



October 2010

[www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp)

## Michigan law enforcement putting the scare on drunk drivers this Halloween



Ghosts and goblins won't be the only spooky things on the streets this Halloween as drunk drivers will pose the

scariest threat of all. That's why more than 200 law enforcement agencies have put extra officers out on the road October 25-31.

Law enforcement officers in thirty-five counties are conducting drunk driving enforcement through federal traffic safety funds administered by the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

This includes law enforcement agencies in Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Chippewa, *Continued on page 3 >*

## Michigan's new high BAC drunk driving law takes effect Oct. 31

Starting October 31, Michigan's new high BAC (blood alcohol content) drunk driving law takes effect, with enhanced penalties for first-time drivers convicted at .17 BAC or higher. Because the new law's effective date is Halloween, it also coincides with additional federally funded drunk driving patrols in thirty-five counties that run October 25-31.

Public Act 462 of 2008 creates a new high BAC category of "operating while intoxicated." BAC refers to the alcohol content in a person's blood, breath or urine. Currently, any driver convicted of drunk driving is subject to the same penalties, regardless of BAC level.

The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) and Rep. Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights).

Among the enhanced penalties, convicted drivers could face:

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## Motorists reminded to Give thanks. Drive safely.

### OPERATION C.A.R.E. THANKSGIVING MOBILIZATION

Every year, the Michigan State Police (MSP) participate in Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing traffic crashes and fatalities on the nation's highways. Operation C.A.R.E. enforcement focuses on key causes of highway fatalities—failure to wear a seat belt and impaired driving.

This Thanksgiving, the MSP enforcement will be augmented by a public awareness campaign encouraging motorists to *Give thanks. Drive safely.* The campaign uses common Thanksgiving terms and images to help reinforce safe driving practices.

The television public service announcement, *The Good and Bad of Thanksgiving*, contrasts traditional Thanksgiving activities, such as unbuckling your belt after a large meal, with dangerous driving habits, like unbuckling your seat belt while driving.

A special web page provides visitors the option of sending Thanksgiving eCards to their family and friends. The eCards are a fun and easy way to spread holiday cheer and traffic safety reminders. The web page will be available from the MSP home page, [www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp), on November 8.

In addition, the public awareness campaign includes road-side banners which will be displayed at MSP posts, weigh stations, and Michigan Welcome Centers, paper placemats available for use by Michigan restaur- *Continued on page 4 >*

# SAFETY Network



## Employer outreach focuses on cost reduction and lives saved

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

For more than forty years, Michigan's highway traffic safety program has worked to reduce fatalities and injuries on Michigan roadways. In 1969, traffic fatalities reached an all-time high for our state of 2,487. In 2009, thanks to advancements in public policy, vehicle and roadway engineering, emergency medicine, and strict traffic enforcement of traffic laws, Michigan recorded the lowest level of traffic fatalities since 1924 at 871. Yet even with this significant accomplishment, there is still much more work to do.

One of the most important audiences for future traffic safety programming is Michigan's employer and business community. Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death and injury in the workplace and cost employers more than \$60 billion annually in the U.S. alone. In response to this challenge, on October 1, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) launched a new Employer Outreach Program to inform Michigan employers

about the important role that traffic safety plays in the workplace and to help employers navigate new and upcoming traffic laws that will affect their employees and their business.

### THE PROGRAM'S GOALS INCLUDE:

- >> Reduce loss of life, injury and property
- >> Lower employer health care costs
- >> Reduce workers' compensation costs
- >> Improve productivity
- >> Reduce absenteeism
- >> Improve quality of life for the employee and the community

The current economic climate requires that businesses have every competitive advantage possible. Every on-the-job traffic crash, injury, and fatality is a preventable loss. Through the Employer Outreach Program, OHSP hopes to not only help employers reduce these losses, but to make a positive contribution to Michigan's economic recovery through improved traffic safety programming.

The Employer Outreach Program will begin by leveraging web-based technology to deliver three employer webinars. The first webinar on texting and driving on the job was broadcast to more than seventy registrants. Two additional webinars on medical marijuana and ignition interlock devices will be held in the upcoming months. Each of these one-hour webinars are provided to Michigan's employers at no cost to help them learn about new Michigan traffic laws, how their business is impacted from a liability standpoint, and perhaps most importantly, how to implement effective workplace policies that will manage their risk, keep employees safe, and reduce economic loss resulting from traffic crashes.

