the "totality of the circumstances." In other words, it should always be based on all evidence gathered in all three detection phases of an OWI investigation—vehicle in motion, personal contact, and pre-arrest screening. A thorough investigation coupled with THC blood results usually equals success in the courtroom in marihuana-impaired driving cases.

For more information on this article and Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker or Kinga Canike, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, at steckerk@michigan.gov or canikek@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.

¹ https://courts.michigan.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/criminal-jury-instructions/Documents/HTML/Criminal%20Jury%20Instructions-Responsive%20HTML5/index.html#t=Criminal_Jury_Instructions%2FCrim_Jury_Ch_15%2FM_Crim_Jl_15_3_Specific_Elements_of_Operating_While_Intoxicated.htm

² Hartman RL, Brown TL, Milavetz G, Spurgin A, Pierce RS, Gorelick DA, Gaffney G, Huestis MA. Cannabis effects on driving longitudinal control with and without alcohol. *J Appl Toxicol*. 2016 Nov;36(11):1418-29. doi: 10.1002/jat.3295. Epub 2016 Feb 18. PMID: 26889769.



³ https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/dre_7-day_participant_manual-tag.pdf



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Bicyclist safety enforcement week results released

Results from the bicyclist safety enforcement week campaign in five cities—Dearborn, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, and Warren—have been released. The campaign ran from September 9-15. The cities were selected due to their high number of bicyclist-related traffic crashes.

Between the five participating cities, 186 citations were handed out and 233 warnings given, with a majority of citations going to motorists and the warnings going equally to bicyclists and motorists. Officers were focusing on illegal turns, motorists failing to give at least three feet when passing a bicyclist, motorists failing to stop at a signal or before a crosswalk, bicyclists not riding with traffic, and bicyclists not using lights when riding at night.

	Dearborn	Grand Rapids	Lansing	Muskegon	Warren	OVERALL TOTALS
Motorist Warnings	9	8	29	33	37	116
Motorist Citations	110	0	29	26	21	186
Bicyclist Warnings	0	0	11	103	3	117
Bicyclist Citations	0	0	0	0	0	0

“The City of Warren Police Department was happy to be involved in this and had two successful days of enforcement,” said Admin/Cpl. Chris Strackbein, Warren Police Department. “Officers also passed out bicycle safety brochures to help educate the public and create safer roads in our

community for all drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.”

Over the last five years, 137 people have been killed in bicyclist-involved crashes in Michigan. In 2019, 21 bicyclists were killed on Michigan roadways.

High visibility pedestrian safety campaign runs in 12 Michigan communities

Overtime enforcement mobilization grants were awarded to law enforcement agencies in 12 Michigan communities for pedestrian safety enforcement week, October 15-21.

The grants will focus on the laws applicable to pedestrian safety to help reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities. The OHSP has identified the communities of Dearborn, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Flint, Flint Township, Hamtramck, Kalamazoo, Macomb Township, Pontiac, Southfield, Sterling Heights, and Warren as having some of the highest number of fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes over a five-year period.

“We’re hoping this enforcement period, during national pedestrian safety month, will help save the lives of Michigan’s most vulnerable roadway users—pedestrians,” said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. “When driving, put your phone down, focus

on the road, and expect to see people walking and using mobility aids.”

Pedestrian crash data for the 12 Michigan communities from 2015-2019 shows: Detroit with 517 pedestrian-involved fatal or serious injury crashes; Flint with 55; Warren with 55; Kalamazoo with 53; Pontiac with 42; Dearborn with 33; Southfield with 30; Sterling Heights with 22; Farmington Hills with 18; Flint Township with 18; Hamtramck with 16; and, Macomb Township with 8.

During the campaign, officers were on the lookout for violations by drivers that included: illegal turns, failing to stop at a signal or stop sign before a crosswalk, failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk at a signalized intersection, and blocking a roadway that interferes with the normal flow of traffic. Officers were also looking for violations by pedestrians that included: not following traffic control signals, not walking on a sidewalk where provided,

and not walking facing traffic when on a roadway.

In Michigan, on average, about 150 pedestrians die each year. October is a particularly dangerous time of year for pedestrian-related crashes and fatalities. Over the past five years combined, more pedestrian crashes and deaths have occurred during the month of October than any other month.

Results from this campaign will be available in mid-November.

EVERYBODY'S
ROAD
EVERYBODY'S
RULES

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GTSAC seeks nominations for outstanding traffic safety achievements

Each year the Governor's Traffic Safety Award Commission (GTSAC) honors individuals, organizations, and programs by presenting awards for outstanding traffic contributions to traffic safety in Michigan. This is a chance to honor the best of the state's traffic safety community: people of all ages who are motivated to seek changes and improvements and who work effectively as an individual or as part of a team.

OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award winners will be individuals or organizations whose contributions during 2020 are judged to stand above others in the state. Nominations must include a well-defined problem and present clear and measurable results.

