

Our mission is working together as ONE DPS to provide a safe and secure Utah.

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner



Utah

Department of Public Safety

DPS in the News



As part of the national Labor Day Impaired Driving Crackdown, the Highway Patrol and Highway Safety Office partnered with Maverik to remind drivers to drive sober. At a media event downtown, Colonel Fuhr and Ernie Harker from Maverik addressed the topic. [Click here to watch an ABC News story about the media event.](#)



For child passenger safety week, the HSO partnered with Fresh Market stores. [Click here to read a story about the media event.](#)

Hildale Flood

On Monday, September 14, 2015, a devastating storm swept over southern Utah, causing flash flooding that killed 20 people. Thirteen of those killed were women and children who were members of three Hildale families, returning from an outing when the storm hit. The flood has been called the single most deadly weather event in Utah's history.

A massive search for the victims ensued with search teams arriving from all over Utah and Arizona and included volunteers, Utah National Guard soldiers and Washington County Sheriff Pulsipher. There were approximately 600 individuals working together and using search dogs, hand tools and heavy equipment to locate the last young victim.

The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) sent a team to Hildale for damage assessment, and to assist locals in their planning, coordination, and public information roles in the response effort for the flooding incident.



Commissioner Squires was on scene in Hildale for four days. He accompanied Governor Herbert and Representative Brad Last and visited with Hildale Police Chief Darger, Mayor Barlow, and many others to support the families who lost their loved ones.

Regarding his experience on scene, the Commissioner noted the following: "Today I had the privilege

of being with amazing individuals who are working hard together in support of families who have lost so much. This somber tragedy in Hildale is brightened by the outpouring of love, support and cooperation that is taking place. My most sincere appreciation for all who are tirelessly serving these dear families and community."

DEM's Joe Dougherty created a video tribute to the Hildale responders- [click here to watch it.](#)





Missing and Unidentified Persons Cases Resolved

In her role as Utah's Missing Person Clearinghouse Coordinator at BCI, Gina McNeil works with many entities, including law enforcement, medical examiners and families, to help resolve cases of missing and unidentified persons. Recently, two cases were resolved through DNA matching and the use of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) - a national centralized repository and resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records.

The families of David Arthur Stack – missing since 1976 – and Marilee Bruszer – missing since 1978 - recently received some sense of resolution when their DNA matched unidentified persons cases in Utah.

On June 10, 1976, Tooele County had a homicide victim that they could not identify. He was buried in a Potter's grave in a cemetery in Tooele County.

In 2014, Gina McNeil noticed that a missing person from Broomfield, Colorado, was a possible match to the 1976 case in Tooele. She asked the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to create a facial composite using the medical examiner's autopsy photos, and she posted the composite on various databases for public viewing.



David Stack
(Broomfield News)

In July 2015, an individual who had been searching the Internet for his missing brother saw the composite and contacted Gina. The body from the Tooele County case was exhumed for DNA and the family submitted their DNA to a lab at the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification (UNT), which has

specialized forensic facilities for DNA testing and matching.

In August, UNT confirmed that it was a positive match and identified the remains as those of David Arthur Stack. [Click here to read an article about the case.](#)

In 1978, 33-year old Marilee Bruszer went missing from her home in Long Beach, California, and was never seen or heard from after that time. Recently, her mother and sister heard about NamUs in 2014 and submitted their DNA samples, which were uploaded into the FBI's Combined DNA Identification System (CODIS.)

In July 2015, the Juab County Sheriff's Office coordinated with Gina to submit a sample from an unidentified person case in their jurisdiction. On August 25, 2015, the samples from Juab County and from Ms. Bruszer's family were confirmed as a positive match in CODIS. Investigators believe Marilee was abducted from her home and ultimately ended up at Yuba Lake. [Click here to read an article about the case.](#)



Marilee Bruszer
(NamUs)

After almost 40 years, the families of David Stack and Marilee Bruszer finally have some answers.

NamUs administrators reported to Gina that Utah is leading the nation with DNA submissions and identifying cold cases. Gina maintains websites and social media accounts with information about Utah's missing and unidentified persons with the goal of helping more families with missing loved ones find some resolution.

Next Generation Identification: Rap Back

The Bureau of Criminal Identification recently became the first state in the nation to receive authorization from the FBI to participate in the agency's Rap Back Service. This allows the state to enroll fingerprints of certain civil applicants in a system that will notify BCI of any future criminal

activity. This service enables entities to confirm suitability of those individuals licensed, placed in or allowed to remain in positions of trust in the moment, rather than waiting for a subsequent background check to be run or go years without detection because no subsequent background check is ever requested.



Major Narcotics Investigations Extend Beyond Utah's Borders

The State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) continues to assist in narcotics investigations that reach well beyond Utah's borders.

In one recent case, SBI is assisting UHP with an asset seizure case - \$104,000 cash was seized during a traffic stop made by troopers. The subsequent investigation identified a significant marijuana distribution operation based out of the University of Florida. Law enforcement in Florida are assisting in the case and due to the overwhelming evidence, the case has been reviewed by the Assistant United States Attorney and they are filing federal charges for money laundering and conspiracy to distribute narcotics. The case is still

active and ongoing.

In another case, an SBI agent assigned to the Weber/Morgan Strike Force worked a case out of California in which a Mexican drug cartel distribution point was identified in Ogden. The case was worked with the assistance of a confidential informant and California law enforcement. The 10 pound load of meth was delivered to the motel in Ogden where agents were waiting in an adjoining room. The suspect was taken into custody and found to be in possession of an additional pound of meth, heroin, cocaine and two weapons and now faces life in prison based on his criminal history and the nature of the charges.

Commissioner's Bike Ride

As part of the Colonel's 2015 Physical Fitness Challenge, Commissioner Squires hosted a bike ride in Morgan County on September 25th. There were routes for road cyclists, mountain bikers and runners and walkers. The day started out with cool morning temperatures, but quickly warmed up into a perfect fall day for a tour of Morgan County.

Riders and runners from UHP, the Highway Safety Office, DLD, SBI and headquarters participated and were joined by Senator Weiler. Major Zesiger and

Captain Middaugh cooked a hearty breakfast for all to enjoy after they finished.

If you're in the area and would like to ride the routes yourself, you can find them here - on the Commissioner's ride, riders could choose from the 20, 35 and 50 miles routes.

The Commissioner expressed his desire to host another ride next year, so keep training throughout the winter months and plan to join the ride next year.



Riders and runners ready to hit the road at Kent Smith Park.



No Commissioner was hurt in the production of this photo. Although one may have actually taken a minor spill.