

Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant CHSP Emphasis Area Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 9-11 a.m.



VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries
**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

Attendees:

Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Planning Division- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Sheila Cozzie, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) Cultural Liaison, SOAR Program, Teen Program, MDT

Don Smies, Injury Prevention Specialist, Richland County Health Department

Hannah Yang, Epidemiologist, Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)

Janet Kenny, Emphasis Area Chair & SHTSS Supervisor, Planning Division, MDT

Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) DPHHS

Megan Brunelle, Cascade County Buckle Up Coordinator

Sgt. Mike Herbert, Traffic Division, Missoula Police Department

Robin Suzor, Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMS & TS, DPHHS

Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Cl-Co Health Department

Tracie Kiesel, Tri-County Buckle Up MT Coordinator & CPS Instructor

Wendy Olson Hansen, Flathead County Buckle Up MT & CPS Instructor

Meeting Purpose – Status Updates on Activities

Updates on Key Elements and Progress on Strategy Implementation

Key Element 1: Improve the accuracy, completeness, integration, timeliness, uniformity, collection, and accessibility of data used in traffic safety analysis.

Status Update: Janet discussed the recent and current traffic records coordinating committee approved projects that are working on data connectivity, reporting and upgrades that meet these criteria. While none are directly tied to restraint use, the intent is to improve traffic safety looking at all behavioral factors contributing to fatal and serious injuries from crashes.

Key Element 2: Collaborate across agencies, organizations and with the public to improve traffic safety, driver behavior and promote the Vision Zero.

Status Update: Discussion on preparing for 2023 Legislative session with consistent messaging, announced the opportunity to discuss the work on promoting Vision Zero at the CHSP Annual Meeting November 15 and 16, 2021.

Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement

S1.1: Support efforts from safety partners and stakeholders to implement a primary seatbelt law. Leads: Chad Newman

Status Update: here was no successful Legislation during the 67th Session brought forth to implement a primary seat belt bill or increase the seat belt penalty. Preparation for these topics in the 68th session will continue to be discussed.

S1.4: Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) effort with a focus on ...unrestrained vehicle occupants. Lead: Chad Newman

Status Update: Annual HSP report will be submitted December 2021, will include STEP HVE data. Sgt. Herbert, Missoula, reported that manpower has been an issue for increased patrols, however 1115 citations, 56 warnings were issued.

Chad had 2021 numbers: Total STEP and SETT hours worked: 8388. Total Stops 7465. Total Citations: 18445

SETT: 2384 hrs 505 Belt Citations, 1 Belt Warning, 5 Child Safety Citations, 0 Child Safety Warnings

STEP: 7,011 hrs 652 Belt Citations, 85 Belt Warnings, 16 Child Safety Citations, 5 Child Safety Warnings

1157 Total Belt Citations, 86 Total Belt Warnings

21 Child Safety Citations, 5 Child Safety Warnings

Data for Minigrants is still incomplete

S1.5 Continue to support Tribal Law Enforcement STEP, HVE efforts focusing on...unrestrained vehicle occupants,
Lead: Sheila Cozzie

Status Update: Sheila reported on tribal STEP, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribal police continued patrols; tribal lock downs due to COVID impacted participating Law Enforcement.

Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention

S2.1: Sustain and grow the community-based Buckle Up Montana program. Lead: Tracie Kiesel/ Steve Schmidt/ Megan Brunelle/Wendy Olson-Hansen/SHTSS

Tri-County BUMT - Tracie Kiesel is working on the November CPS Newsletter and monthly webinars and assisted with a technician training in Great Falls. Quarterly meetings are being held with the CPS Trainers and six certification courses have been scheduled for 2021-2022. Tracie continues to provide Alive at 25 trainings and noted that MT was the only state hold in-person Alive at 25 from April 2020 to May 2021. The May Tech Update in Helena was also the only in person training in the nation. She continues to work with the prenatal parent class at St. Peter's Hospital and is working with young teen groups.

Flathead BUMT- Wendy Olson Hansen held two renewal CPS courses to re-certify technicians, she is working with Logan Children's Hospital, where six staff are interested in becoming CPS technicians. She is also working on coordinating the two-day special needs child passenger safety seat training to MT this next spring.

Drive Safe Missoula- Steve Schmidt reported that they have been able to present at some in person events and have had the Respect the Cage exhibit at the County Fair, Steve highlighted the Drive Safe Missoula website. Steve continues to develop the online course focusing on young drivers funded by State Farm grant. The first video, *Young Drivers in Control*, has been completed, and he is finishing the others.

Cascade Co BUMT – Megan Brunelle is new to the position and has been working to reinvigorate the coalition, working with rural schools to increase seat belt use is a priority, bringing back Alive at 25, and continuing to work with parents and children for CPS. Megan recently became a certified child passenger safety technician.

