January 2010….interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators……

- In Kenosha County, a 43-year-old man died when his snowmobile clipped one ice shanty then crashed into another shanty broadside on Paddock Lake. He was wearing a helmet.
- In Waushara County, a 42-year-old man died after his snowmobile left a trail, crashed through a fence and then struck a plow. His body was found hours after the accident.
- In Oneida County, a 41-year-old man died and four people were injured in a crash involving a vehicle and three snowmobiles. A vehicle driven by a 76-year-old man struck the snowmobiles about 1 a.m. on New Year's Day morning.
- In Dane County, a 66-year-old man died and another person was critically injured in a two-vehicle crash.
- In Oak Creek, a 77-year-old man died after being struck by a vehicle while walking.
- In Racine County, a 7-year-old boy died after falling through the ice and into the Fox River in Burlington.
- In Milwaukee, a 90-year-old woman died in a house fire; neighbors reported the woman had lived in the house for more than 50 years.
- In Bayfield County, a 25-year-old woman, charged with second-degree reckless homicide, pled not guilty due to mental disease/defect. The woman left her 7-month-old daughter in the bathtub with a two-year-old sibling. The younger child died.
- In Milwaukee County, a 41-year-old man died after allegedly being shot by a 56-year-old man. Police say the shooter believed the man had brainwashed his ex-wife. The man was shot three times.
- In Brown County, two people died in a crash at an Ashwaubenon intersection. Media reported that the driver that caused the crash had just left a bar where he and his girl friend were refused service because they were intoxicated; the woman punched another patron in the face before the bartender sprayed her with Mace. As the couple left, the man said he would return with a gun. They then sped away, striking another vehicle. Both driver's were killed; the female driver was going home to her family, and would have had her 25th birthday the next day.
- In Dane County, two women were found dead in different buildings of an apartment complex. Madison police said the deaths appear suspicious.
- In Milwaukee, the Common Council President called for MPD to review their chase procedures after three people died in two chase-related crashes. In both accidents, which occurred on consecutive days, the people killed were in a car that was struck by a vehicle that had been pursued by police and then ran a red light. All of the victims were in their early 20's and residents of Milwaukee.
- Domestic violence homicides in Wisconsin are on target to hit a 10-year high in 2009 with an average of more than one person dying every week, according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 2008 there were 36 domestic violence homicides in the state, but preliminary figures show there were at least 46 domestic homicides in the state that resulted in 60 deaths in 2009, as reported by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

- In Milwaukee County, three men, ages 52, 74 and 81, all died of cardiac-related causes while shoveling snow on the same day.
- In Milwaukee County, a worker died in a construction accident.
- In Milwaukee County, 4 infants died within a two week period; all were co-sleeping related.
- In Winnebago County, two men died when their snowmobiles went into Lake Winnebago. Their ages were 29 and 30.
- In Winnebago County, a 39-year-old man when the landscape vehicle he was driving went through the ice. He was submerged in Lake Winnebago for about an hour until he was rescued; resuscitation efforts were not successful. He was taking a load of rocks across the ice to make a fishing habitat area.
- In Manitowoc County, attorneys argue that a boy, age 16 in 2005, was "coerced" by others into admitting guilt in the gruesome killing of a 25-year-old female photographer. The boy, reportedly of a low IQ, was convicted along with his uncle after DNA evidence confirmed her identity after remains were taken from a burn barrel on the property.
- In Outagamie County, a judge ruled that a jury from Portage County will hear the murder trial involving a former Appleton fire fighter who is accused of shooting and killing his estranged wife and shooting his mother-in-law.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 56-year-old man was killed when a tractor turned in front of his car. The tractor was turning into a driveway. The man died at the scene.
- In Milwaukee County, a judge sentenced a 27-year-old man to almost 10 years in prison for the death of his young son in 2007. The boy, aged 3 months at the time of the injury when his father said he dropped the baby while changing a diaper, then shook him in a "non-violent manner." The man's wife pled with the judge for mercy; her parents wanted a longer sentence.
- In Portage County, a 29-year-old man was sentenced to 3 years in jail and then extended supervision in connection with a second-degree reckless homicide charge. The man's best friend died of a poly-drug overdose, including Fentanyl; he pled no contest in the case.
- In Kenosha County, a 20-year-old man was convicted of felony murder in a case where he punched a Kenosha middle-school teacher in the face outside a sports bar. When the teacher fell, he struck his head on the concrete and died. Defense lawyers contended that both been had been acting disorderly and claimed their client acted in self-defense.
- In Portage County, a 53-year-old woman who died in a single-vehicle rollover had a blood-alcohol level more than 4 times over the legal limit. She was dead at the scene.
- In Jefferson County, a man pled guilty to killing his 4-month-old son by hurling him against the wall; he was thrown so hard he cracked the wall. The man said he was frustrated with the crying child, who died of head trauma.
- A 26-year-old murder suspect being transported by an extradition transport service assaulted a guard and broke free in Arkansas. The man who authorities believe killed an Oconomowoc woman in a murder-for-hire event was being transported from San Diego, CA. DNA has linked the man to the crime.