STUDENT AWARD

The GTSAC will recognize a high school or college student engaged in a traffic safety program.

RICHARD H. AUSTIN LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award winners will be individuals or organizations judged to best represent "the spirit of traffic safety" through a sustained, long-term contribution (10 years or longer) and commitment to traffic safety in Michigan.

INDIVIDUALS, COALITIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES

Multiple programs or a single, long-term traffic safety effort are eligible. GTSAC member agencies are not eligible.



The GTSAC will present the awards at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit.

Award nominations must be received by November 8, 2020. An electronic version of the nomination form is available at Michigan.gov/gtsac.

Michigan teen safe driving program enters 10th year

Students at every Michigan high school have the opportunity to help make their fellow teens better drivers by participating in this year's S4SD campaign. This public-private partnership between Ford Driving Skills for Life (DSFL) and the OHSP aims to reduce the leading cause of death for teens: traffic crashes. Started in Michigan in 2011, this will be the program's 10th year.

In 2019, teens and young adults age 15-20 accounted for 8 percent of all traffic deaths in Michigan, with 55.7 percent of those deaths being the driver. Inexperience and risk-taking behavior are the primary factors contributing to teen driver fatalities.

The S4SD campaign encourages teens to talk to other teens, along with community members, about making safe driving choices. Schools will develop and implement a student-led, peer-to-peer traffic

safety awareness campaign. Campaign topics may include distracted driving, seat belts, underage drinking/impaired driving, speeding, and winter driving. This project does not need face-to-face instruction to work. It can be done successfully in a virtual environment.



Participating schools will each receive \$1,000 to conduct their campaign. Once the campaigns are completed and a final project is submitted, cash prizes will be awarded to the top five schools.

All participating schools will have the opportunity to send students to a free Ford DSFL hands-on driving clinic in the

spring. Professional driving instructors from across the country will teach teens key skills such as hazard recognition, speed and space management, and vehicle handling with hands-on instruction. A station highlighting the dangers of distracted and impaired driving will also be taught at the Ford DSFL event.

Every Michigan high school is encouraged to apply for the S4SD campaign. Last year, 57 high schools participated, more than triple the number that participated in the first year (16). Since its start, 168 different Michigan high schools have participated.

Application information, including examples of winning campaigns and tips for success, is available on Michigan.gov/s4sd. Applications are due November 20.

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STAFF PROFILE

Jon Ross COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Jon has been with the OHSP for about two and a half years. Prior to starting with the state of Michigan, he was a sports anchor/reporter in Lansing and worked at a television production company. Jon and his wife, Julie, live in DeWitt with their two children, Ryan (five years old) and Molly (just turned four), and a dog named Derby.

What do you like most about your job?

Helping program coordinators with their projects and helping the residents of Michigan be safer, more informed drivers through our communications efforts. Working from home is pretty nice, too.

What are you most proud of at work?

Not one specific thing, but just trying new approaches and strategies to programs and projects. Helping grow our social media channels in number of followers, impressions, and news stories generated from posts.

What are your interests or hobbies?

I like watching college football and basketball (go Blue!), golf, and the English Premier League (come on you Spurs!). I collect \$5 chips from casinos (I have 515 different chips in my collection). And I enjoy spending time with my family at



the zoo, the park, wherever I can take the kids to burn off some energy.

What personal achievement are you most proud of?

Tom Izzo, Joe Paterno, and Bobby Knight have all sworn at me. I think Paterno was the only one who meant it. The other two were joking around. I hope. All came during interviews at various points when I worked in sports. I also helped coach my son's four- and five-year-old soccer team to an undefeated record last season. There was hardly any swearing involved.

What's your favorite vacation spot?

Oktoberfest! My wife and I went to Munich in 2018 and had a great time.

Really looking forward to going back when it is safe to travel internationally again. If you like beer, pretzels, sausage, and lederhosen, I highly recommend attending. You will never forget the German word for cheers – Prost!

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

I was born in the Upper Peninsula. I'm color-blind. I like to travel. I've been to 46 states, 5 Canadian territories, 8 countries, and have flown in or out of 67 different commercial airports. Had the 68th all lined up, but we had to cancel our trip because of coronavirus.

E-Scooter-related injuries are on the rise

A new report by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found that injuries and deaths associated with the use of micro-mobility products (e.g., e-scooters, hoverboards, and e-bikes) have increased.

According to the report, there were about 133,000 emergency room visits associated with micro-mobility products from 2017-2019. Much of the increase over

the years is attributable to e-scooters, with emergency room visits going from 7,700 in 2017, to 14,500 in 2018, and 27,700 in 2019.