Questions regarding OHSP's Employer Outreach Program should be directed to Alyson Kechkaylo, Program Outreach Coordinator, at (517) 241-2546 or [KechkayloA@Michigan.gov](mailto:KechkayloA@Michigan.gov).

## Kent County tops for number of vehicle-deer crashes in Michigan

To increase awareness about vehicle-deer crashes, October was proclaimed Michigan Vehicle-Deer Crash Safety Awareness Month by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

According to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center, there were 61,486 deer-vehicle crashes in 2009, up from the 61,010 crashes reported in 2008. However, officials note that many crashes also go unreported, so actual crash numbers are much higher.

In 2009, all ten deer crash fatalities involved motorcyclists. That is why the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC) has developed new safety tips for motorcyclists.

### MOTORCYCLISTS SHOULD:

- >> Be alert for deer whenever they ride. Deer-vehicle crashes happen in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- >> Slow down. Decreasing speed gives a motorcyclist more time to spot an animal and react.
- >> Cover the brakes to reduce reaction time.
- >> Use high beam headlights and additional driving light when possible.
- >> If riding in a group, spread out riders in a staggered formation. If one rider hits a deer, this will reduce the chance that other riders will be involved.
- >> Wear protective gear at all times. Nearly half of all vehicle-deer crashes occur in the October-to-December mating season when deer are very active.

MDCC officials indicate motorists can help avoid dangerous encounters with deer by heeding the following tips:

- >> Stay aware, awake, alert and sober.
- >> Seat belts are your best defense in any collision.
- >> Deer frequently travel in groups. If you see one deer slow down. Chances are there are others nearby.
- >> Be especially alert for deer at dawn and dusk.

### IF A CRASH IS UNAVOIDABLE:

- >> Don't swerve.
- >> Brake firmly.
- >> Hold onto the steering wheel.
- >> Stay in your lane.
- >> Bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.

# SAFETY Network

## Reporting days for crash reports decreases in 2009

The Traffic Records Coordinating Committee recently published the 2009 Average Reporting Days brochure. In 2009, average reporting days for crash reports from law enforcement agencies was twenty-two. This is a decrease from 2008 when the average was twenty-five.

### THE TOP 10 MOST IMPROVED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN 2009 WERE:

Berrien County Sheriff's Office  
 Detroit Police Department (ORI 8234962)  
 Elkton Police Department  
 Jonesville Police Department  
 Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office  
 Lake Angelus Police Department  
 Lincoln Township Police Department  
 Port Austin Police Department  
 Rockwood Police Department  
 Sebawaing Police Department

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Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Wexford.

A motorist convicted of drunk driving can expect to face serious consequences including up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$500 fine, up to 360 hours of community service, 180 days suspension, and six points on a driver's license. In addition, they will be subject to a \$1,000 fee for two consecutive years, for a total of \$2,000 in additional costs. Anyone who refuses a breath test the first time is given an automatic one-year driver's license suspension.

## Kolodge named MADD Michigan executive director

A seasoned nonprofit executive with in-depth experience in all aspects of organizational and resource development, Janette Kolodge has been named MADD Michigan's new state executive director.

Kolodge began her career twenty years ago in the United Kingdom when she became a volunteer for a grass roots local community charity. From then on, she has continued learning and building her experience and qualifications in management, leadership, and professional fundraising.

Prior to accepting the position with MADD, Kolodge was the regional executive director for the Sister to Sister Foundation, vice president of development for a large

Michigan behavioral healthcare provider, and an advisor and consultant to many philanthropists and nonprofits throughout the world.

Her accomplishments include a successful corporate relations development program titled *Building Values Into The Work You Do Everyday* and a presentation training program titled *Community Leadership/The Importance of Boards* for the Michigan Nonprofit Association. Kolodge sits on various nonprofit and professional committees as well as being an active mentor to many new nonprofit professionals.



## Ride Smart 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Conference attracts 100 attendees

Skilled Motorcyclist Association—Responsible, Trained and Educated Riders, Incorporated (S.M.A.R.T.E.R.) and the Office of Highway Safety Planning hosted a one-day motorcycle training conference on September 11 in Mt. Pleasant for 100 attendees.

