



Towards Zero Deaths

Southeast Minnesota

2018 Regional Workshop
International Event Center

Agencies Responding:



January 28th, 2016

20:38 hrs

Drivers / Vehicles:

Cindy Lee MUESKE

2010 Chevrolet Silverado

IL Plates

-VS-

Kaitlyn Helene HANSEN

2002 Ford Taurus

16 years old

Road & Conditions:

- USTH 52 is a two lane asphalt surfaced rural highway
 - Mile post 29 – between Fountain and Chatfield
- For Mueske there was an uphill curve to her right (clockwise)
- For Hansen it was a downhill curve to her left (counter-clockwise)
 - To the east was a steep ditch and field
 - To the west was a steep ditch and bluff face
- USTH 52 was dry from edge of pavement to edge of pavement



52

Rice Creek

52

Google

Daytime photograph of Mueske's view as she approached the crash site



USTH 52 northbound lane,
North of Fountain

Daytime photograph of Hansen's view as she approached the crash site



USTH 52 southbound lane,
North of Fountain

Weather Conditions:

- Dry
 - No snow had fallen
 - Visibility was very good
 - Overcast sky
- 23-deg F (17-deg F wind chill)
 - Winds North @ 4.6 mph

Approximately 90 minutes earlier that evening:



- A Clayton County (Iowa) Sheriff's Jailer was on his way home when he called our at fault driver in for driving too fast and being over the centerline
- A Clayton County Deputy stopped our at fault driver near Guttenberg, Iowa
 - At that time the Deputy administered PBT to our at fault driver -- she was under the legal limit
 - Cited our driver for open containers (poured them out)
 - Our at fault driver promised to park and rest

31804 U.S. 52

La Crosse

Lanesboro

Viroqua

Cresco

Decorah

2 h 8 min
108 miles

1 h 58 min
103 miles

Prairie du Chien

2 h 16 min
117 miles

Guttenberg

Oelwein

Later that evening:



An off duty Decorah (Iowa) Police Officer was northbound on USTH 52 in Fillmore County between Harmony and Preston -- Called 911 reporting the following:

- Identified our at fault driver was speeding (estimating 75 mph)
- Tailgating him
- Had her bright lights on
- Tried multiple times to pass him while in No Passing Zones
- Eventually succeeded passing both the off duty Officer and a van ahead of him
- Advised the pickup had Illinois plates

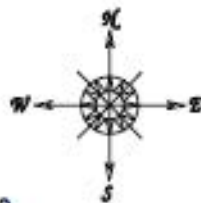
Fillmore County & State Patrol Dispatchers:

- Alerted Deputies, Preston & Chatfield Police, and State Troopers of the driving complaint
- At 20:38 hrs we were advised this was a head-on collision
 - Fountain Fire was dispatched
 - Chatfield Ambulance and Fire were dispatched
 - Mayo1 was auto launched

Southbound witness later revealed:

- He was as ahead of Hansen
- Advised as he was going down the hill entering the valley he noticed Mueske's northbound pickup was entering his lane
- He swerved toward the southbound ditch to avoid Mueske
- He saw a flash in his mirror and assumed Mueske went in the ditch

ICR: 16100510
Fatality Crash
Date: January 28, 2016
Time: 2038 hours



Location: USTH 52 @ Mile Post 29
Chatfield Township, Fillmore County

Principals: **Cindy Lee Mueske -vs- Kaitlyn Helene Hansen**

Investigated by: Trooper David Borden 388

Forensic Measurements: **Sgt. KJ McGraw, Troopers Erin Bunke, Bill Sires, Tom Wright**