S2.3: Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads (SOAR) Tribal community program focusing on seat belt and child passenger seat use. Lead: Sheila Cozzie

Status update: Sheila highlighted the November American Heritage Month campaign, utilizing a Native student's photo carrying a general traffic safety message. The campaign in tribal communities includes statewide billboard, posters, and radio.

S2.4: Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program Lead: Sheila Cozzie

Status Update: MDT is partnering again with the FCCLA and received a GHSA/Ford Driving Skills for Life grant to address Teen speeding. The grant opportunity was announced at the FCCLA Fall Leadership meeting, grant applications were accepted in October/November, and Sheila is promoting the traffic safety message and grant activities as regional District meetings throughout this fall and winter.

S2.5: Sustain and grow the Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program and inspection stations in Montana with increased focus on high-risk populations.

Tracie Kiesel provided a status update of CPS Techs in Montana. There are currently 233 CPS Techs and Instructors throughout the state.

Other tasks to grow and sustain the CPS certification program include,

- Newsletter articles
- Continue a webinar series
- Assessing inspection stations
- Planning tech updates and certification courses throughout the state

Robin Suzor reported that the MT EMSC program is working with Koren Bloom and Mary Kay to get approval for Mt. Nurses Education Credits for nurses that want to become CPS technicians, and the program will assist with the fees. (2022-2023).

S2.6: Continue to support and sustain purchase and distribution of child passenger safety seats.

Status Update: Janet Kenny reported that MDT purchased 235 convertible and 253 2-in-1 booster seats for distribution to fitting stations and techs statewide prior to the September CPS week.

S2.12: Continue to support occupant protection mini-grant funding of community education and outreach. Lead: SHTSS. Status Update: Janet reported OP mini-grant funding continues to be available for FFY2022, apply through Webgrants, and contact the program for more information on project eligibility.

Strategy 3: Improve Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Data.

S3.1: Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors. Lead(s): Janet Kenny

Status Update: Janet reported that the WTI held a webinar on the recently completed research paper: [Guidance on Messaging to Avoid Reactance and Address Moral Disengagement \(mt.gov\)](#)

All the other papers are available on the site, and webinars are recorded to watch.

[Traffic Safety Culture \(mt.gov\)](#)

S3.2: Continue to conduct observational seat belt surveys, local and statewide. Lead(s): SHTSS & Mark Keeffe

Status Update: Local seatbelt observation surveys have been impacted by COVID. The 2021 Survey resulted in a 92.2 Rate (to be certified by NHTSA) this is the first time MT has been at or over 90%. Observation sites for the annual statewide observational surveys are required to be reviewed every 5 years. Current sites are under review for 2023.

Hannah Yang, DPHHS reported on the development of Seatbelt Injuries and Fatalities, 2021 EMS & Trauma Systems Section seat belt fact sheet to enhance the awareness of a primary seat belt law and to determine progress towards DPHHS SHIP goal of 12 deaths per 100,000 people. The document referencing Center of Disease Control (CDC) motor vehicle injury data and NHTSA national data. The fact sheet references 75.3% of Montana adults self-reported that they always wear a seatbelt in the 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey and the 2020 Billings Area Indian Health Service observational seatbelt survey reported that 41.2% of drivers and 27.1% of passengers buckled up.

Although DPHHS analyzing the 2011-2020 of MDT Crash Data of unrestrained vehicle occupant fatalities it did not include the findings of the State's NHTSA required Observational Seatbelt survey.

- [Seatbelt Injuries and Fatalities, 2021. EMS and Trauma Systems Section \(mt.gov\)](#)
- [Montana 2021 Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics \(mt.gov\)](#)

S3.3: Child Passenger Safety Seat data collection on use and misuse of child safety restraints. Lead(s): Buckle Up MT Coordinators/SHTSS

Status Update: Tracie secured a AAA grant, part of which she is going to use to assist statewide with updating Techs to the new National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF). Information on the digital and paper format, were part of the curriculum at the May 2021 Tech Update.

S3.5: Continuing to evaluate existing crash data to determine occupant restraint use, injury, and fatality rate to measure progress. Lead(s): Mark Keeffe & Pam Langve-Davis

Status Update: Agreed to remove this as the process is on-going and data is presented annually.

S3.7: Continue to evaluate contacts made by law enforcement, including warnings and citations for non-seat belt use, including high visibility enforcement (HVE) conducted through STEP campaigns.

Status Update: Recommendation to remove is agreed as it is covered under Strategy 1.

Announcements

Attend the November 15-16, 2021, CHSP which is being conducted virtually.

Next Meeting: ~~Tuesday, December 14, 2021-Canceled~~

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 by general consent.