

NOVEMBER 2009 ... Interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators...

- In Milwaukee County, a 24-year-old man died in a hit-and-run accident; a 17-year-old male later turned himself in. The driver didn't have a license, was speeding and driving a borrowed car.
- In Sawyer County, two burned bodies were found at two separate locations; the deaths were believed to be a murder/suicide.
- In Milwaukee County, the body of a 61-year-old woman was found in Lake Michigan.
- In Wisconsin, through October, traffic fatalities were at 441, down 57 (11%) from the same time last year, when 587 people died. Last year had the fewest fatalities in 64 years. The 10-year period with the most fatalities was from 1964-1973, with more than 1000 fatalities annually. 1168 people died on Wisconsin roadways in 1972, the highest ever.
- In Milwaukee County, a 38-year-old man was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of killing a 58-year-old female bartender in the city. The man, a regular patron at the bar, committed robbery to support a cocaine habit; he then killed her with an ax in the basement of the bar.
- In Brown County, a 19-year-old man was killed with fatally shooting a 29-year-old man to death. Three men had gone to the home of the shooter to confront him about an earlier incident.
- In Marinette County, human remains were found in the village of Crivitz.
- In Milwaukee County, a 17-year-old male died and a 21-year-old man was wounded in a shootout in the city.
- In Milwaukee County, a man was pronounced dead after he had been shot; he was transported to the hospital in a private car.
- In Milwaukee County, a 29-year-old man pleaded no contest to the hit-and-run death of a 78-year-old woman last June. The man fled the scene, claiming he didn't know he had struck the woman, and because his license was revoked and he didn't want to be arrested.
- In Milwaukee County, a 30-year-old woman has been charged with second-degree reckless homicide after police say she was too drunk to remember putting her infant daughter to sleep on a couch; the baby died while co-sleeping with the woman. Sadly, the woman also had another child die that she was sleeping with in April, 2008; the third co-sleeping death in her family. The woman's grandmother had a child die while co-sleeping with her in 1993.
- In Dane County, an unidentified man died 10 days after being found unconscious on a Madison street. The man's head injuries were consistent with a fall.
- In Milwaukee County, a Milwaukee man already convicted of trying to bribe another man not to testify in a 2007 shooting case has now been charged with paying two hit men to kill the man when he refused thousands of dollars to keep quiet.
- In Waupaca County, a 69-year-old man may have been blinded by the sun when he went through a stop sign on a county road; he was struck by a pickup truck and died of multiple trauma.

- In Outagamie County, a former Appleton fire fighter accused of shooting his wife to death in April, learned that an outside jury will hear the case due to pre-trial publicity.
- In Waupaca County, a three-year-old boy died of injuries suffered when he was trapped under an overturned all-terrain vehicle.
- In Manitowoc County, Steven Avery's attorney's have asked for a new trial. Avery and his nephew were convicted of murdering a 25-year-old freelance photographer after she went to their business to photograph a vehicle. The woman was raped before she was killed and her body burned in a barrel on the property. Her vehicle was found in the salvage yard at the site.
- In Dane County, a 60-year-old man was killed when a large branch broke loose and fell on him as he was knocking down a tree with a tractor.
- In Grant County, two people died after their truck struck a deer, then went down an embankment and hit a tree. Both the 24-year-old man and the 14-year-old girl were wearing their seatbelts.
- In Dane County, the body of a 44-year-old woman who had been reported missing a few days earlier was found in a wooded area of Madison. Foul play was not suspected.
- In Washington County, the body of a 14-year-old boy was found in a vehicle at a Germantown WalMart store. His stepfather was arrested and charged with homicide after he turned himself in to authorities, who then went to the scene and found the body. The man allegedly had hit his wife with a hammer multiple times a week earlier; police attribute the homicide of the boy as "payback" to his wife for reporting the alleged hammer attack.
- The cause of a 2008 plane crash that killed a 41-year-old man and his two sons, ages 9 and 15, was ruled to be the pilot's failure to maintain control during its final approach for landing for undetermined reasons. The plane crashed in a Marshfield backyard.
- In Milwaukee County, police found the body of a 68-year-old woman inside her home after a 28-year-old relative turned himself in and told police he'd killed her. The man told police his aunt after \$65,000 and two rocks of cocaine that he'd given her for safe-keeping were gone. The man has a history of being convicted of arson after he torched his cousin's house when she wouldn't pay him the money he said he was owed. The man "told investigators that when it comes to money, his family knows not to play games with him." Indeed.
- In Milwaukee County, authorities recovered the body of a 63-year-old man from the Menominee River. The death did not appear to be suspicious.
- In Brown County, the bodies two men, both missing since October, were found on the same day. Both deaths were attributed to suicide; the cases were not related.
- In Marinette County, a 31-year-old woman died and a 22-year-old man was critically injured when a motorcycle driven by the man collided with a van.
- In Waukesha County, a 35-year-old woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison for providing methadone on separate occasions to two people who died.
- In Waukesha County, a 25-year-old man accused of being part of a heroin conspiracy that authorities say led to 11 overdoses, five of them fatal, was found guilty in two of the deaths.

