



# SAFETY Network

March 2018

[Michigan.gov/ohsp](http://Michigan.gov/ohsp)

## Michigan Traffic Safety Summit begins March 20

The state's traffic safety community will learn about the technological advances Michigan is utilizing to predict general patterns in traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries as part of the three-day 2018 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Carol Flannagan,

### MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT

research associate professor with the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI), and Darrin T. Grondel, director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, will discuss improved prediction models, long-term safety improvements and the impact of cannabis legalization.

More than 500 people are expected to attend the summit, which starts March

20 and runs through March 22 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. The summit is sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and is largely supported with federal traffic safety funds.

#### GENERAL SESSIONS INCLUDE:

##### Tuesday, March 20

*Speed Kills*, Nathan Doble, National Transportation Safety Board and Charles Farmer, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

*Re-engaging Law Enforcement*, Darrin T. Grondel, director, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Chief Michael J. Morris (retired), Law Enforcement Liaison, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Region 2, and Kendell Poole, principal, K Poole Strategic Relations.

##### Wednesday, March 21

*The Future of Crashes in Michigan*, Carol Flannagan, research associate professor with the UMTRI.

*Dangers of Drugged Driving*, James Hedlund, principal, Highway Safety North. **Thursday, March 22**

*Bring Your 'A' Game to Work*, Todd E. Bradley, senior learning and organization development specialist, Michigan State University Human Resources.

In addition to the general sessions, there are more than 30 workshops, including: Autonomous Vehicles and Their Impact on the State; Grand Rapids' Bicycle Safety Education Campaign; Reducing Youth Distracted Driving; Ride Smart: Florida's Motorcycle Safety Outreach Campaign; Roadside Drug Testing Pilot; and Roundabout Innovation: Thinking Outside the Circle.

A detailed and complete program can be found at [Michigan.gov/ohsp](http://Michigan.gov/ohsp).

## GHSA issues report on pedestrian traffic fatalities for 2017

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) estimates nearly 6,000 pedestrians were killed in motor vehicle crashes nationwide in 2017. This marks the second year in a row for numbers not seen in 25 years.

The GHSA's annual Spotlight on Highway Safety provides the first glimpse at state and national trends in pedestrian traffic fatalities for 2017, using preliminary data provided by the highway safety offices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Pedestrian fatalities increased 27% from 2007-2016, while all other traffic deaths decreased by 14%.



States reported a total of 2,636 pedestrian fatalities for the first six months of 2017. Adjusting the raw data based on past

data trends, GHSA projects that pedestrian deaths in 2017 will total 5,984, essentially unchanged from 2016, in which 5,987 people on foot lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. Pedestrians now account for approximately 16 percent of all motor vehicle deaths, compared to 11 percent just a few years ago.

Two recent trends present an interesting correlation with rising pedestrian fatalities: the growth in smartphone use nationally and the legalization of

**Pedestrians** Continued on page 2 >



# SAFETY Network

**Pedestrians** *Continued from page 1 >*

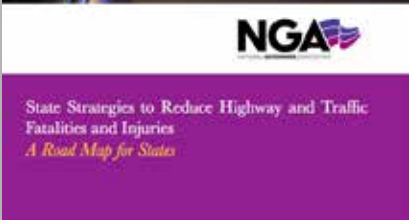
recreational marijuana in several states. While the report does not find or imply a definitive link between these factors and pedestrian deaths, it is widely accepted both smartphones and marijuana can impair the attention and judgment necessary to navigate roadways safely behind the wheel and on foot.

The reported number of smartphones in active use in the U.S. increased 236 percent from 2010 to 2016, and the number of cell phone-related emergency room visits also increased as the devices become more prevalent in daily life.

The District of Columbia and the seven states that legalized recreational marijuana use between 2012 and 2016 experienced a collective 16.4 percent increase in pedestrian fatalities for the first half of 2017, while all other states saw a combined 5.8 percent decrease.

In addition to looking at pedestrian fatality crash characteristics, the report also discusses promising strategies to reduce pedestrian and motor vehicle crashes through a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement efforts. It outlines specific examples from 41 states such as: training law enforcement officers to understand and enforce laws aimed to protect pedestrians; collaboration between state highway safety offices and departments of transportation; and policy changes to prioritize safety for all road users, regardless of mode.

The full report, including state-by-state data and infographics, is available at [ghsa.org](http://ghsa.org).



## NGA report provides roadmap for states

With 39 states reporting an increase in traffic fatalities in 2016, traffic safety policy, programs and practices remain a pressing concern across the nation—and governors are an essential part of the solution. The National Governors Association (NGA) supports policy-makers in developing solutions to transportation, public safety, and public health challenges.