Diagram: XXXX

Crash Reconstructionist: Trooper Tom Wright 572

Minnesota State Patrol - Rochester, District 2100



Chevrolet tracks entering the ditch

Chevrolet fluid trail

Chevrolet yaw mark

Chevrolet detached LF rim gouges

Chevrolet gouge marks

Chevrolet detached LF rim entering the ditch

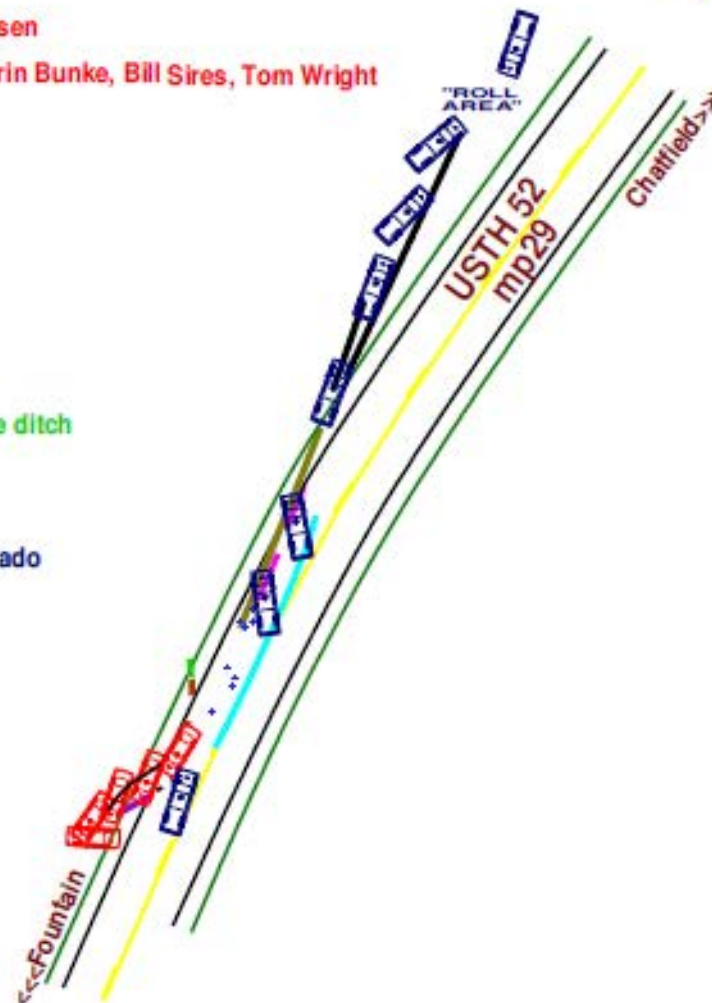