The Ride Smart 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Conference featured four motorcycle safety and training experts—Ken Condon, columnist for Motorcycle Consumer News and author, Pat Hahn, Public Information Office for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and author, William Murphy,

author, and Dr. Ray Ochs, Director of Training Systems for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

The purpose of the conference was to train and educate motorcyclists on critical riding skills such as cornering, braking, and speed management. These issues are continually over-represented as causes in motorcycle-related fatalities. A primary goal of the conference was to provide attendees with tips and information that could be utilized that day on their ride home from the event.

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- >> Up to 180 days in jail (increased from 93 days)
- >> Fine of \$200 but not more than \$700 (increased from \$100 but not more than \$500)
- >> One year license suspension, with restrictions permitted after 45 days. (increased from six-month license suspension with restrictions permitted after 30 days)
- >> Up to 360 hours community service (same)
- >> Cost of prosecution (same)
- >> Immobilization not exceeding 180 days allowed (same)
- >> 6 points on the driving record (same)
- >> Mandatory rehabilitation in an alcohol treatment program for not less than one year

Motorists who wish to have limited driving privileges following their forty-five-day license suspension may do so only after the installation of a breath alcohol ignition interlock device is installed on their vehi-

cle. Installation and monthly fees are the responsibility of the driver.

An ignition interlock requires a driver to blow into the device and prevents a vehicle from starting if it measures a BAC of .025 or above. In addition, the device requires periodic retests when driving longer periods. The device records the date and time of each test and any violation is reported to the Department of State.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's review of research, ignition interlocks reduce recidivism among first-time and repeat DWI offenders, with reductions in subsequent DWI arrests ranging from 50 to 90 percent while the interlock is installed on the vehicle.

Michigan is one of ten states with a high BAC law that requires the use of ignition interlocks.

Twelve states have made ignition interlocks mandatory or highly incentivized for all convicted drunk drivers, even first-time offenders.



## Michigan CPS program going strong

Michigan's child passenger safety (CPS) technicians continue to show their dedication to keeping kids safe while riding in vehicles with 57 percent of the state's eligible technicians receiving their recertification. Through September, 179 out of 311 technicians that required recertification completed the requirements. This is above the national average of 49.3 percent.

Nationally, 5,568 of the 11,290 CPS technicians eligible had been recertified through September.

To become a certified CPS technician, individuals must complete a thirty-two hour course that includes both hands-on and classroom training. Once certified, technicians must recertify every two years. Michigan currently has 723 CPS technicians.

## New child passenger safety kit available

Car seats save lives, plain and simple. But more than half of all car seats are installed incorrectly, reducing their effectiveness in a crash.

Knowing how to protect kids with car seats is key to saving lives and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning has a new tool kit to help keep kids safe. A free child passenger safety (CPS) kit of existing materials has been compiled to help car seat technicians educate parents and caregivers about

car seat laws and how best to protect children in vehicles.

The kit includes educational flyers, posters, stickers, coloring books and an instructional DVD in a single offering. Some materials are also available in Spanish and Arabic. Any organization

serving parents and caregivers of young children may request the kits by clicking the Traffic Safety Materials link at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp).



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rants, and short radio announcements recorded by MSP post commanders.

The official Operation C.A.R.E. enforcement period begins at 6 p.m. on November 24, and runs through midnight on November 28. During this time, extra MSP patrols will be on the lookout for improper seat belt use and impaired drivers.

Operation C.A.R.E. began in 1977 as a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Indiana State Police, and is one of the nation's longest-running traffic safety initiatives. Today, it includes state and highway patrol agencies from all fifty states, as well as some American territories and Canadian provinces.

# SAFETY Network

## CMU explores reactions of drivers with attention disorders

### TRAINING PROGRAMS TO REMEDIATE ISSUES FOR TEEN DRIVERS

Teens with attention disorders may soon have access to specialized training programs that would prevent future driving problems. A researcher at Central Michigan University is exploring why teen drivers with attention disorders tend to encounter more driving errors with plans to develop specialized training for this population.

