

**APRIL 2010.....interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators, as well as other interesting information that affects the members of the WCMEA**

- In March, Wisconsin recorded the fewest fatalities in that month since records were began to be kept in 1937; 21 motorists died in March 2010.
- In Washington County, a 37-year-old man pleaded guilty to first-degree intentional homicide in the strangulation death of his 14-year-old stepson. The man killed the boy in a van at a WalMart parking lot as “payback” to the boy’s mother, who told police the man had attacked her with a hammer.
- In Milwaukee County, a 19-year-old man was convicted of the hit-and-run death of a 24-year-old man. He will spend almost five years in prison.
- In Portage County, the body of a woman was found by a fisherman in the Wisconsin River.
- In Milwaukee County, a 28-year-old man and his 17-year-old passenger died after their vehicle hit a tree. Police believe two cars were racing when they collided, causing one of the vehicles to strike the tree.
- In Milwaukee County, a 52-year-old man who was to have testified in a homicide case was found dead. The man was to have testified in a case where a 45-year-old man was accused of shooting a 28-year-old woman in the chest; her body was found in Lake Michigan a month after she had been reported missing.
- In Marinette County, a 33-year-old man died and his passenger was injured after the ATV he was operating overturned; speed and alcohol are believed to be factors in the crash.
- In Waukesha County, the body of a 33-year-old man was found in the Fox River. Foul play is not suspected.
- In Manitowoc County, a man who allegedly killed his wife and left her body in the woods had his trial delayed due to mental competency issues.
- In Chippewa County, a 24-year-old man was shot to death and an 18-year-old woman injured; the woman’s husband was arrested hours after the shooting.
- In Manitowoc County, a 48-year-old male bicyclist was found dead in a ditch; a 39-year-old man, believed to have been intoxicated, was charged in the incident.
- In Portage County, a 56-year-old woman drowned in the Wisconsin River.
- In Grant County, a 23-year-old man died and his 10-month-old son was injured when the vehicle the man was driving crossed the center-line and hit another vehicle head-on.
- In Milwaukee County, two children died in co-sleeping incidents on Easter weekend.
- In Milwaukee County, two men were killed by gunfire on Easter weekend.
- In Dane County, a six-month-old child died at an unlicensed day care center. The woman who ran the day care was investigated in 2007 for being unlicensed. An autopsy did not find any injuries; toxicology is pending.
- In Winnebago County, a 22-year-old woman was found dead. That same day, a 20-year-old man and a 18-year-old woman were arrested in connection with her death. Police report the woman was beaten with a hammer, then stabbed in the throat and strangled. The killing appears to be drug-related.

- In Tomahawk, a 77-year-old woman died in a house fire.
- The District 3 Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of homicide charges against a Minneapolis fire fighter who was accused of killing his girlfriend's former boyfriend after he broke into their house in Burnett County.
- In Marinette County, a 15-year-old girl died after the van she was riding in was involved in a three-vehicle collision; the girl was thrown from the minivan.
- In Kenosha County, a 34-year-old man died after he lost control of his motorcycle, which then struck a cement median and a pole. The man was a soldier, soon to be sent to Afghanistan.
- In Dane County, a 60-year-old man died when a container fell from a semi-trailer, landing on his legally -parked SUV. A woman, also in the SUV was injured.
- In Racine County, a 28-year-old man was convicted in the death of his girlfriend's 2-year-old son, who died after the man tied him to his bed with a blanket.
- In Milwaukee County, a 60-year-old man died after being shot inside a residence.
- Meinhardt Raabe, the "munchkin coroner" in The Wizard of Oz who died recently, was buried near Jefferson. He was a Wisconsin native.
- In Columbus, a packing plant received nearly 30 health and safety violations from the federal government after a 47-year-old man died in an explosion at the plant in October.
- In Madison, former Lt. Governor Russell Olson died at the age of 86. He was the last Lt. Gov. to preside over the state senate; in 1979, voters approved a constitutional amendment to remove that position as the senate's preceding officer.
- In Milwaukee, a 35-year-old man was run over during an argument outside a bar; police are searching for the driver and intend to charge the case as a homicide.
- In Sauk County, a 22-year-old man died after the car he was driving struck a horse; several horses had gotten loose and their owner was in the process of trying to round them up when the accident occurred. The horse also died.
- In Brown County, a 19-year-old woman died when a trailer became disengaged from the vehicle pulling it. The trailer crossed the median and struck the woman's oncoming car, killing her. She was the 2009 valedictorian at Kiel High School and was currently a student at UW-Green Bay.
- In Milwaukee, a jury needed only 30 minutes to find a 29-year-old man guilty of first degree intentional homicide in the September death of a 21-year-old woman; she'd been stabbed and cut 37 times. The couple had been engaged, but the woman gave the ring back the day before. The man had been released from prison a few days before the attack.
- The Wisconsin Department of Justice says they have eliminated the backlog of DNA cases. The agency hired 31 new DNA analysts in 2007, when they faced a backlog of almost 1900 cases.
- Be careful and quiet in Waupaca County; the sheriff's department is now issuing tickets to drivers using their cell phones. The County Board passed an ordinance in 2008; until now drivers were told to put away their phone without being issued a "phone bill."