A new NGA report, *State Strategies to Reduce Highway and Traffic Fatalities and Injuries: A Road Map for States*, highlights steps to improve coordination and strengthen existing efforts across state agencies and identifies recent state efforts to adopt strategies to reduce traffic fatalities.

The report can be found at [nga.org/cms/home](http://nga.org/cms/home)

## Ross named senior editor at OHSP Communications



Jon Ross is the new senior editor with the OHSP Communications Section. He previously worked at Wolf Creek Productions in Perry, MI where he produced the TV shows “Wardens” and “Field & Stream’s Gun Nuts.” Before that, Ross was a sports anchor/reporter at both WSYM and WILX in Lansing.

Ross will be responsible for producing publications, coordinating public information and education initiatives, and editing annual reports. He has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Michigan State University. Ross and his wife, Julie, are the parents of three-year-old, Ryan, and one-year-old, Molly.

## Fox selected as OHSP administrative assistant



Mallory Fox is the new administrative assistant at the OHSP.

Fox has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Michigan State University. Prior to joining the OHSP, she was the office manager and assistant event coordinator for St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church, the largest church in the Grand Rapids Diocese. Fox has also worked in the office of State Senator Wayne Schmidt.

Fox lives in Grand Ledge with her husband and three-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

# SAFETY Network



## Inhalants and Driving: A Dangerous Combination

By: Kenneth Stecker and Kinga Gorzelewski Canike

Most everyone knows the dangers of drinking and driving, but recent news articles have put the spotlight on another danger on our roads—huffing and driving:

*“Traverse City Man Arrested for Huffing While Driving.”<sup>1</sup>*

*“Huffing causes Mills Township crash, driver arrested.”<sup>2</sup>*

*“Man huffing cans of air duster crashes car into Otsego church, police say.”<sup>3</sup>*

*“Police: Man ‘huffing’ narrowly misses MDOT workers before crashing.”<sup>4</sup>*

Huffing is the inhaling of chemicals, which many times involves chemicals found in aerosol cans. It is an extremely dangerous and illegal activity that can cause permanent brain damage.<sup>5</sup> As the name implies, inhalants enter the body through breaths drawn in with the nose and/or mouth.<sup>6</sup> Methods of ingestion are to either inhale the product’s fumes after placing the fumes inside a plastic bag, or, as in the case

of paint thinner and gasoline, to inhale directly from an open container.<sup>7</sup>

The fumes produce an instant high that can vary widely among users. It will depend on the substance being inhaled, method of inhalation, and other factors such as frequency of use and amount being inhaled.<sup>8</sup>

The effects of inhalants include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Slurred speech
- Loss of motor coordination
- Wheezing
- Loss of consciousness
- Memory Impairment
- Red or watering eyes
- Hallucinations<sup>9</sup>

Inhalants are found everywhere, including in drivers on our roads. This is where Michigan Public Act 543 of 2012, effective, March 31, 2013, comes into play.

The act states in pertinent part as follows:

Sec. 625. (1) A person, whether licensed or not, shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway or other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles, including an area designated for the parking of vehicles, within this state if the person is operating while intoxicated. As used in this section, “operating while intoxicated” means any of the following:

<sup>7</sup> *The Good Drugs Guide.com—Inhalant Basics.* <https://www.thegooddrugsguide.com/inhalants/basics.htm>

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *“Driver Education: How Drugs Affect Driving-Inhalants,”* published June 17, 2009, in *Safe Teen Driving Blog—Providing a solid base for teen drivers by improving behavior, attitude, skills and experience.*

(a) The person is under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or other intoxicating substance or a combination of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or other intoxicating substance.

(25) As used in this section: (a) “Intoxicating substance” means any substance, preparation, or a combination of substances and preparations other than alcohol or a controlled substance, that is either of the following: (i) Recognized as a drug in any of the following publications or their supplements: (A) The official United States pharmacopoeia. (B) The official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States. (C) The official national formulary. (ii) A substance, other than food, taken into a person’s body, including, but not limited to, vapors or fumes, that is used in a manner or for a purpose for which it was not intended, and that may result in a condition of intoxication.

In testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, a Grand Blanc police officer said he had encountered several cases in which a driver’s ability to operate a vehicle was impaired.<sup>10</sup> The officer told of responding to a car crash in which a driver was “huffing” an aerosol spray can. The driver had four spray cans in his car and 20 empty cans in the trunk.<sup>11</sup> Another former law enforcement officer recalled having pulled over a driver who was sucking on a rag soaked with lighter fluid. All of these drivers were a threat to themselves and others because they were operating vehicles while impaired by an intoxicating substance.<sup>12</sup>

*Inhalants Continued on page 6 >*

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2011-SFA-0353-A.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *“Traverse City Man Arrested for Huffing While Driving,”* June 9, 2016, by 9 and 10 news staff (<http://www.9and10news.com/author/9and10news-site-staff/>)

<sup>2</sup> *“Huffing causes Mills Township crash, driver arrested,”* Kelly Dame, published Friday, September 8, 2017, *Midland Daily News.*

<sup>3</sup> *“Man huffing cans of air duster crashes car into Otsego church, police say,”* Rex Hall, Jr., published September 6, 2012, *MLive.*

<sup>4</sup> *“Police: Man ‘huffing’ narrowly misses MDOT workers before crashing,”* Ken Palmer, published August 25, 2017, *Lansing State Journal.*

<sup>5</sup> *“Indiana Police: Driver was Huffing Drugs Before Fatal Crash,”* published March 24, 2011, *Keller & Keller.*

<sup>6</sup> *“Inhalants and Driving Impairment,”* published March 7, 2013, in *Club Drugs.*





# SAFETY Network

## Record number of high schools to take part in teen safe driving program



More than 60,000 students at 61 Michigan high schools will soon benefit from efforts to make teenagers better, safer drivers.

Strive For a Safer Drive (S4SD) is a public-private partnership between Ford Driving Skills for Life and the OHSP that seeks to reduce the leading cause of death for teens: traffic crashes. In 2016, there were 44,072 crashes in Michigan with a driver age 15-19. Those crashes resulted in 116 fatalities and 829 serious injuries.

As part of the S4SD program, schools receive \$1,000 for students to create teen-led traffic safety campaigns to educate their fellow classmates about distracted driving, seat belt use, speeding, underage drinking/impaired driving or winter driving.

Schools will submit a video or PowerPoint outlining campaign activities. The top five campaigns will be selected and those winning schools will win a cash prize ranging from \$500-\$1,500. Following their activities, schools will have the opportunity to send students to a free, hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors in the spring.

For more information about S4SD, please visit [Michigan.gov/s4sd](http://Michigan.gov/s4sd).

### THE S4SD HIGH SCHOOLS FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ARE:

<b>Allegan County:</b>	Otsego
<b>Barry County:</b>	Lakewood
<b>Bay County:</b>	Bay City
<b>Branch County:</b>	Coldwater
<b>Calhoun County:</b>	Athens and Harper Creek
<b>Cass County:</b>	Cassopolis
<b>Chippewa County:</b>	Pickford
<b>Clinton County:</b>	St. Johns
<b>Eaton County:</b>	Grand Ledge
<b>Grand Traverse County:</b>	Traverse City West Senior
<b>Hillsdale County:</b>	Jonesville and Reading
<b>Ingham County:</b>	Everett
<b>Ionia County:</b>	Ionia
<b>Kent County:</b>	Lowell
<b>Lenawee County:</b>	Tecumseh
<b>Macomb County:</b>	Austin Catholic, Chippewa Valley, Dakota, Dianne Pellerin Center, and Paul K. Cousino
<b>Marquette County:</b>	Ishpeming
<b>Mason County:</b>	West Shore ESD Career and Technical Education Center
<b>Midland County:</b>	HH Dow and Meridian Early College
<b>Monroe County:</b>	Bedford, Dundee, Ida, and Monroe
<b>Muskegon County:</b>	Orchard View
<b>Oakland County:</b>	Clarkston, Holly, Lake Orion, Lakeland, Lamphere, Oakland Schools Technical Campus NE, Pontiac Academy for Excellence, Southfield Regional Academic Campus, Troy Athens, and University High School-Ferndale
<b>Ontonagon County:</b>	Ontonagon
<b>Presque Isle County:</b>	Onaway and Posen Consolidated
<b>Saginaw County:</b>	Freeland and Swan Valley
<b>Sanilac County:</b>	Croswell-Lexington
<b>Van Buren County:</b>	Mattawan and South Haven
<b>Washtenaw County:</b>	Dexter, Pioneer, Skyline, and Ypsilanti
<b>Wayne County:</b>	Carlson, Cody Detroit Institute of Technology, Edsel Ford, Ecorse, Golightly Career & Technical Center, John Glenn, Plymouth, and Wayne Memorial



# SAFETY Network

## MDOT working to reduce wrong-way drivers on interstates

Engineers in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Metro Region are focusing on measures to reduce the frequency of wrong-way driving incidents on the state’s freeways in southeast Michigan. (The Michigan State Police (MSP) and the Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center (SEMTOC) are helping in this effort.)