Research has shown that individuals with Attention-Deficit Disorder and Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder experience more problems on the road, including traffic crashes and moving violations. Michele Oliver, an applied experimental psychology doctoral student at CMU and researcher in CMU's Center for Driving Evaluation, Education and Research, also known as the DEER Center, is working to gain insight into what causes these errors.

Oliver and other DEER Center researchers plan to use this research to develop

specialized training for teens, which would be integrated into driver education programs to help prevent these errors after they get their driver's licenses.

"The mission of the DEER Center is to keep people driving safely longer," said Oliver. "Our hope is that, through this research, we can confirm the differences in drivers with attention disorders and those without, and provide programs that will ease ADD and ADHD-related errors for these drivers."

Driving evaluations take place in a controlled environment in the DEER Center using the AAA Michigan Driving Simulator - advanced technology created from an actual vehicle that has a 180-degree forward field of view. Oliver monitors individuals' heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing patterns through experiences in four separate virtual environments.

"Our research is important because it suggests that driving remediation programs for young drivers with ADHD that focus upon their driving skills would not address their core problem, which we believe is their inability to recognize and control their emotions," said Richard Backs, professor of psychology at CMU and director of the DEER Center.

Along with the research component, the center enables older drivers or persons who have had a stroke or brain injury, or who suffer from a neurodegenerative disease, to have their cognitive driving ability evaluated to assess whether it is safe for them to either continue driving or to resume driving.

More information about the DEER Center can be found at [www.deercenter.org](http://www.deercenter.org).

## Lowest traffic fatalities in six decades in U.S. announced

Recently released 2009 fatality and injury data shows that national highway deaths fell to 33,808 for the year, the lowest number since 1950. The record-breaking decline in traffic fatalities occurred even while estimated vehicle miles traveled in 2009 increased by 0.2 percent over 2008 levels.

In addition, 2009 saw the lowest fatality and injury rates ever recorded: 1.13 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2009, compared to 1.26 deaths for 2008. Fatalities declined in all categories of vehicles including motorcycles, which saw fatalities fall by 850 from 2008, breaking an eleven-year cycle of annual increases.

According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study based on 2006 Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) data, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for those between the ages of 3 and 34.

In addition to the record-breaking drop in fatalities, the number of people injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2009 declined for a tenth straight year in a row, falling an estimated 5.5 percent from 2008, according to NHTSA data released today.

Alcohol impaired driving fatalities declined by 7.4 percent in 2009 - 10,839 compared to 11,711 reported in 2008. Overall, thirty-three states and Puerto Rico experienced a decline in the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2009 compared to 2008.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

>> 33,808 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2009, a 9.7 percent

decline from 37,423 deaths reported in 2008, and the lowest number of deaths since 1950 (which had 33,186).

- >> An estimated 2.217 million people were injured in 2009, a 5.5 percent decline from 2.346 million in 2008.
- >> 30,797 fatal crashes occurred in 2009, down 9.9 percent from 34,172 in 2008. All crashes (fatal, injury and property damage only) were down by 5.3 percent in 2009 from a year ago.
- >> Forty-one states had reductions in fatalities, led by Florida (with 422 fewer fatalities) and Texas (with 405 fewer fatalities).

# SAFETY Network

## The dangers of K2 Spice, now an illegal substance in Michigan

By Kenneth Stecker

Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan

K2 Spice, also known as Orange Dragon Smoke, Black Mamba, Genie, Blaze, Red X Dawn, and Zohai, is a substance that until October 1, 2010, could be purchased in convenience stores, spiritual shops, gas stations, and even at newsstands located at shopping malls in Michigan.

What is K2 Spice? It is a dried herbal blend that should only be used as incense, however, people are smoking the incense even though the label on the package states that it is "not for human consumption." The incense is sprayed with JWH-018 or JWH-073 before it is packaged for sale. This spray is reportedly an "analgesic chemical which acts like marijuana." It produces a high similar to that of marijuana but doesn't contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive chemical in marijuana.

Up until October 1, 2010, these shops in Michigan were selling this incense sprayed with these chemicals. It should be noted that they are very popular among teenagers and college students.

Additionally, emergency rooms and poison control centers throughout the country reported cases of people who have become ill due to ingesting K2 Spice. Since February 2010, poison centers throughout the United States have reported 352 cases in thirty-five states.