Ford tire scuff

Ford gouge marks

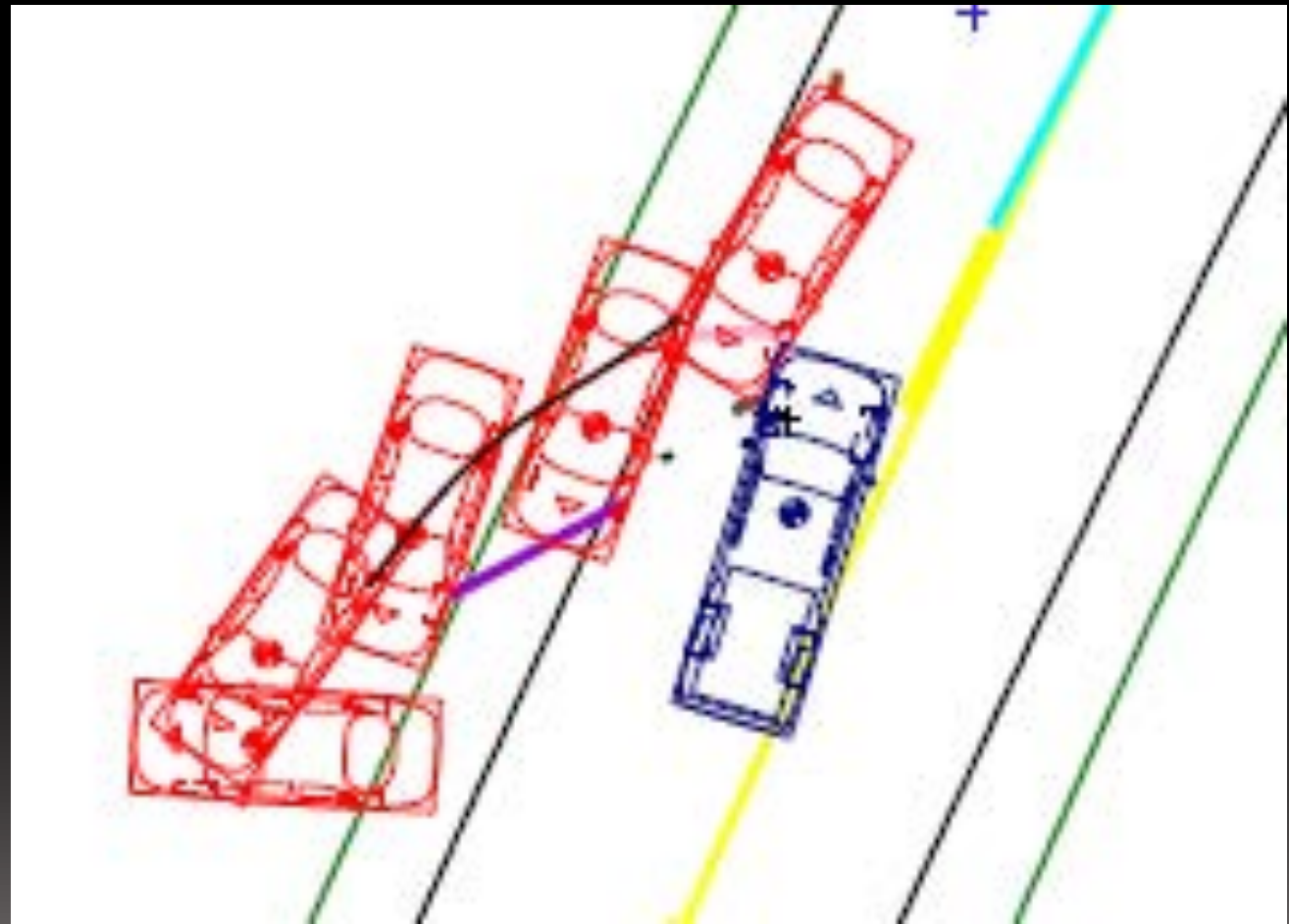
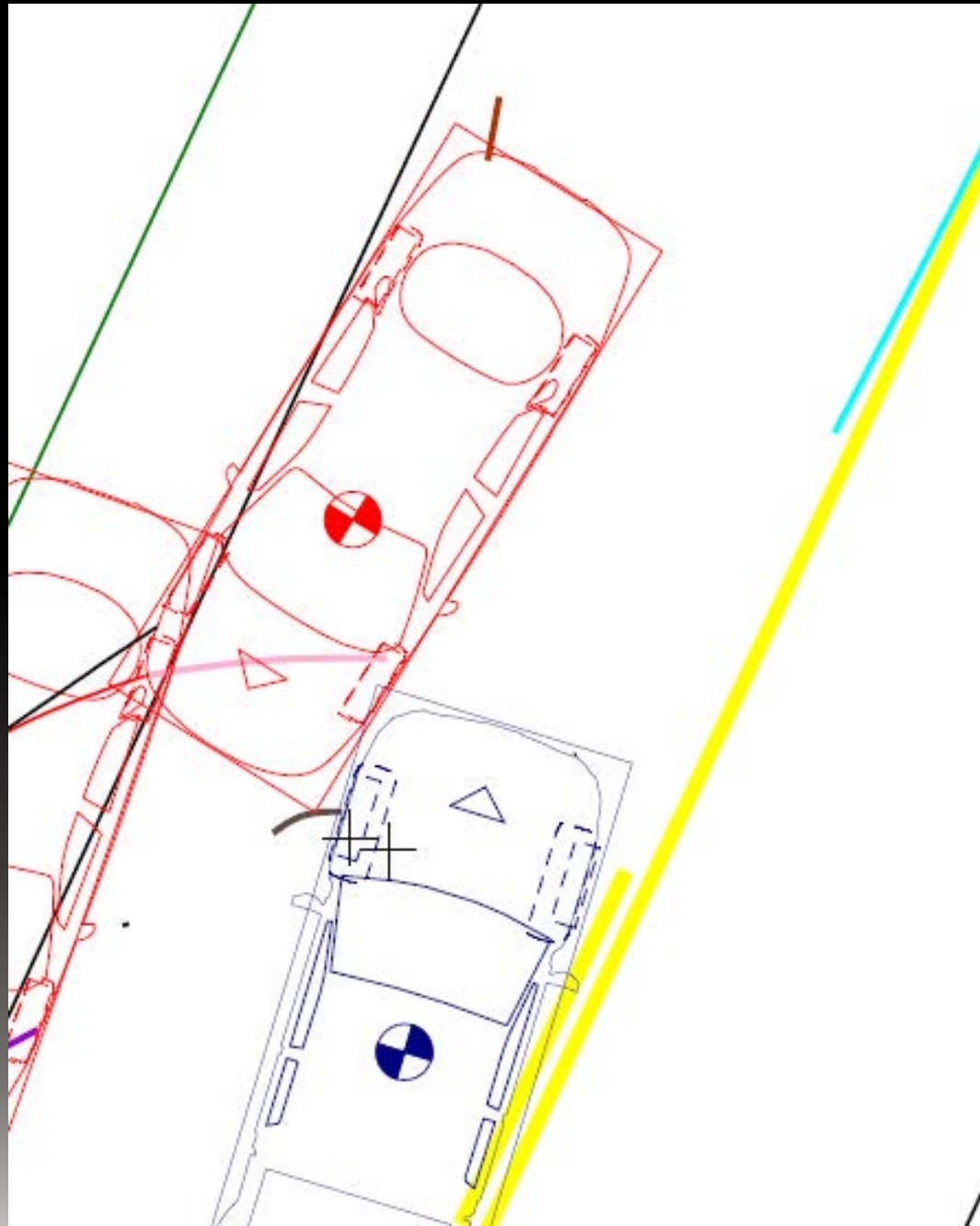
Gouge marks near point of impact

