



## Suspect ID'd for I-74 Vehicle Damage

After over two months of reports of vehicle damage along Interstate 74, the Illinois State Police identified a Wisconsin man related to the incidents. Kevin L. Casey of Janesville, Wisconsin, was arrested on June 1st and was charged with Aggravated Battery, Aggravated Battery to a Child, and Criminal Damage to Property.

Since late February, motorists had reported that the windows of their vehicle had been shattered whilst driving along I-74. Most of the victims had been driving large vehicles with wide windows, such as vans. The reports concentrated near Champaign, although reports also came from Bloomington-Normal and from near the Illinois-Indiana border. The incidents also left one toddler injured from flying glass fragments.

Video footage from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and patrolling along the interstate by the Illinois

State Police (ISP) helped to identify the suspect, who allegedly used a slingshot to shoot metal ball bearings from a white semi-truck. This investigation marks a strong achievement in the collaboration between ISP Districts 6 and 10, IDOT, Champaign and Vermilion counties, and local police departments in the area. In a press conference, ISP stated that they hope to work with other counties as well as with Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin, to identify any additional incidents possibly tied to Casey.



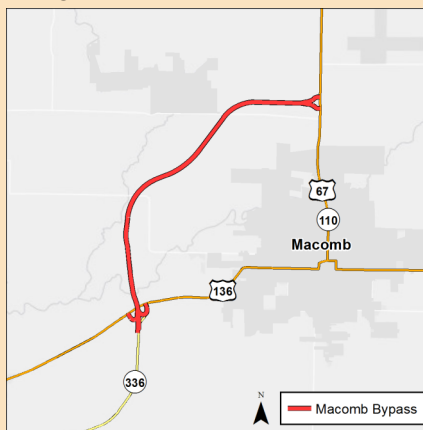
KEVIN L. CASEY WAS ARRESTED ON AGGRAVATED BATTERY, AGGRAVATED BATTERY TO A CHILD, AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. IMAGE SOURCE: THE NEWS GAZETTE

Source: The News Gazette. [Available online at [news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-06-05/investigation-i-74-window-shatterings-spanned-45-incidents-4-counties.html](http://news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-06-05/investigation-i-74-window-shatterings-spanned-45-incidents-4-counties.html)]; FOX Illinois. [Available online at [foxillinois.com/news/local/isp-makes-arrest-on-car-windows-shattered-on-i-74-06-02-2018](http://foxillinois.com/news/local/isp-makes-arrest-on-car-windows-shattered-on-i-74-06-02-2018).]

## Macomb Bypass Opens to Public

Governor Bruce Rauner attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 1st for the opening of the Macomb Bypass to the public. The bypass begins west of Macomb where IL-110/IL-336 intersects US-136, travelling northeast until it intersects US-67 near the Macomb Municipal Airport. This new route allows motorists to avoid slowing down as they approach the city of Macomb, easing congestion and increasing traffic efficiency.

The Macomb Bypass is also significant in that the road segment is the final piece of a generations-long project that establishes the Chicago-Kansas City (CKC) Expressway. The Governor congratulated the completion of the bypass as the final piece of the CKC Expressway. While the bypass currently has two lanes, the state plans to construct another two lanes in the future.



THE PATH OF THE MACOMB BYPASS, AS OF JUNE 2018. SOURCE: OPENSTREETMAP

Source: Herald-Whig. [Available online at [whig.com/20180601/rauner-cuts-ribbon-on-macomb-bypass-honors-those-who-made-it-possible](http://whig.com/20180601/rauner-cuts-ribbon-on-macomb-bypass-honors-those-who-made-it-possible).]

### MEMORIAL DAY TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The Illinois State Police (ISP) increased enforcement over the Memorial Day weekend, resulting in 5,924 citations and 5,206 written warnings being issued across the state, including 815 seat belt citations. There were 109 drunk driving arrests made, and over 1,300 stranded motorists were helped by ISP. The increased enforcement is a part of the Combined Accident Reduction Effort that cracks down on the "Fatal Four Violations" of traffic safety: DUI, speeding, failure to wear a seatbelt, and distracted driving.