MDOT engineers review incidents and try to understand how drivers end up going the wrong way on freeways. MDOT and MSP are working together closely to identify and ultimately stop wrong-way incidents on freeways. This includes notifying motorists during active wrong-way driver situations by posting alerts on roadside message signs, placing wrong-way arrow markings on freeway ramps, and installing detection cameras for the earliest possible alerts of wrong-way drivers.

The goal is to reduce the number of wrong-way driving incidents that occur

between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, by 20 percent compared to the previous year.

With the help of MSP and SEMTOC, locations of confirmed wrong-way drivers are recorded, including the reported locations and entry points. Incidents are then reviewed in the field by a diverse team of engineers to determine what countermeasures, if any, are appropriate.

Thus far, the MDOT has used several methods to help alert wrong-way drivers, including a lane separator system composed of plastic curb and reflective panels, which physically blocks the wrong-way movement. Enhanced red delineation and additional pavement markings also help prevent drivers from entering the freeway in the wrong direction.

More improvements and enhancements will be included in future MDOT projects to modernize or reconstruct interchanges.

## What’s Ahead

### APRIL 2018

- 4 Traffic Incident Management Action Team meeting.** Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Impaired Driving Action Team meeting.** Michigan State Police Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.
- 17 Distracted Driving Action Team meeting.** Michigan State Police Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1 p.m.
- 24 Traffic Records Coordinating Committee meeting.** Michigan State Police Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.

## OHSP staffer receives *Saved by the Belt* Award



OHSP Director Michael L. Prince presents Jean Shattuck with the *Saved by the Belt* Award.

Even though their car was totaled and the impact of the collision forced her glasses to fly off her head, Jean Shattuck and her husband, Jon, walked away from serious injury because they always buckle up.

The Shattucks were headed back from a family birthday party on December 9

when a driver in Ionia County ran a stop sign. With no time to react, the van driven by Jon Shattuck smashed into the other car. Both Shattucks were wearing their seat belts.

The OHSP and AAA Michigan honored Jean, an account technician for the OHSP, with the *Saved by the Belt* Award.

“It was a very scary incident, but thankfully it had a happy ending,” she said.

“Without their seat belts, Jean and her husband could have been very seriously hurt or worse,” said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. “I’m thrilled to present Jean with this award and have her back in the office.”



Dan Blower, Michigan Truck Safety Commission chair, right, honors Walter Heinritz for his years as a commissioner. Heinritz served from 2008-2017.



# SAFETY Network

**Inhalant** *Continued from page 3 >*

Because inhalants fall under the category of "intoxicating substance," a person violates this law only when he or she operates a motor vehicle while under the influence by an intoxicating substance.

"Under the influence" means that, because of consuming an intoxicating substance, a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle in a normal manner was substantially lessened. The test is whether one's mental or physical condition is significantly affected and they are no longer able to operate a motor vehicle in a normal manner.

In essence, if a police officer suspects someone is inhaling while driving, there are signs that are indicators that the driver is under the influence of an intoxicating substance.

Common examples include loss of normal road awareness, loss of the ability to react properly to changing driving circumstances, loss of the ability to properly control driving speed, loss of the ability to safely maintain position within a lane, loss of the ability to follow other vehicles at a safe distance, and an increased tendency to attempt unsafe driving maneuvers.<sup>13</sup>

As with alcohol intoxication, these impairments create seriously elevated risks for

<sup>13</sup> "Inhalants and Driving Impairment," published March 7, 2013, in *Club Drugs*.

involvement in crashes that damage property and/or lead to major injuries or fatalities.<sup>14</sup>

Additional signs to look for are appearance of rashes or blisters around the mouth and nose of the user.<sup>15</sup> Many times the vapors are toxic enough to cause rashes or burns with frequent use.<sup>16</sup> Their behavior may be similar to someone who is drunk, but most often speech will be slurred and behavior will be erratic.<sup>17</sup>

We have a responsibility for road safety in Michigan. One way we can make a difference is by making sure inhalant-abusing drivers are kept off our roads.

*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.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *The Good Drugs Guide.com – Signs of Usage* <https://www.thegooddrugsguide.com/inhalants/basics.htm>

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

**Toward Zero Deaths**  
 March 6, 2018  
**118**  
 Traffic Deaths in Michigan this Year

## Arend named OHSP communications strategist



Kari Arend recently began as the new communication strategist at the OHSP. Arend comes to the OHSP from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), where she was a communications representative since 2000. At the MDOT, Arend covered the 10-county University Region in southeast Michigan.

Arend brings experience in event planning, media relations, writing and editing, multi-media platforms, and crisis communications. She has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and currently resides in Okemos with her husband and two children.



**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

# SAFETY Network

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