

DECEMBER 2010.....interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators.....compiled by Jon Hagen.

- In Douglas County, a 43-year-old worker died in an industrial accident at an iron ore facility. He was pinned between two steel beams.
- In Milwaukee, a 7-year-old boy died and two of his siblings were critically injured when they were struck by a county transit bus while they were in a crosswalk.
- In Sheboygan, a 33-year-old man died when his car left a city street and struck a tree.
- In Calumet County, a 40-year-old woman died of injuries suffered in a traffic accident.
- In Wood County, a 32-year-old man died in a three-vehicle crash.
- In Sheboygan County, a 55-year-old man died when he became entangled in an auger attached to a snowplow. The auger was still running when the man's body was discovered, likely several hours after the incident occurred.
- In Brown County, a man died in an industrial accident. The man was working approximately 30 feet above the ground when the scissors lift he was on was struck by a tow motor, causing the man to fall; the lift then fell on top of him.
- In Milwaukee, a 35-year-old man died in a five-vehicle crash which also involved a school bus.
- In Milwaukee County, a 23-year-old man died after losing control of his car, which then struck a guardrail and overturned.
- In Sauk Prairie, a 19-year-old man died in a crash.
- In West Allis, a 53-year-old woman died after she was struck by a car while crossing the street. Authorities believe the 19-year-old driver may have been "texting" at the time of the crash, just days after Wisconsin made texting while driving illegal.
- In Washington County, a 16-year-old boy, a high school football player, died while lifting weights at his home. He apparently dropped a barbell with a 185 pound load, which killed him.
- In Washington County, a 7-year-old boy died when the snowmobile he was a passenger on went out of control and rolled over.
- In Milwaukee, two women, ages 23 and 20, died when their vehicle ran a red light while speeding. Their car was hit by another vehicle, then crashed into a tree.
- In Manitowoc, fire fighters found a 55-year-old man pulseless and not breathing after his neighbor called 911 due to his smoke detector sounding; a pizza was burning in a pizza oven, which set off the smoke detector. Resuscitation efforts were not successful.
- In Milwaukee, a 50-year-old man was shot to death by his 70-year-old cousin after the younger man took some cigarettes out of a pack the older smoker left on a table while he was napping. The two lived together but had a long history of arguing; the stolen smokes were truly the straw(s) that broke the Camel's back.

- In Racine, a 25-year-old man was shot dead by a male who forced his way into an apartment. The dead man's roommate shot at the murderer; but it is unknown if he found his mark.
- In Jackson County, a 50-year-old man known to local authorities shot and killed himself after a police standoff in which he shot an officer; the officer is expected to recover. The man was facing felony drug charges.
- In Monroe County, a woman died in a house fire; her husband managed to escape.
- In Dane County, a 30-year-old man was shot to death by police officers in a bizarre incident. The man is believed to have kidnapped a 63-year-old man during a home invasion, driving with the man to his bank, where they attempted to withdraw money. A bank teller sensed something was wrong and called the police. The man was shot in the bank's parking lot after the SUV he was driving, which belonged to the kidnapped man, rammed a squad car.
- In Waukesha County, authorities were investigating the death of a 4-month-old infant.
- In Chippewa County, a 36-year-old construction worker died when the concrete wall he was working on collapsed, crushing him.
- In Milwaukee, a 33-year-old man died after he was hit by a refrigerator that was thrown from an upper level of a building.
- In Oconto County, a 49-year-old man died in a house fire.
- In Juneau County, a 19-year-old woman died when the vehicle she was riding in collided with a semi.
- In Milwaukee, a 44-year-old man jumped from a mezzanine at the county jail on Christmas morning. Efforts to revive him were not successful. The man was being held on charges of sexual assault of a child.
- In Rusk County, a 45-year-old man died in an explosion at his home. He apparently was using a cutting torch on an oil drum.
- In Fond du Lac County, an 18-month-old girl died; initially it was reported that the child fell down the stairs but investigators believe that the mother's boyfriend, who is not the father of the child, may have caused critical head injuries. The investigation continues.
- In Rock County, a 30-year-old man died when he was accidentally shot in the abdomen in what authorities were calling a "tragic accident." The man's 11-year-old son, who was with the man, went to a nearby house to report the incident.
- In Columbia County, a 21-year-old woman died when the pickup truck she was in went out of control and struck the back of a semi that had stopped at the side of the road at another accident.
- In Dodge County, a 14-year-old girl died in a two vehicle crash in Waupun.
- In Jefferson County, a 31-year-old man hanged himself in the county jail, the second suicide there this year.
- In Vilas County, a 60-year-old man died while making a bulk fuel oil delivery to a residence. The man became pinned between the fuel truck and the house.
- In Brown County, a 68-year-old woman died when her vehicle went out of control on an icy road, striking another vehicle.

- In Dane County, a 62-year-old woman died when she was struck by a vehicle while crossing a Madison street. The woman failed to use an over-the-street walkway, designed to prevent such accidents.
- In LaCrosse County, authorities were investigating the death of a 15-month-old female who was found dead in a bathtub.
- In LaCrosse County, a woman died when the van she was a passenger in collided with a semi.
- In Dodge County, a 62-year-old man died when he lost control of his vehicle and it went into the Rock River on New Year's Eve.
- In Milwaukee, a 34-year-old woman was killed when her car was struck by a car driven in the wrong lane of traffic by a 41-year-old man who did not have a driver's license. The man was critically injured.
- In Racine County, a 50-year-old male pedestrian died after he was struck by a car on a county road.
- In Milwaukee County, authorities reported a 31% increase in homicides in 2010, with a total of 94, up from 72 in 2009. One-fourth of the 2010 killings were reported to be drug-related.
- Dane County reported no domestic abuse related homicides in 2010, but three people were shot and killed by sheriff's deputies in the county last year.