

A PREMIER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY LEADER

# Wisconsin State Patrol Report 2008–2009



OUR EFFORTS TO MEET  
THE EVER-CHANGING  
CHALLENGES OF TRAFFIC  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
IN WISCONSIN

Governor Jim Doyle

Secretary Frank Busalacchi

Superintendent David L. Collins





# WISCONSIN STATE PATROL IN 2008 AND 2009



## FROM SUPERINTENDENT DAVID COLLINS

The State Patrol Report for 2008–2009 highlights our efforts to meet the ever changing challenges of traffic law enforcement and public safety in Wisconsin.

As Superintendent, I am extremely proud of the men and women of the State Patrol who consistently excel at meeting the demands of our mission. Included in this report are highlights and achievements during the past two years that exemplify the professionalism and dedication of members of the State Patrol. Based on these accomplishments, we now face the future with renewed optimism and confidence.

With the continued support of Governor Jim Doyle and Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi, we will steadfastly maintain our standards of excellence.



## STATE PATROL AT A GLANCE

*TROOPERS	380	
*INSPECTORS	112	

TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2008	2009
Speeding	63,324	64,461
Safety Belts	26,454	37,304
Total Citations Issued	135,367	148,155

DRUG/ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC OFFENSES	5,811	6,064
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TRAFFIC WARNINGS	262,347	288,626
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ARRESTS		
Criminal Interdiction/Controlled Substances	1,579 <sup>1</sup>	2,069
Warrant Arrests	1,529 <sup>1</sup>	2,386
Probation/Parole Holds	N/A	444
Other Non-Traffic Arrests <sup>1</sup>	N/A	866

CRASH AND TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTIONS	339	290
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TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS		
Mobile Inspections of Commercial Motor Vehicles after Observing a Moving Violation <sup>2</sup>	4,777 <sup>2</sup>	4,078 <sup>2</sup>

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES WEIGHED		
Static Scale	228,360	473,964
Weigh-in-Motion <sup>3</sup>	414,059	4,665,807 <sup>3</sup>

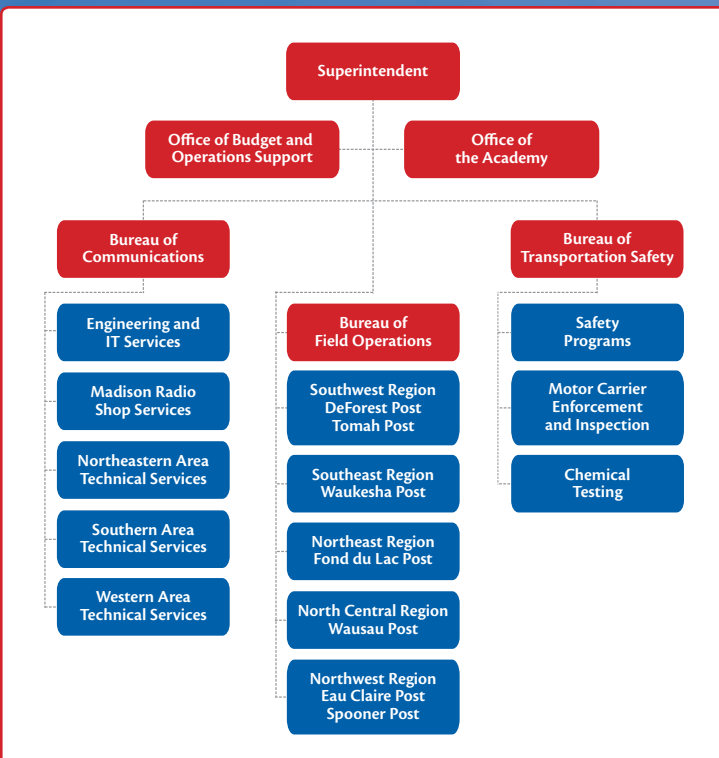
POST CRASH INSPECTIONS OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES		
	500	400

SAFETY REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE COMPANIES		
Compliance Reviews	626	591
New Entrant Program Safety Investigations	825	712

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING ADMINISTERED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS, TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION AND INFORMATION, AND OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS		
	\$10,383,994	\$11,867,180