Source: CBS Chicago. [Available online at [chicago.cbslocal.com/2018/06/01/illinois-state-police-driving-citations/](http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2018/06/01/illinois-state-police-driving-citations/).]

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## Drug-Related Fatal Crashes on the Rise

### ILLINOIS AND HURRICANE HAZARDS

Did you know that Illinois can also be affected by tropical weather? Even though the nearest body of tropical water is about 1,000 miles away, certain weather patterns can make it possible for remnants of tropical disturbances to make its way towards the Prairie State, bringing heavy rain and flooding hazards.

For example, just this past month, remnants of subtropical storm Alberto passed over Indiana and Michigan, bringing over four inches of rain to parts of the Chicago area. This rain also contributed to one of the wettest Mays in Chicago.

In the past two decades, remnants of three hurricanes have approached Illinois: Gustav and Ike in 2008, and Isaac in 2012, bringing above-average rainfall and causing localized roadway flooding. Remnants of Hurricane Sandy also affected wind speeds and wave heights over Lake Michigan in 2012 even though the center of the system only made it to Lake Erie.

Source: NWS Chicago. [Available online at [weather.gov/lot/tropical\\_climatology](http://weather.gov/lot/tropical_climatology).]



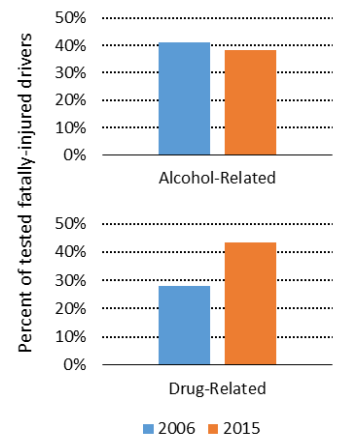
A new report released late May by the Governor’s Highway Safety Association (GHSA) addressed an increase in traffic fatalities related to drug impairment. Of all the fatalities involved in crashes tested for drugs, over 40 percent returned positive drug results for 2015 and 2016 traffic fatalities. This reveals an increase in the proportion of drug-related traffic fatalities since 2006.

The GHSA states that two main factors are related to this increase: increased use of cannabis especially in states that have decriminalized the drug, and increased opioid use across the country. As more states participate in legalizing cannabis, the number of drivers with 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their system increase. Opioid use and abuse have increased to a point that the U.S.

administration has declared the opioid crisis as a national public health emergency.

Unfortunately, catching someone driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is more difficult than catching someone driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) because there lacks a clear relationship between drugs and driving ability. The relationship will also differ depending on the type of drug consumed. With over 150 unique codes for opioids identified in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) database, a relationship simply between drug use and driving ability is difficult to conceptualize.

Methods of identifying symptoms of drug impairment, like the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program, can help teach officers

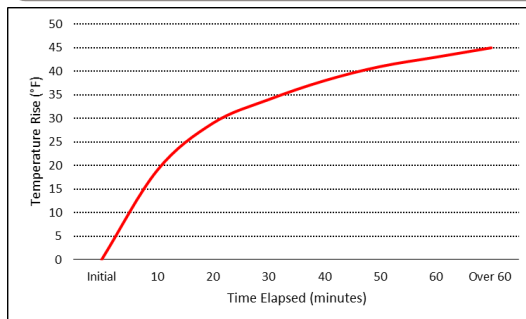


PERCENT OF TESTED FATALLY INJURED DRIVERS RETURNING POSITIVE ALCOHOL OR DRUG RESULTS, 2006 vs. 2015. DATA SOURCE: FARS, GHSA

common signs and symptoms of drug impairment. Nationally, however, only eight percent of patrol officers have received ARIDE training since 2009.

