

JULY 2010.....interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators....

- In Buffalo County, a 32-year-old Coast Guard officer was killed when he was struck by a freight train while walking back to his boat, which was docked in the Mississippi River. He was talking on the cell phone at the time he was hit by the train, which was traveling at 40-45 mph. Alcohol played a factor in the accident.
- In Sauk County, an 18-year-old woman died in a head-on crash when her vehicle drifted onto the shoulder, then over-corrected and crossed the center line.
- In Dane County, one man died and two others were hurt in a single-vehicle rollover.
- In Milwaukee County, a 28-year-old woman who was a passenger on a motorcycle died when the cycle struck the back of a pickup truck. Authorities believe the cycle was racing with another.
- In Racine County, a 19-year-old man died after he was shot during a bar fight.
- In Sauk County, a 27-year-old man died when his motorcycle left the roadway and struck a sign. The man was not wearing a helmet; speed and alcohol were cited as other factors.
- In Lake Delton, an 18-year-old female died after the bicycle she was riding collided with a Waste Management truck.
- In Sauk County, the body of an 8-year-old boy was found in the Baraboo River, two days after he was reported missing.
- In Milwaukee, a 21-year-old man died when his car hit a tree. Marijuana and alcohol contributed to the crash.
- The Burden of Tobacco reported that approximately 8000 Wisconsinites died annually from "smoking-related issues."
- In Juneau County, a male inmate who was found unresponsive in his cell died later at a Madison hospital.
- In Fond du Lac County, officers found the body of a 20-year-old man dead outside his vehicle, parked on a county road. The death was ruled a suicide.
- In Rock County, the bodies of a 27-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman were found inside a car; both had been shot to death.
- In Waukesha County, a 62-year-old man died after crashing his motorcycle in his yard.
- In St. Croix County, a 16-year-old male died after losing control of his vehicle on a curve; the car became airborne and overturned.
- In Dane County, a decomposed body was found on a stairwell behind a building.
- In Douglas County, an 18-year-old man died while fleeing police as they were investigating an underage drinking party. The man fell 40' off a cliff; his body was found in Lake Superior.
- In Jackson County, two men, ages 57 and 60, died while scuba diving in Lake Wazee, which is 350' deep. A 53-year-old man was hospitalized.
- In Milwaukee County, an 8-year-old boy died when a rifle discharged as it was being removed from a case by a man. The bullet then also struck the boy's grandmother.

- In LaCrosse County, a four-month-old female was suffocated by a bean bag chair; her father had fallen asleep in another room. The man was charged with felony child neglect.
- In Winnebago County, a 23-year-old man died after being stuck by a vehicle while crossing Hy. 41 in the middle of the night.
- In Brown County, the body of a woman found in a park was ruled a suicide.
- In Walworth County, a man died after he shot himself in the chest twice; police arrived and found the man still alive; they killed him when he appeared to reach for his gun after police told him to put his hands up.
- In Dane County, a man shot himself in the head after being pulled over after a chase by deputies.
- In Iowa County, a 38-year-old man was shot to death by a man, 36. The shooter's attorney claimed self-defense.
- In Dane County, a 41-year-old man died in a single-car accident where his car left the roadway and struck a telephone pole during the night. The man's body was found by a utility worker, sent to investigate the power outage.
- In Iowa County, a 74-year-old man died after making a U-turn on a highway into the path of a semi. Authorities think the man was turning around to help a stranded motorist.
- In Milwaukee, a 9-month-old baby died while co-sleeping on a sofa with her 3-year-old sister. This occurred the same day as the City of Milwaukee took its Safe Sleep Awareness Campaign to the streets, with imprinted messages on mattresses placed at the roadside.
- In Milwaukee, a 66-year-old woman was found dead in a residence; a 46-year-old male acquaintance was charged with homicide.
- In Winnebago County, police announced they believe a 45-year-old woman committed suicide a few months ago; they had been mum on the case until mid-July. Authorities believe the woman set her house on fire in one jurisdiction, then traveled into another jurisdiction. Her body was found in an apartment hallway minutes later. Police believe the death is a suicide, but they have not found a weapon. They believe someone who lives in the building may have taken the weapon.
- In Milwaukee, the body of a 69-year-old man was recovered from the Milwaukee River. The man was reported missing in February.
- In Oak Creek, a 62-year-old motorcyclist died when he was struck from behind by an SUV.
- In New Berlin, a 57-year-old motorcyclist died after he collided with the back of a truck, which had mechanical difficulties and was slowing down to pull off the road.
- In Milwaukee, a 45-year-old man died in a house fire.
- In Sauk County, a 16-month-old child was found unresponsive in a camper; resuscitation efforts were not successful. The death is attributed to the heat.
- In Washington County, two women, ages 53 and 49, died in a single-vehicle crash.