 Mueske's 2010 Chevrolet Silverado

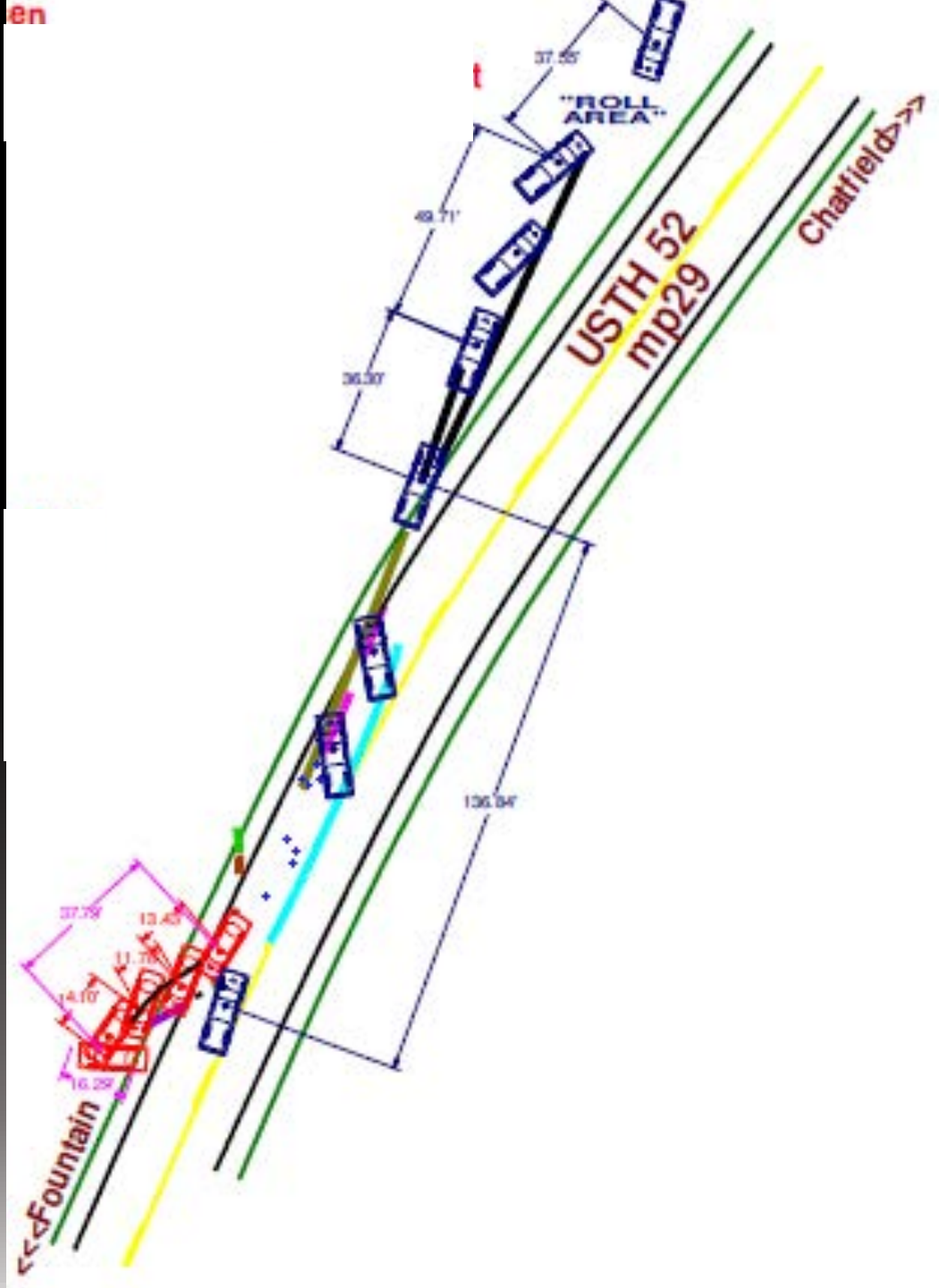
 Hansen's 2002 Ford Taurus



Centerline = 4.5% grade



en





















Mueske was an unbelted driver, she was ejected from the Chevrolet





Crash Reconstruction:

- Mueske an unbelted driver was ejected
- Determined Mueske had crossed the centerline
 - Striking Hansen in southbound lane
- Hansen had been braking and was steering to avoid
 - Mueske was speeding at the time of the crash

Times (sec)	Accelerator Pedal Position (percent)	Brake Switch Circuit State	Engine Speed	Throttle Position (%)	Vehicle Speed (MPH [km/h])
-2.5	31	Off	3328	39	95 [153]
-2.0	35	Off	3200	41	95 [153]
-1.5	32	Off	3072	39	95 [153]
-1.0	37	Off	3008	42	94 [152]
-0.5	40	Off	2496	44	94 [151]

Minimum speed range at impact 81-84 mph if there was any braking in the last .5 second before impact

Crash Reconstruction Continued

- Mueske was not wearing a seat belt, she was ejected
- Troopers obtained a warrant for a sample of Mueske's blood
- That sample was collected approximately 4 hours 45 minutes after the crash
 - MN BCA forensic lab reported the presence of:
 - THC &
 - An alcohol content of .041 (the retrograde extrapolation would indicate a alcohol content at the time of the crash of .08 to .151)
- **Mueske was determined to have been an alcohol and THC impaired driver who was operating in a grossly negligent manner**

PROSECUTION:

- **Our case file was turned over to the Fillmore County Attorney for review**
- **County Attorney Brett Corson reviewed the material presented**
 - **Arranged meetings with investigators so he fully understood all the details**
- **Filed criminal charges which lead to Mueske's pleading guilty prior to trial**

In 2017 Mueske plead guilty to:



- Criminal Vehicular Homicide
- Mueske is currently serving 4 years at the Minnesota State Prison in Shakopee



Katilyn Hansen was a 16 year old Junior at Fillmore Central High School in Harmony where she was a cheerleader, in the band, & choir

- On Thursday the 28th of January 2016 her young life was ended by an impaired driver.
- Kaitlyn was on her way home from visiting her boyfriend near Chatfield
 - As best I can determine Kaitlyn was doing everything she could to avoid the crash
- Kaitlyn left behind her Parents, two brothers, extended family, and MANY friends





DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

All that separates you

and a drunk driver

is a thin, yellow line.

