

hotes by SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographe

White chemical foam used to douse the huge fire covers what's covers what's left of the gasoline tanker and the surrounding area (above): The tanker had heen carrying gallons of gasoline Firefighters needed about 30 minutes to put out the blaze. Farmington Hills firelighters (right) stand by on the Moadowbrook Road bridge over 1-96 in Novi.



Fiery freeway crash claims life of driver

A truck carrying gasoline over-turned and explodes on westbound I.

56 Just west of Farmington Hills
Tuesday, killing the driver and
spraying (James above the
Meadowbrook Road overpass and on
a pickup truck traveling east.
John Ziants, 32, of Novi, was the
driver and lone occupant, said Rick
Cramer, general manager of M&L.
Petroleum in Mt. Pleasant, which
owned the tanker.

Ziants had worked for M&L for two years, Cramer sald. Witnesses said the tanker's cab blew a steering-tire on the driver's side, collided into the cement medi-an and then rolled over three lanes into the ditch on the highway's north side around 11:20 a.m.

"He blew a tire, went up against the median and lost control of the truck," sald Bruce Dawson of West-land, who saw the accident while driving east on I-96.

THE TANKER, carrying between 13,000 and 14,000 gallons of gasoline, spilled the fuel across the highway, igniting several fires on both sides of the median. Only the tanker's frame, bare wheels and burned-out cab re-

"Tre never seen flames that bigh in my life," said Don Mingerink of Grand Rapids, who was driving east on I-96.

that high in my life. I heard an explosion and a bang. I looked in my rear-view mirror and just saw the bridge and whole truck in flames. I didn't slow down right away if you know what I mean."

crash witness

just saw the bridge and whole truck in flames. I didn't slow down right away if you know what I mean." A driver and passenger of a pick-up truck heading east on I-96 jumped out of the moving wehole after it caught fire. They told a reporter they suffered no major injuries. Firefighters from Novil extraplised the flames around noon and doused the tanker with chemical loam, with assistance from Parmington Hills and Commerce Township departments. Around noon, authorities blocked access to the Meadowbrook Road overpass, bleck from smoke, saying it was unstable.

First Li. Jack Moultk of Michigan

was unstable. First Lt. Jack Moullk, of Michigan tate Police, sald he didn't know of any other injuries.

"I beard an explosion and a bang. I Scott Daniel of the Novi News looked in my rear-view mirror and contributed to this report.



The view from the Meadowbrook Road bridge over I-96 in Novi shows traffic halted in both directions as firefighters battle a gasoline tanker blaze.

Survey says area women more likely to buckle up

3y Joanne Maliszewski Itali writer

Women in Farmington Hills wear safety belts more than men.
That's one of the results of an October survey taken by the Farmington Amateur Radio Club for the community-based Farmington Hills Buckte Up Committee, spearheaded by the Farmington Hills Police Department.
The survey, con-



Buckle Up. Committee, spearheaded by the Farmington fillis Police Department.

The survey, conducted three committees in early October of 2.052 vehicles or drivers, and 148 passengers showed compliance to the state's safety belts as easily seen that survey wore their safety belts 75.4 percent and the men, 63.7 percent average compliance. At that time, women drivers and passengers were their safety belts 72-recent average compliance. At that time, women drivers and passengers were their safety belts 72.4 percent and the men, 67.5 percent.

"Women may be involved with shorter trips," said Sgt. Ray Cransition of the Farmington Illis Police Department's traffic section. "Nonpice data shows that women also may be more susceptible to the media. They are more likely to read printed media the klds bring home (about wearing safety belts). Women are more exposed to their children and the concepts they learn.

THE BUCKLE UP program involves the Osaliand County Health Department, the media, Farmington Illis Along with education and publications.

tions.

Along with education and publicity efforts to urge motorists to buckle up. Farmington Hills police also have beefed up enforcement of the safety bett law. The Buckle Up program's goal was a compliance rate

The overall results of approximately 70 percent compliance are encouraging but we still have a way to go so that everyone appreciates the need for seatbell usage."

— Charles Tanton survey crew chairman

of 70 percent. One more survey is expected.
"It is difficult to conclude from the survey results that there has been a significant improvement in estable tusage between the two surveys (August and October)." work extraction. "The small percentage changes shown in the results could be contributed to errors in taking the sample.

ple.

"However, the overall results of approximately 70 percent compliance are encouraging but we still have a way to go so that everyone appreciates the need for seatbelt us-

appreciates the next to account age."

Beefed-up enforcement of the safety belt law begin in carnest in September. In July, police issued 83 safety belt violations. September saw a jump to 189 violations, plus six child restraint violatons, Cranton said.

six child restraint violatons, Cran-ston said.

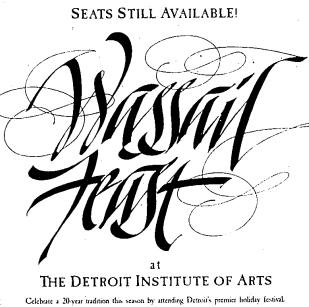
"We had a push for that type of enforcement. The level of enforce-ment will remain higher than it was," he said. Cranston and other traffic and po-lice officials have no doubt that safe-ty bells have helped reduce deaths and serious injuries.

CONSIDER THAT in 1888, 335

and serious injuries.

CONSIDER THAT in 1988, 335
people suffered serious injuries —
injuries needing medical attention
— and in 1989, 325 received serious

injuries. In 1990, the number dropped to 298 and in the first nine months of 1991, 146 people received serious injuries. "It's certainly a significant contribution (to reducing serious injuries) with safety belts." Cranston said once with safety belts." Cranston said once in the said of the sa



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