Symptoms include hallucinations, severe agitation, dangerously elevated heart rate and blood pressure, panic attacks, dilated pupils, very pale skin, vomiting and, in some cases, tremors and seizures, really bad headaches, and even overdosing.

Why is K2 Spice so popular? In over forty states, it is popular because it is legal. It does not show up on drug screens unless used within the prior two hours, and is easily available. In some places, it is advertised on radio stations and in newspapers, and it is relatively cheap, as it sells for approx-

imately \$30 to \$40 per three gram bag which is comparable in cost to marijuana. It is also readily available for purchase on the Internet.

Several countries such as Britain, Germany, Poland, Russia, and France have banned the substance. Kansas was the first state in the U.S. to ban K2, and as of October 1, 2010, Michigan has banned K2 Spice.

On October 1, 2010, pursuant to Public Act 171, K2 Spice is illegal as it is now a Schedule 1 controlled substance under the Michigan Health Code.



What does this mean? Michigan Compiled Law 257.625(8) reads as follows:

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 has in his or her body any amount of a controlled substance listed in schedule 1 under section 7212 of the public health code..."

In essence, Michigan and approximately one-third of the other states have adopted the per se standard, which may be the single most effective policy tool for dealing with drugged drivers. Any detectable amount of a controlled substance, (i.e. K2

Spice), in a driver's body, constitutes per se evidence of a drugged driving violation.

With Michigan's per se statute, drivers know that they must not use Schedule 1 controlled substances (i.e. K2 Spice) before getting behind the wheel of a car or they face the risk of being charged and convicted under Michigan's per se statute. Now, with the passage of the new law, drivers who are on K2 Spice should not be on Michigan's highways as they pose a danger to other innocent drivers.

For more information on this new law and PAAM training programs, please contact Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, at (517) 334-6060 or e-mail at [steckerk@michigan.gov](mailto:steckerk@michigan.gov). Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. Discuss your practices that relate to these statutes with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practices in reliance on a reported change.





# SAFETY Network

## Statewide crackdown nets over 500 drunk drivers



During a recent statewide drunk driving crackdown, most Michigan motorists heeded the warning *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* as law enforcement agencies reported a decline in arrests and citations compared to last year's enforcement effort.

More than 200 law enforcement agencies took to the streets August 19-September 6 as part of the nationwide effort to reduce injuries and deaths caused by alcohol-related crashes. The crackdown was coordinated by the Office of Highway Safety Planning and paid for with federal traffic safety dollars.

This year, officers made nearly 12,000 traffic stops compared to 13,000 last year, and arrested 35 fewer drunk drivers. During this year's enforcement period, 520 motorists were arrested for drunk driving, while 552 were arrested in 2009.

This year's Labor Day crackdown also netted 84 drug-related arrests and 84 open intoxicants, 75 minor in possession, 290 seat belt and child seat, 1,777 speeding and 3,521 other traffic violation citations.

Preliminary results show there were thirteen traffic fatalities in Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, two of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. In comparison, sixteen people died in traffic crashes during the 2009 Labor Day holiday weekend, four of which involved alcohol.

## Proposal would require seat belts on all new motorcoaches

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced a proposal that would require new motorcoaches to have lap-shoulder belts to help prevent driver and passenger ejections during a collision. The proposed rule will take effect three years after the final rule is issued.

While motorcoach travel is a very safe mode of highway transportation in the U.S., carrying 750 million passengers annually, an average of 19 motorcoach occupants are killed each year on U.S. roadways. Wearing lap-shoulder belts on motorcoaches could reduce the risk for passengers of being killed in a rollover crash by 77 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## GHSA Produces Teen Driving Guidebook

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) recently announced the availability of a new publication, *Protecting Teen Drivers: A Guidebook for State Highway Safety Offices*. The resource was developed by GHSA with a grant from State Farm.

Despite growing awareness of the dangers teen drivers pose to themselves and others, teens aged 15 to 20 continue to be significantly overrepresented in all types of traffic crashes. In 2008, while they made up just six percent of all licensed drivers, teens in this age group accounted for 12 percent of all drivers in fatal crashes and 14 percent of drivers in all crashes.

While graduated driver licensing laws are the most important thing a state can do to reduce teen deaths on the roadways, no single law or strategy will absolutely protect young drivers as they take to the roadways. As with most complex problems,

improving safety for teen drivers requires a combination of tactics that address many aspects of teen driving behavior.