Source: GHSA, 2018: “Drug-Impaired Driving”. Governors Highway Safety Association. 40 pp.

## Heat-Related Vehicle Deaths



THE ESTIMATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF TIME A CAR HAS BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE SUN AND THE NUMBER OF DEGREES FAHRENHEIT THE TEMPERATURES INSIDE THE CAR ROSE. DATA SOURCE: NOHEATSTROKE.ORG

As the temperatures increase to welcome the summer season, the number of heat-related vehicle deaths (HRVD) will increase. The peak in HRVDs

is in July, with an average of nearly 9 deaths, based on 1998–2017 data.

HRVDs occur most frequently to toddlers and infants as they are left inside a vehicle outdoors, usually unbeknownst to the parents. The vehicle traps the sun’s incoming solar radiation, raising the temperature inside the vehicle to triple digits in an otherwise regular 80°F outside environment within half an hour. Over 50 percent of HRVDs are of children under two years old.

Nationally, there have been at least 18 HRVDs in 2018. Illinois has seen zero HRVDs in 2018 as of June 25th and hopes the number stays zero. Communities are encouraged to raise awareness to always “Look Before You Lock”.

Source: NoHeatStroke. [Available online at [noheatstroke.org](http://noheatstroke.org).]

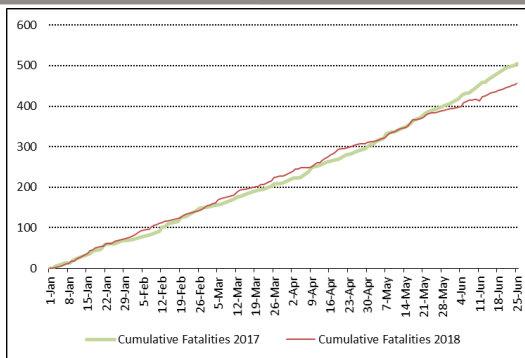
## Fatal Traffic Crashes January to June

The first half of 2018 saw a fluctuating pattern in fatal traffic crashes. According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, year-to-date fatal crashes were consistently greater in 2018 than 2017 for much of February through April. But a turnaround occurred in early May, and 2018 year-to-date fatal crashes have since been consistently lower than that of 2017.

However, the number of fatal crashes to date along interstates still remains higher than 2017's year-to-date. This indicates that much of the decrease in traffic fatalities have only been on local roads, state routes, and U.S. routes. As of June 25th, there have been seven more interstate fatal crashes in 2018 than there have been between January 1 and June 25, 2017.

One of the reasons may be the increase in work-zone deaths in 2018, as interstates are home to many large-scale work zones. As of June 25th, there have been 21 fatal crashes in work zones, seven more than 2017's year-to-date.

However, further research is needed to specifically identify the work-zone deaths that were on inter-



**YEAR-TO-DATE CUMULATIVE FATAL CRASH COUNT FOR 2017 (GREEN) AND 2018 (RED), AS OF JUNE 26TH. DATA SOURCE: ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

states. Furthermore, the fatal crash counts are provisional and subject to change. Nonetheless, it may be appropriate for increased patrolling along interstates to encourage safe driving. Based on 2009-16 data, Illinois reports an average of about 28 fatal work-zone crashes per year.

In 2017, the interstate route with the greatest fatal crash rate was I-24, with 7 fatal crashes per 1 billion vehicle miles traveled.

Source: Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police

## Fraudulent Ticket Purchases Plague Metra

### Road Safety and Business



**METRA ELECTRIC TRAIN**  
IMAGE SOURCE: DR. JON BELL

Metra has decided to temporarily halt the sale of Monthly Passes and 10-Ride tickets from vending machines at fifteen Metra Electric Line Stations. Normally, customers are able to purchase tickets through vending machines from several stations, especially where there are no ticket agents at the station. However, many of these vending machines have been subject to increased ticket purchases using stolen credit cards. Monthly Passes and 10-Ride tickets can still be purchased at the downtown Metra station or online via the Ventura app.