PARTICIPANTS IN STATE PATROL ACADEMY TRAINING COURSES AND PROGRAMS		
	3,398	2,798

<sup>1</sup>as of December 2009  
<sup>2</sup>estimated <sup>3</sup>included in total number of safety inspections  
<sup>3</sup>additional weigh-in-motion capabilities added



## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

*As a premier traffic and public safety law enforcement agency, the men and women of the Wisconsin State Patrol provide an array of services and programs including the following:*



**STATE PATROL ACADEMY:** The Academy, located at Fort McCoy, offers comprehensive training for experienced State Patrol officers as well as new recruits. Academy training programs and facilities, including its Emergency Vehicle Operators Course, are also used extensively by other law enforcement agencies and government organizations.

**COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS:** As sworn law enforcement officers, State Patrol inspectors focus on safety requirements for large trucks and other motor carriers. Inspectors examine brakes, lights and other safety equipment on commercial motor vehicles as well as drivers' logbooks and records. At Safety and Weight Enforcement Facilities around the state, trucks are weighed to prevent damage to pavement, bridges and other roadway infrastructure caused by overweight commercial motor vehicles. Every school bus in Wisconsin is inspected annually, and ambulances are examined to ensure their safety. Motor coaches and salvage vehicles are also inspected. State Patrol investigators conduct on-site compliance reviews and audits of commercial motor carriers based in Wisconsin.



### **TRAFFIC SAFETY LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

The primary mission of the State Patrol is to save lives and reduce injuries resulting from traffic crashes through fair and firm law enforcement.



**CRASH RECONSTRUCTIONS:** With their specialized skills and equipment, State Patrol technical reconstructionists help determine the causes of fatal and serious injury crashes and assist other law enforcement agencies and the judicial system with forensic mapping of crime scenes.



**COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK:** Local, state and federal agencies use a statewide voice and data communications network managed by the State Patrol. With this network, police communications operators can dispatch officers in the field for a coordinated law enforcement response to incidents. Using mobile computers in their vehicles, which are linked to the network, officers can efficiently obtain driver's license records, criminal histories and other information needed for enforcement actions.

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

### CRIMINAL INTERDICTION AND HOMELAND SECURITY:

During traffic stops, State Patrol officers are trained to identify suspicious behavior and other indications of illegal activity. Their criminal interdiction efforts impede the smuggling of drugs, weapons and other illegal contraband. Officers use these same observational skills and knowledge to detect signs of potential terrorist activity. Information about criminal activity or potential threats to homeland security is shared with other local, state and federal agencies.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND PUBLIC SAFETY:

With an emphasis on preparedness and planning, the State Patrol has a critical role in responding to incidents and events that affect public safety, including large-scale evacuations. Natural or man-made emergencies such as a hazardous material release, floods, tornadoes and other incidents often require the State Patrol's coordinated statewide law enforcement resources and communications capabilities. To ensure public safety and security, the State Patrol provides traffic and crowd control at major events such as the Halloween celebration and University of Wisconsin Badger football games in Madison, the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture in Oshkosh, professional golf championships near Kohler, and the annual Farm Technology Days at various locations.



### TRAFFIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP, TRAINING AND RESOURCES:

Working with its traffic safety partners, the State Patrol's Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) designs, coordinates and evaluates education and enforcement efforts to improve the safety of drivers, passengers, commercial motor vehicle operators, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians. BOTS administers grants, funded by the federal government, that help law enforcement agencies and other organizations improve traffic safety.



**AIR SUPPORT UNIT:** A team of officers who are licensed pilots fly State Patrol aircraft based in Madison, Oshkosh and Eau Claire. From the air, the officers monitor highways for traffic control and enforcement. They also help protect officers during special details by observing motorists' reactions and following fleeing vehicles if pursuits occur. When requested by local agencies, the Air Support Unit assists in search and rescue missions. In case of a threat to homeland security, the Air Support Unit can gather information from the air by photographing or videotaping infrastructure. In case of an evacuation due to a release of hazardous materials, the Air Support Unit can pinpoint problems that obstruct efficient movement of traffic while monitoring the mitigation of the hazard.

### EQUIPMENT FOR DETECTING DRIVERS' ALCOHOL LEVELS:

State Patrol technicians provide, repair and maintain breath alcohol testing equipment for law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The Chemical Testing Section also provides training and guidance about equipment and procedures for law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys.

