

Crash Calendar illustrates trends

LOCAL STREET AND HIGHWAY departments interested in a deeper look at trends affecting crash type and frequency on Wisconsin roads now have access to the information in a very visual form. The *2011 Wisconsin Crash Calendar* organizes 12 months worth of crash data in a color-coded display showing the number of property damage, injury and fatal crashes for each time period. It further defines the data by factors like alcohol, deer, bicycle, motorcycle,

pedestrian, weather, rural single-vehicle, speed, work zone and young driver.

The Wisconsin Transportation Information Center (TIC) produced the calendar to give the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) another way to examine and evaluate highway safety problem areas. TIC plans to create county-specific calendars in 2012.

Joni Graves, Program Director for TIC on the calendar project, says BOTS uses hard copies of

the calendar at meetings around the state with various groups to generate discussions about what causes crashes and how to interpret what the data shows. Regional Program Managers use the calendar at Traffic Safety Commission meetings to communicate about safety issues.

Among trends Graves notes as emerging or confirmed by the calendar's data visualization are the fact that alcohol crashes tend to occur on weekends, deer crashes are a problem in November and all but fatal crashes tend to correlate with poor weather. She says the calendar also shows there is a drop in speed-related crashes in summer, something BOTS associates not with the fact that speeding is less of a problem in summer but with a disinclination by law enforcement to report speed as a contributing factor in good-weather months when other things, like alcohol, might play a role.

The *2011 Crash Calendar* is available for download at the Safety Data Resource Portal, <http://wisconsinsafetydataportal.org/>. BOTS also plans to distribute additional hard copies. ■

The 2011 Wisconsin Crash Calendar displays 12 months of data in a color-coded display.



New safety resources in TIC Library

The Wisconsin Transportation Information Center (TIC) recently added five new worker safety DVD programs to its Video Catalog for local governments to use in employee training. The programs range from 12 to 19 minutes long and feature topics that include

working safely with hot mix asphalt, operating commercial lawn mowers, investigating workplace accidents, safe chainsaw operation and preventing the dangers of heat stress on the job. Look for details on the new titles

in the **Resources** section of this issue and at <http://tic.egr.wisc.edu/Videos/index.lasso>. Free loan of these and other resources from the TIC Video Catalog are available through county UW-Extension offices. ■