- In Milwaukee, a 28-year-old man died of stab wounds; a 47-year-old man is charged.
- In Racine County, a 54-year-old motorcyclist died after his cycle collided with a car; the cycle operator was wearing a helmet.
- In Milwaukee County, a jury found a physician not guilty after a family sued him. They claimed the physician was responsible for the death of a 49-year-old former judge. The man had been seen by the physician, who wanted to run more tests and see the patient in a follow-up visit. The patient declined additional tests and failed to make a scheduled appointment shortly before his death.
- In Marathon County, a two-year-old boy died after being struck by a car while walking with a sibling and his mother.
- Near Osseo, a 83-year-old man died after being caught in a fire in a field; his tractor may have started the fire.
- In Dunn County, a 27-year-old man died after crashing his motorcycle into a semi. He'd owned the bike for less than 48 hours.
- In Pierce County, a 50-year-old man died and his wife was injured after their motorcycle was hit by a car.
- In Lafayette County, a 40-year-old motorcyclist died when his bike left the roadway and hit a fence.
- In Dodge County, a 45-year-old man died after being hit by a freight train. The man and a woman were walking on the tracks, which is illegal, to go fishing. The woman jumped clear of the train; the man was hit as he stood outside the rails.
- In Milwaukee County, a 40-year-old man died as he stepped from a curb and was hit by a car.
- In Kenosha County, 4 men were arrested in the 2009 killing of a custard stand employee, who was shot to death at the age of 18. Another man shot in the incident survived.
- In Grant County, a 18-year-old male died after he was struck by a car while walking on a highway.
- In Milwaukee County, a 24-year-old woman died after being struck by an Amtrak train.
- In Marathon County, a 52-year-old man died after rolling his vehicle while driving home from a tavern. He reportedly refused several offers to be driven home by others in the bar.
- In Milwaukee County, a 5-year-old girl died after she was hit by a car while in a cross walk. Her mother and sibling were not hurt. The female driver apparently stopped at the stop sign, then turned right, hitting the girl.
- In Milwaukee County, a male driver died after his vehicle was hit by another; the other driver was reportedly suffering from a medical condition.
- In Winnebago County, police are tight-lipped in a case where a 45-year-old woman was found with a gunshot wound to her head. Shortly before being found, the woman left her home, which was on fire. Her family escaped the blaze without injury.
- In Outagamie County, a 50-year-old woman was charged with soliciting substantial battery and criminal damage to property. The woman's 30-year-old

domestic partner was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head in 2007. While no one has been charged in that case, police believe the older woman hired a man to “mess her up” and damage her vehicle. The beating didn’t occur, but a vehicle was destroyed.

- In Plymouth, a woman can’t be buried on the family plot, as her grave would cross over into a city park. The Sheboygan Press reported “before she puts her mother six feet under, she needs a plot that is a few feet over.”
- In Lafayette County, a 24-year-old man died when the vehicle he was riding in rolled over, ejecting him. The male driver was found walking in the roadway, and was intoxicated.
- Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Dr. Christopher Happy resigned suddenly on April 23. He said he was returning to his native California to care for a sick family member. He had been in Milwaukee for about 20 months. Dr. Brian Peterson was named interim director.
- In Clark County, a 19-year-old man died after falling 45 feet off a silo.
- In Manitowoc County, a 65-year-old female died after the vehicle she was a passenger in ran a stop sign, colliding with another vehicle. The woman was not wearing a seat belt; she was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene.
- In Dane County, authorities were investigating the death of a male patient at the Mendota Mental Health Institute.
- In Marinette County, two teenagers died and 8 other people were injured in a three-vehicle crash when a van skidded out of control on an icy road and then collided with two pick-up trucks. Those killed were an 18-year-old male and a 15-year-old female; the male was the brother of the van driver.
- In Rock County, two people were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning inside their condo. Their car was found running in the attached garage.
- In Vilas County, a 29-year-old sheriff’s deputy died when a 49-year-old man pulled out in front of him, causing a crash. The deputy was responding to a call; the other driver was arrested as he was driving while intoxicated. The officer was the second officer to die in the line of duty in Vilas County; in January 1988 a deputy lost control of her squad car and hit a school bus during a snow storm.
- In Oak Creek, police shot and killed a man after a chase. The man may be involved in several home burglaries in the area where the case began.
- In Dane County, the death of a 19-year-old man was felt to be related to gang activity.
- In Milwaukee, a 46-year-old man was sentenced to 35 years in prison after being convicted in the death of a 70-year-old woman who took him in when he was homeless. The woman’s body was found under her front porch after she had been beaten and stabbed.
- A 60-year-old man was convicted of driving while intoxicated in the September crash that killed a 37-year-old motorcyclist who was a full-time Master Sergeant for the Wisconsin Air National Guard 128<sup>th</sup> Refueling Wing, based in Milwaukee. The older man turned his vehicle into the path of the oncoming cyclist.
- In Juneau County, the body of one of two boaters missing since April 15 was recovered; the other body still hasn’t been found in Castle Lake.

- In Grafton, an 18-year-old male died 7 weeks after being hit by a drunk driver who turned in front of his car.
- In Milwaukee, a 24-year-old man was convicted of 1<sup>st</sup>-degree reckless homicide in the February 2009 beating death of his young son.
- In Tomah, police said a 53-year-old man was shot to death, although were mum on the details of the case.
- In Waukesha, a 25-year-old man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his role in 2 deaths attributed to overdoses of heroin; police believe the man is part of a “heroin conspiracy” that has left 5 people dead and 11 more who overdosed but lived.
- In Sheboygan County, a 33-year-old man was sentenced to 90 days in jail after an 18-year-old woman died in a freak accident at a convenience store. The woman was a clerk at the store; the man, while seated in the passenger seat, back up a van to pick up his wife at the door of the store; the man backed through the wall/window of the store, hitting the girl.