- In Milwaukee, a 21-year-old male was shot and killed; police said his body was “riddled with gunshot wounds.”
- In Lake Michigan, authorities were searching off Milwaukee for the body of a 25-year-old man who went missing after jumping in the lake to celebrate his birthday.
- In LaCrosse County, a 16-year-old male died when his vehicle collided with a Sheriff’s Department squad car which was responding with red lights and siren to an emergency call. The Wisconsin State Patrol was investigating the specifics of the crash.
- In Outagamie County, a man died after being struck by a train; he reportedly had been seen lying on the tracks by the train operator.
- In Brown County, a 17-year-old male died when his moped collided with a vehicle.
- In Manitowoc County, a 54-year-old woman died when the vehicle she was driving crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head-on.
- In Langlade County, bones were discovered; believed to be human. They were taken for examination by a forensic anthropologist.
- In Adams County, a 22-year-old man drowned in the Wisconsin River.
- In Milwaukee, a body was removed from a vehicle that drove into the Menominee River at a high rate of speed.
- In Dane County, a man who was barricaded in a house died of gunshot wounds; the man had fired at officers, who returned fire. At this time, authorities are trying to determine who fired the fatal shot.
- In Dane County, a man who was driving a car which was reported to be weaving in traffic ran a red light, struck another car and rolled over. He died at a Madison hospital.
- In Kenosha County, a 70-year-old motorcyclist died when his cycle collided with a car driven by an 18-year-old male that pulled out from a stop sign into the path of the cycle. The cyclist was not wearing a helmet.
- In LaCrosse County, a 40-year-old man was arrested and charged with shooting both of his parents to death. The man originally reported to authorities finding the bodies of his parents, both shot in the head, at their home. The man also reportedly deposited a forged check into his account, from his parent’s account.
- In Milwaukee County, a 28-year-old man was shot to death in a sports-apparel store.
- In Milwaukee County, a 49-year-old man who was said to have “disrespected the deceased mother of a drinking companion” was beaten, bludgeoned and stabbed to death, and then his body was dumped in an alley. Two men, ages 38 and 42, were arrested and charged in the case. They reportedly beat the man with a pool cue.
- In Oconto County, a 51-year-old man was charged with homicide and arson in a case from 2009. Authorities believe the man killed his wife, then started their house on fire. The couple was in divorce proceedings at the time. Their children were able to escape the house fire unharmed.

- In Milwaukee County, parents turned in their two sons, who were then charged in the case of a 17-year-old boy who was shot to death. Robbery was the motive.
- The Wisconsin State Patrol Bureau of Traffic Safety reported that an informal survey showed that 79% of state drivers use their seatbelts. This is the highest percentage of buckled-up drivers ever reported.
- In Marinette County, a 49-year-old motorcyclist died after losing control of his cycle.
- In Marathon County, a 64-year-old man died in an SUV rollover.
- In Sheboygan County, a 19-year-old man drowned in Lake Michigan.
- In Chippewa County, a 16-year-old boy died; he was swinging from a rope over the water when he failed to let go, striking rocks.
- In Milwaukee, a 15-year-old male shot and killed a 21-year-old man during a robbery; he will be charged as an adult.
- In Shawano County, an 86-year-old man died days after the vehicle he was driving pulled out from a stop sign and was broadsided by an oncoming pick-up truck.
- In Dane County, deputies shot-and-killed a man who was waving a gun and shooting at them. They had failed to subdue the man with bean bags.
- In Shawano County, a 44-year-old woman died when the riding lawnmower she was riding tipped over on an embankment and went into a pond; the woman was pinned under the mower.
- In Jackson County, a 16-year-old boy drowned.
- In Chippewa County, a 26-year-old man died in a three-vehicle crash.
- In Dane County, a man died when the vehicle he was driving crossed the center line and hit a semi head-on.
- Dane County had their 9th heroin death of the year, exceeding the 2009 total.
- In Marquette County, a 10-year-old boy died a day after being kicked in the abdomen by a horse.
- In Brown County, a 70-year-old man, who was part of a volunteer project to keep up trash along the highway, died after being hit by a woman who did not have a driver's license and was in the country illegally.
- In Dane County, a 23-year-old man died of drowning during his birthday celebration.
- In Kenosha, a man died in a house fire.
- In Crawford County, a 46-year-old motorcyclist died when a car driven by a 22-year-old female crossed the center line. The woman, who was drunk, has a history of five felony-related charges pending against her.
- In Columbia County, a 25-year-old man drowned in the Wisconsin River.
- In Grant County, a husband and wife died in a two-vehicle crash; their vehicle went out of control and struck the other car.
- In Pierce County, a 44-year-old man drowned in the Mississippi River.
- In Milwaukee County, yet another child death due to an unsafe sleep environment.
- In Buffalo County, a 30-year-old man who reportedly was lying on the road before he was struck by a Jeep, which inflicted fatal injuries.

- In LaCrosse County, a 55-year-old male motorcyclist died after crashing into another motorcycle.
- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported there were 104 boating accidents in 2009, leaving 16 people dead and 69 injured.