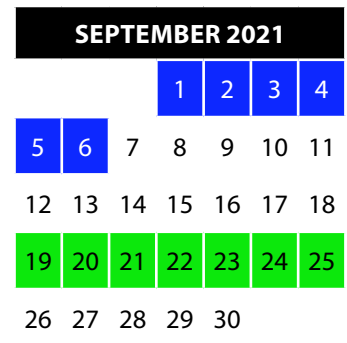
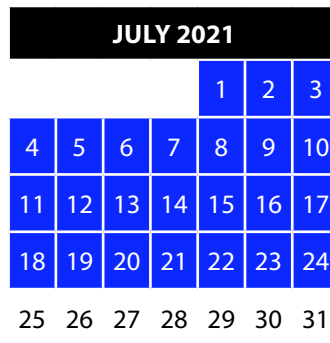
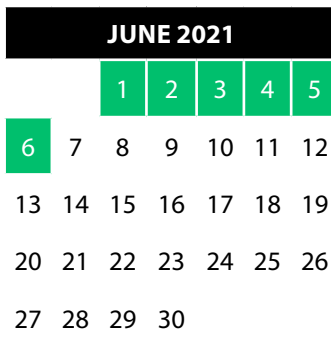
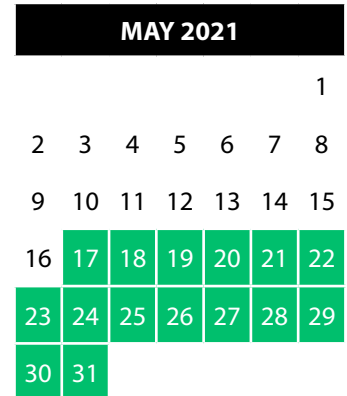
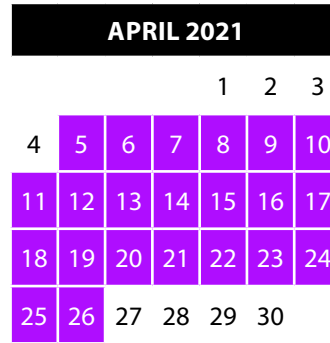
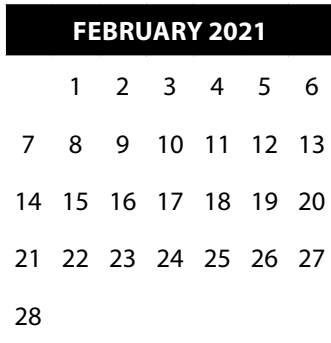
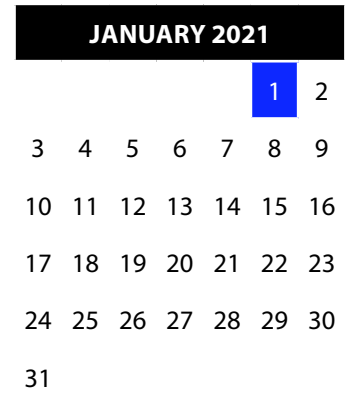
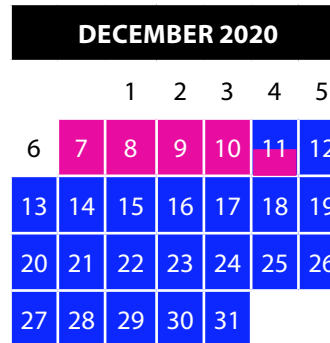
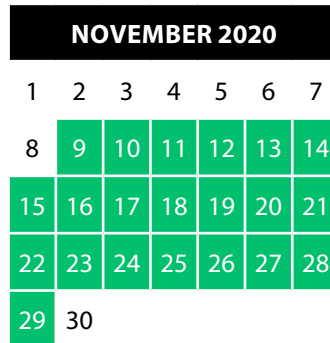
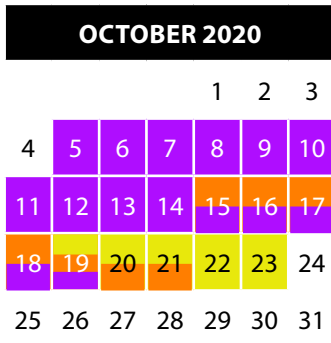
The CPSC recommends the following safety tips when using a micro-mobility device;

- Wear a helmet.
- Check the device for damage before use.

- Always test the brakes.
- See and be seen, don't make unpredictable movements.
- Beware of obstacles.
- Don't listen to music while riding, it's distracting.
- Don't perform stunts.
- Follow all manufacturer instructions.

To read the entire report, click [here](#).

Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning FY2021 Traffic Safety Campaigns



Date	Event
Oct. 5-19	Distracted Driving Enforcement
Oct. 15-21	Pedestrian Safety Enforcement
Oct. 19-23	School Bus Safety Week
Nov. 9-29	Click It or Ticket mobilization
Dec. 7-11	Older Driver Safety Awareness Week
Dec. 11- Jan. 1	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement
Mar. 9-10	Michigan Traffic Safety Summit
Apr. 5-26	Distracted Driving enforcement
May 17-June 6	Click It or Ticket mobilization
July 1-24	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement
Aug. 5-11	Bicycle Safety enforcement
Aug. 16- Sept. 6	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement
Sept. 19-25	Child Passenger Safety Week