This new guidebook outlines six strategies that have been proven to be effective or demonstrated significant promise in addressing teen driver safety. The six key areas are: Legislation/Policy; Enforcement; Parental Programs; Education; Peer Education; and General Strategies. The

guidebook offers a discussion of each strategy as well as examples of current state efforts reflecting each approach, with guidance on how State Highway Safety Offices can champion these strategies in their own states.

### What's Ahead

#### DECEMBER

**National Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D)** [www.stopimpaireddriving.org](http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org)  
Prevention Month

16-1/3 **Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.** [www.stopimpaireddriving.org](http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org)  
National Crackdown

# SAFETY Network



## Last call for annual GTSAC traffic safety award nominations

The deadline—November 8—is fast approaching for nominations for the 2010 Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) awards. Each year the GTSAC honors organizations, programs, and/or individuals by presenting awards for outstanding contributions to traffic safety in Michigan.

Individuals or organizations may be nominated by a person who is familiar with the activities for which the nominee is being considered. A person/organization may only be nominated in one category. No self nominations are accepted, however,

a person may nominate a program, organization, or activity they are involved in.

Nominees must be a Michigan resident or an organization located in the state. All entries must be postmarked on or before November 8, to be considered.

Entries will be judged by representatives of the GTSAC. Awards will be presented on March 23, 2011, at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit in East Lansing.

Nomination forms are available at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp). For more information, contact Lynn Sutfin at (517) 241-1513.

## Entries sought for 2010 MACP Awards

The Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) is seeking applications for the 2010 Awards for Excellence in Traffic Safety to recognize and reward the best overall traffic safety programs in the state.

Up to \$75,000 in grants will be awarded to purchase equipment or overtime for traffic enforcement through the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP).

AAA Michigan will present each finalist agency with a personalized plaque.

To be considered for an award, law enforcement agencies must submit an application that documents their agency's efforts and effectiveness in conducting traffic safety programs. The application must describe in detail the problem, partnerships established, solution(s) implemented,

## 2011 Traffic Safety Summit is March 22-24

Mark your calendar and be prepared to learn about the latest about the four E's of traffic safety—Enforcement, Education, Emergency Medical Services, and Engineering at the 16th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit March 22-24, 2011, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Attendee and non-profit vendor registration is \$75 on or before February 11 and \$125 after February 11. For profit vendor registration is \$395.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp) for updates.

and the impact. Applications can be downloaded at [www.michiganpolicechiefs.org](http://www.michiganpolicechiefs.org).

Entries should be mailed to MACP, 2010 TS Awards, 2133 University Park Drive, Suite 200, Okemos, MI 48864-3375 and must be received by December 17.

For more information, contact Jamie Foster at (517) 349-9420.

## Upgraded 5-Star Vehicle Safety Ratings System rolled out

An enhanced 5-Star Safety Ratings System for new vehicles was recently unveiled and safety ratings for the first model year 2011 vehicles tested under the program have been released. The upgraded ratings system will now evaluate side pole crash testing and crash prevention-technologies. And, for the first time, it will use female crash test dummies to simulate crash scenarios involving women, not just men.

Vehicle safety ratings range from 1 to 5 stars, with 1 star being the lowest and 5 stars the highest. Because so many vehicles had reached the highest rating under the old rating criteria, and because the new standards are much more rigorous,

not all previously rated 5-star vehicles will remain at 5 stars.

The new ratings system evaluates the safety of passenger cars, SUVs, vans and pickup trucks in three broad areas - frontal crash, side crash, and rollover resistance. For model year 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will rate twenty-four passenger cars, twenty sport utility vehicles, two vans, and nine pickups under the new ratings system.

One of the most significant changes to the ratings program for consumers is the addition of an overall vehicle score for each vehicle tested. This score combines the results of a frontal crash test, side crash

tests, and rollover resistance tests and compares those results to the average risk of injury and potential for vehicle rollover of other vehicles.

NHTSA recommends consumers consider vehicles with crash avoidance technologies that meet the 5-Star Safety Ratings minimum performance tests, such as forward collision warning, lane departure warning, and electronic stability control.

More information, including the full list of newly rated vehicles is available at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

# SAFETY Network

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