Metra CEO Jim Derwinski claims that the easy ability to purchase tickets through vending machines is "why criminals come to our stations", assuring that the company plans to invest in more secure vending machines to prevent such fraudulent purchases. Derwinski also claimed that the frequent fraudulent purchases has also been a financial burden to Metra itself.

Source: Chicago Tribune. [Available online at [chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-metra-electric-line-tickets-st-0614-story.html](http://chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-metra-electric-line-tickets-st-0614-story.html)]; US News. [Available online at [usnews.com/news/best-states/illinois/articles/2018-06-13/metra-responds-to-surge-in-fraudulent-ticket-purchases](http://usnews.com/news/best-states/illinois/articles/2018-06-13/metra-responds-to-surge-in-fraudulent-ticket-purchases)].

## Year-To-Date Fatal Crash Snapshot

June 25, 2018

419 Fatal Crashes\*  
**457 Fatalities\***

On this day last year:  
458 Fatal Crashes  
**505 Fatalities**

**48 Below**  
Fatalities change

\* Provisional, subject to change  
Source: IDOT

## Last Month's Weather Digest

May, 2018  
Springfield, IL

Average High: 86.6°F  
11.8°F **warmer** than normal

Average Low: 62.4°F  
9.8°F **warmer** than normal

Total Precipitation: 2.84 in.  
1.4 in. **drier** than normal

**WARMEST MAY ON RECORD in Springfield with mean of 74.5°F**

Source: National Weather Service  
Lincoln, IL





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*High School Team Advances Road Safety*



**FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS AMARA FORTHENBERRY AND KALEB MEDINA ARRANGE CARDS THAT HOLD ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION. SOURCE: COMMERCIAL NEWS**

A team of Danville High School (DHS) students won the state prize for their Future Problem Solvers project titled “Project Ignition: Be the Key to Road Safety”. The project focused on safe driving techniques for the streets of Danville, including county roads and the I-74 corridor between Danville and Champaign.

The project involved researching and analyzing crash statistics, and they learned that virtually all accidents are preventable. The team displayed their findings on posters throughout the community and raised awareness through weekly events and through social media. They have also collaborated with state and local governments to propose putting up signs of wind-related driving hazards and planting windbreak trees along I-74.

Senior Kaleb Medina, a DHS Future Problem Solver, is optimistic that the project, born from reflecting on the traffic deaths of his sister and of one of his classmates, would help to mitigate traffic crash risk in their community.

Source: Commercial News. [Available online at [commercial-news.com/news/local\\_news/safety-matters/article\\_ca79a68b-fdcd-5e4c-99fe-9acc2fb0857d.html](http://commercial-news.com/news/local_news/safety-matters/article_ca79a68b-fdcd-5e4c-99fe-9acc2fb0857d.html).]

*Delays in Traffic Light Installation*

Chicago Ridge yearns for traffic signals at the intersection of 99th St and Ridgeland Ave. Cross-traffic along Ridgeland Ave does not stop, but many drivers want to cross the road along 99th St despite the high traffic volume along Ridgeland Ave. Drivers often resort to ignoring the stop signs so that they don’t miss the opportunity to cross Ridgeland Ave.

Neighbors living near the intersection report seeing many near-misses and crashes, sometimes coming out to help them. According to the Chicago Ridge Police, 137 crashes have been reported at the intersection in the past four years.

The village has been in contact with the Illinois Department of Transportation to propose installing a new traffic signal at the intersection since 2015. Now, due to personnel and funding shortage, the installation may be delayed another year. Village president Charles Togar worries that a fatal crash will occur before traffic signals are installed at the intersection.

Source: CBS Chicago. [Available online at [chicago.cbslocal.com/2018/06/18/2-investigators-dangerous-intersection-in-need-of-traffic-signal/](http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2018/06/18/2-investigators-dangerous-intersection-in-need-of-traffic-signal/).]

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