- In Dane County, a 27-year-old man who had been drinking and perhaps driving without his headlights on was sentenced to three years in prison and six years of extended supervision after he was convicted of the hit-and-run death of a Madison high school student in September. The man was driving without a license.
- In Sheboygan County, a 70-year-old man died after suffering a heart attack which caused him to drive his truck into a building.
- In Outagamie County, a 55-year-old man died in a construction accident.
- In Dodge County, a 17-year-old male was bound over for trial, accused of causing the death of a 16-year-old girl when the vehicle he was driving left the roadway and hit a tree. The teens had smoked marijuana prior to the September crash. Police estimate the vehicle was traveling more than 100 mph when the hood of the vehicle popped up, obstructing his vision, contributing to the crash.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 48-year-old man pleaded no contest to helping to burn the body of a 28-year-old woman, who had been strangled. The man then helped another man dispose of the woman's ashes in a frozen Lake Winnebago by pouring the ashes through holes that had been cut in the ice.
- In Fond du Lac County, the body of a 65-year-old man was found inside a business in the city of Fond du Lac. Death was attributed to a self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- In Sheboygan County, an 89-year-old woman died after being struck while crossing a highway by a car driven by a 79-year-old man. Authorities report the man had been drinking alcohol before the accident.
- In Washington County, a 36-year-old man charged with master-minding the fatal beating of a co-worker at a dairy farm has been sentenced to 27 years in prison. The man forced two other dairy workers to attack two brothers who also worked at the farm; one of them later died of the injuries that were inflicted in the attack, which happened in December 2005.
- In Milwaukee County, a 22-year-old man was arrested in connection with the shooting death of a 23-year-old man. Police say the men were arguing over property before the shootout began inside an apartment building where they both lived.
- In Rock County, authorities discovered the body of a 36-year-old deer hunter, found in the woods.
- In Sheboygan County, the body of a 35-year-old woman was pulled from a river. The death was ruled a suicide due to drowning; the woman had been reported missing from a group home.
- In Manitowoc County, a 40-year-old man was charged with homicide after the body of his 50-year-old wife was found by deer hunters. It appeared the woman had been killed with a sharp object.
- In Racine County, a 60-year-old woman died in a house fire.
- In Brown County, the body of a man was found at an Allouez cemetery. The death was ruled a suicide.
- In Rock County, a 6-year-old boy and a 54-year-old woman died when their minivan crossed the center line and struck another vehicle.

- In Milwaukee County, a 21-year-old man died during a robbery attempt. Two men, 18 and 21, were charged in the death.
- In Waukesha County, a 41-year-old man was charged with hiring a hitman to kill the mother of his 4-year-old son.
- In Rock County, a woman died after losing control of her car and striking the back of a parked front-end loader.
- In Milwaukee County, a 26-year-old man was charged in the hit-and-run death of his 41-year-old cousin. The borrowed vehicle the man was driving left the roadway while traveling an estimated 70-75 mph and hitting a light pole. The driver fled on foot.
- In Beloit County, one person was killed and another injured after a person chased the vehicle and fired shots. The vehicle then crashed on school grounds.
- In Outagamie County, a 46-year-old junior varsity basketball coach collapsed at practice and later died. The incident happened at Kaukauna High School, who have lost 4 students to suicide this year.
- In Calumet County, a 26-year-old man died at the scene and another two days later when their vehicle went through a T intersection, stuck some sewer pipes and overturned.
- In Waushara County, a 12-year-old girl died when the vehicle she was riding in, driven by a 16-year-old girl, crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head-on. Two others, both drivers, were critically injured.
- In Marathon County, a 25-year-old man died and another man was critically injured when their vehicle left the roadway and rolled, ejected both men.
- In Milwaukee County, two men died in a fiery crash in the city.
- In Kenosha County, a 42-year-old man died after he hanged himself in the county jail. The man was facing charges related to the August stabbing death of a 37-year-old woman, the mother of his four children. The man was upset because the woman was planning to leave him.
- In Racine County, a 51-year-old man died after being found unresponsive in the county jail. The cause of death was being investigated.