Authorities believe the man was hired by the father of the dead woman's four-year-old child; the relationship between the couple had obviously soured.

- A letter being sent by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections that orders released felons to submit DNA samples or face prosecution may exceed the state's authority and undermine future cases, legal experts, defense attorneys and even one porsecutor say.
- In Marathon and Lincoln Counties, suicides were down last year, prompting health officials to believe their proactive efforts paid off. In 2008, Marathon County had 24 suicides and Lincoln had 10. In 2009, Marathon had 18, with 14 attributed at least in part to failed relationships. Lincoln County had 5 suicides in 2009.
- In Brown County, a man jumped to his death from the Leo Frigo Bridge, landing on the ice of the Fox River.
- In Milwaukee County, a 2-month-old child who was found without vital signs on a United flight originating in Detroit en route to Denver died after the plane was diverted to Mitchell Field.
- In Sauk County, a 13-year-old boy, reported to be autistic, is charged with shooting his 55-year-old father in the back of the head as the man sat in a recliner. The boy apparently got in trouble at school a day earlier. The boy then tried to move his father's body with a wagon, then took $800 from the man's wallet and walked about five miles to a Wal-Mart store with his dog. Store workers called police when they felt the boy was acting strangely; the boy then told the police what he had done.
- In Price County, a 27-year-old man was charged with homicide by negligent use of a vehicle after the snowmobile he was operating struck and killed a 26-year-old man who had fallen off of his sled on Pike Lake. Speed and alcohol are believed to be contributing factors.
- The Wisconsin DNR reported that between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 there were 23 snowmobile fatalities in the state. Speed, alcohol and operating at night were cited in 70% of those cases. There were 224,539 snowmobiles registered during that time frame. The average age of those killed was 42, the average blood alcohol level among the fatalities was 0.20%. Counties with the most accidents were Winnebago (17); Jackson and Oneida Counties had 13 each.
- In Dane County, a 26-year-old woman accused of killing her six-week-old daughter in 2007 was again found incompetent to stand trial. Her lawyers claim the woman has a "permanent condition" that won't allow her to defend herself.
- In Outagamie County, the death of a 53-year-old teacher was the sixth death involving the Kaukauna School System in the last year. 4 students and two teachers have died.
- In Wauwautosa, a 24-year-old woman was found dead inside a storage bin; police believe her boyfriend strangled her. The man told authorities he drove around with the woman's body in his car for 4 days before putting it in the storage facility. The man was taken into custody in Colorado after he fled Wisconsin.
- In Racine County, a 20-year-old man died in an apartment fire.

- In Milwaukee, the city went more than three weeks without a homicide to start out the new year, then had three in one weekend. Two men were shot to death, a third beaten.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 66-year-old man died after crashing his car into a bridge abutment; the man had been lying in the traffic lanes on Hy. 41. He got up and ran to his car when another motorist stopped to ask if he was okay.
- In Outagamie County, the body of a 21-year-old male was found deceased inside a burning car.
- In Manitowoc County, the body of a 39-year-old woman who had been reporting missing was found concealed under some brush. Her 51-year-old boyfriend is in custody as the investigation continues.
- In Manitowoc County, a judge denied convicted killer Steven Avery a new trial. Avery and his nephew, a minor at the time, were convicted of the brutal killing of a 26-year-old woman in 2005. Her burned remains were found in a burn barrel on Avery's property.
- In Sauk County, a 61-year-old male was killed in a farm accident. He was using a skid steer to move a large bale of hay; he was trapped between the machine and the lift arm.
- In Shawano County, a 58-year-old truck driver died after striking several concrete pillars. His death was ruled to be cardiac in nature, not from the accident.
- In Kenosha County, a 6-month-old child died while co-sleeping with his father. Authorities believe the father laid on the child. This was the second co-sleeping death this month in Kenosha County.
- In Dane County, a 22-year-old man was charged with first-degree reckless homicide in the death of an 18-year-old woman who died of a heroin overdose which the man provided for her.
- In Milwaukee County, the 22-year-old mother of a baby who was born premature and weighed on 4 pounds, 12.9 ounces at birth and then dropped another ¾ of a pound after he went home before he died, was given a 6 year prison term, citing that the child died of starvation.
- In Racine County, three men were arrested for their role in the 2006 homicide of an 18-year-old male.
- In Milwaukee, a former member of the Latin Kings gang was sentenced to life in prison for the 2003 homicide of a 26-year-old man who had gone to the aid of a man who members of the gang had beaten; the man was shot multiple times by a male who was a teenager at the time.
- In Outagamie County, a 46-year-old woman died when she fell from a second-story doorway.
- In Marathon County, a 38-year-old man died when the van he was sleeping in caught on fire; he was using a space heater inside the van.
- In Dodge County, a judge again delayed the trial of an inmate who is accused of helping his cell mate commit suicide by hanging.