**K-9 UNIT:** The State Patrol's K-9 program augments its criminal interdiction efforts. Highly trained dogs and their handlers stationed strategically around the state assist in searches for illegal drugs. The K-9 teams are particularly useful in searches of large commercial motor vehicles.



## HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### SAFETY BELT ENFORCEMENT

Wisconsin enacted primary (or standard) safety belt enforcement in July 2009, which allows law enforcement officers to stop and ticket unbelted motorists even if the officers did not observe another violation. To improve safety belt compliance, the State Patrol issued 19,254 seat belt citations in the first six months of primary enforcement compared with 17,379 in the six-month period before primary enforcement. The State Patrol's goal is not to write more safety belt tickets but to increase voluntary compliance with the mandatory safety belt law. However, Wisconsin still has a long way to go to reach the 83 percent national average for safety belt use. The state's safety belt use rate in 2009 was approximately 73 percent, which was down slightly from 74 percent in 2008. Sadly, Wisconsin has one of the lowest safety belt use rates in the nation.



### “ZERO IN WISCONSIN” CAMPAIGN

The State Patrol Bureau of Transportation Safety launched the “Zero In Wisconsin” campaign in January 2009. Using memorable media messages, the “Zero in Wisconsin—A Vision We Can All Live With” campaign unified and strategically branded the state's highway safety efforts. The campaign also complemented other national and statewide traffic safety enforcement efforts, like the “Click It or Ticket” safety belt mobilization and the “Drunken Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” crackdown.



### STEEP REDUCTIONS IN TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Traffic fatalities in Wisconsin during 2008 and 2009 fell to the lowest totals since the World War II era. In 2008, a total of 587 people died in Wisconsin traffic crashes, which was a reduction of 150 fatalities— or about 20 percent—from the 2007 total.

In 2009, traffic fatalities declined even further. A total of 543 people died in 2009, which was a reduction of 44 fatalities or approximately 7 percent from the 2008 total.

The two-year decline could be attributed in large measure to deep reductions in deaths from alcohol-related crashes. For instance, in 2008, the number of fatalities from alcohol-related crashes dropped 30 percent from the previous year.

Traffic safety experts credited Wisconsin law enforcement agencies, including the State Patrol, along with media campaigns, like the Zero in Wisconsin initiative, as major contributors to the extraordinary reduction in fatalities.

### IMPROVED SHARING AND ANALYSIS OF CRITICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION

To share law enforcement information and intelligence rapidly and reliably with partnering agencies, the State Patrol in 2009 implemented its enhanced electronic criminal incident reporting system installed in each officer's computer. A significant feature of this new system is its automated distribution of information about State Patrol officers' contacts with parolees to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Information about parolees' movements assists probation and parole officers in monitoring

## HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

their extensive caseload. In 2009, State Patrol reported 3,355 probation and parole contacts to the Department of Corrections.

During 2010, State Patrol enforcement information collected in the criminal incident reporting system will be uploaded to the Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing Gateway, a web portal for enhanced information exchanges among law enforcement agencies nationwide, as well as other information-sharing networks.

In addition, State Patrol's data and intelligence about criminal activity is now shared with the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) office and the Wisconsin Statewide Information Center (WSIC). Arrests and incidents involving drugs, weapons, and potential terrorism activities are also entered into the Wisconsin Intelligence Network system and the El Paso Intelligence Center National Seizure System.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS**

As part of its public safety mission, the State Patrol launched coordinated responses to crises such as widespread flooding that hit 30 counties in the summer of 2008. In total, State Patrol officers served more than 9,000 hours in flood-related duties. Teams of officers surveyed the conditions of roads, bridges and other infrastructure. They also assisted with evacuations of residents and provided security for vacated homes and businesses.

After a record-setting snowstorm in February 2008 stranded thousands of motorists along a stretch of the Interstate in south central Wisconsin, the State Patrol and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation took immediate actions with their counterparts in other agencies to improve situational awareness capabilities and overall coordination of responses. They also developed systems and strategies to improve emergency communications among agencies and with the public. In subsequent storms and other weather emergencies, these improvements proved to be enormously effective in minimizing disruptions and maximizing safety for the motoring public.

During the H1N1 (flu) emergency in early 2009, the State Patrol escorted shipments of vital pharmaceutical and medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile to various locations throughout the state.



The State Patrol assisted local law enforcement agencies in 2009 with the evacuation of residents in Cudahy as the result of an expansive fire with the potential for releasing hazardous materials at a large meat packing plant. During the fire emergency, the State Patrol also assisted the Cudahy Police Department with law enforcement patrols and critical police communications functions to prevent civil disorder.

In 2008 and 2009, the State Patrol provided officers for crowd and traffic control during the Halloween activities on State Street in Madison as well as traffic direction and security for University of Wisconsin Badger football games, the Experimental Air Craft Association's AirVenture in Oshkosh, and other public events. In August 2008, the State Patrol provided traffic control and coordination for the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Company's 105th anniversary celebration in Milwaukee.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, the State Patrol assisted the Secret Service and local law enforcement agencies by providing motorcade security during visits to the state by candidates Barack Obama and John McCain.

### **HOMELAND SECURITY AND CRIMINAL INTERDICTION**

The State Patrol in 2009 formed criminal interdiction strike teams of troopers and inspectors who use cutting-edge technology along with trained K-9 resources to search vehicles for illegal drugs, explosives, weapons and other contraband.

The State Patrol Air Support Unit, equipped with airborne thermal-imaging devices, maintained its support of criminal interdiction efforts of the strike teams as well as those of the Wisconsin Department of Justice Criminal Investigation Division and other law enforcement agencies.

The State Patrol in 2008 sponsored Desert Snow, an advanced highway criminal and terrorist interdiction training program. Approximately 80 law enforcement officers from various agencies underwent the intensive training to identify and apprehend smugglers of drugs or contraband and prevent terrorist activities.



### **TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION UNIT**

With its expertise in traffic crash reconstructions and forensic mapping of crime scenes, the Technical Reconstruction Unit supplied evidence that was used to secure convictions in several notable cases. For example, an exhaustive investigation and crash reconstruction by the State Patrol helped determine the legal outcome of one of the deadliest drunken driving crashes in Wisconsin history. On January 18, 2009, Richard Powell was driving his pick-up truck at a high rate of speed when he crashed into a sedan at an intersection on US 41 in Marinette County. The crash killed a father and his four children in the sedan, including two of his daughters who were pregnant. The family was traveling to a job as a cleaning crew. Powell plead no contest to five counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle with two additional counts for the deaths of the unborn children read into the record for sentencing.



### **INNOVATIVE METHOD TO ENHANCE MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT AND INSPECTION**

The State Patrol started an effective and efficient way to inspect multiple motor coaches at one location. Inspectors were mobilized for one-day details at choral competitions in La Crosse in 2008 and a band competition in Whitewater in 2009. Each location provided an opportunity for inspectors to conduct thorough examinations of drivers' records and safety equipment on motor coaches transporting high school students to the music competitions.

Using the expertise of the Wisconsin State Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement Investigation Unit in partnership with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration staff, statewide task forces inspected dump truck companies in 2008 and 2009. The task force reviewed dump truck companies' safety procedures, including their alcohol and controlled substance testing programs for drivers.

### **STATE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (STOC)**

The State Patrol and the Division of Transportation Systems Development (DTSD) established a State Patrol liaison position in the State Traffic Operations Center in Milwaukee in 2007. Drawing on the expertise and resources of both DTSD and the State Patrol, the STOC is now a hub of statewide traffic management and traveler information. The STOC control room is staffed with full-time professional operators who use the 511 system, message boards, closed-circuit TV cameras and other communications devices to monitor traffic conditions and provide accurate and timely information all day, every day. The STOC also maintains a toll-free phone number so that outside emergency response agencies have a single contact number for reporting transportation infrastructure problems and traffic incidents on state-maintained highways.

## HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### **VIRTUAL SCALE INSTALLED ON THE INTERSTATE IN ROCK COUNTY**

To preserve roadway infrastructure and improve traffic safety, a virtual weigh station for commercial motor vehicles was installed on the Interstate in Rock County in 2009. With weigh-in-motion scales in the road surface, trucks are weighed and identified. The information is then relayed to a nearby State Patrol Safety and Weight Enforcement Facility and is also available to other law enforcement agencies via a password controlled Web site. State Patrol inspectors have access to the information through mobile data computers in their cruisers.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY FORUMS AND EVENTS**

The State Patrol Bureau of Transportation Safety coordinated the state's first "Town Hall Meeting on Impaired Driving" in Madison in 2008, which included high-ranking local, state, and federal officials.

In 2009, BOTS hosted the 25th annual State Motorcycle Safety Administrators National Conference in Madison with approximately 350 motorcycle safety experts from around the country. BOTS also continued its sponsorship of the annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety.

### **MOBILIZATION AND CRACKDOWNS**



The State Patrol organized and participated in many high-visibility traffic enforcement efforts that helped prevent deaths and injuries. In addition to the annual "Click It or Ticket" mobilization and the "Drunken Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest" crackdown, the State Patrol coordinated the "Summer Heat" speed enforcement effort on US 41 (from Menominee Falls to Marinette) and I-94 (Eau Claire, Dunn and St. Croix counties) during the summer of 2008. Local sheriff's departments and police agencies throughout the state received federal funding administered by the Bureau of Transportation Safety for increased patrols and intensified enforcement efforts.

### **RECRUIT CLASS 57 GRADUATION**

After 21 weeks of intense training at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy, 19 cadets received their badges as State Patrol officers during a graduation ceremony at the State Capitol on Dec. 11, 2008. Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson was the featured speaker at the ceremony and administered the Oath of Office to the graduates.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

In 2008 and 2009, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) presented its Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Leadership Award for Overall State Safety Program Performance in the large-state division to the State Patrol. Overall performance was measured in the areas of data quality, traffic enforcement, commercial motor vehicle fatality rate, and state-conducted compliance reviews.



State Patrol Inspector Dan Slick of the Northwest Region-Spooner Post won the Grand Champion Award at the 2008 North American Inspectors Championship (NAIC). NAIC contestants were evaluated in seven categories, and Inspector Slick amassed the highest cumulative score to earn the Grand Champion title as the best overall commercial motor vehicle inspector.



**STATE PATROL SPECIAL AWARD  
RECIPIENTS FOR 2008 & 2009**

*Purple Heart Award 2008*

Trooper Vincent Caruso

*Medal of Valor 2008*

Trooper Michael Heffernan

Trooper David Arras

*Meritorious Service Award 2008*

Trooper Joshua Riley

*Lifesaving Award 2008*

Trooper Andrew Emmel

Trooper John Kosterman

Trooper Edward Witkiewicz

Trooper Michael Marcks (also received  
Commendable Service Award )

*Commendable Service Award 2008*

Captain Jeffrey Frenette

Trooper Lawrence Brown

Police Communications

Operator Timothy Ehlenfeldt

Police Communications

Operator Rebekah McAleese

*Meritorious Service Award 2009*

Trooper Gary Czapinski

Inspector Kirk Danielson

Inspector Teresa Burchard

Trooper Jeffrey Hill

*Lifesaving Award 2009*

Trooper James Binder

Trooper Shari Kalk

Trooper Matthew Kneisler

Trooper Steven Lindemann

Trooper Kristian Perales

Trooper Jennifer Wasielewski

Trooper Deborah Reis

Trooper Mark Barlar

Inspector Nakia Guyton

Trooper Bryan Wrycha

Inspector Randy Yeakey

Trooper Adam Zahn

*Commendable Service Award 2009*

Database Administrator

William Delaney

Sergeant Michael Klingenberg

Sergeant Steven Krueger

Inspector David Harvey

Office Operations Associate

Pamela Ziemer

**IN MEMORIAM  
TROOPER  
JORGE DIMAS**



At the State Patrol 2009 Special Awards Ceremony, a posthumous Purple Heart Award was presented to the family of Trooper Jorge Dimas, who died on June 14, 2009, of injuries he sustained in a traffic crash while patrolling on WIS 35 in Polk County on May 9, 2009. Trooper Dimas was only 23-years-old when he died.

A resident of Amery, Trooper Dimas started his career with the State Patrol in July 2008. He is one of five State Patrol officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and the first since 1993.

State Patrol Superintendent David Collins said, "All members of the State Patrol lost a valued colleague and friend with Trooper Dimas' death. Although he is no longer with us physically, he will forever be with us in spirit and will always be in our hearts and minds."