

Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant CHSP Emphasis Area Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022



Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, EMS & Trauma Systems Section, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
David Jacobs, Grants Bureau, Planning Division- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Don Smies, Injury Prevention Specialist, Richland County Health Department
Dwight Nelson, Driver Education Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
Janet Kenny, Emphasis Area Chair & SHTSS Supervisor, Planning Division, MDT
Jennifer Wilson, Occupant Protection Program, SHTSS, MDT
John Westerhold, NHTSA Region 10 Program Manager
Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) DPHHS
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan Manager, MDT
Robin Suzor, Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMS & TS, DPHHS
Sheila Cozzie, Cultural Liaison/SOAR Program/Teen Program, SHTSS, Planning Division (MDT)
Sgt. Mike Herbert, Traffic Division, Missoula Police Department
Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Ci-Co Health Department
Tracie Kiesel, Tri-County Buckle Up MT Coordinator & CPS Instructor
Wendy Olson Hansen, Flathead County Buckle Up MT & CPS Instructor

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

- TRCC projects include MDT Travel Page and DPHHS Trauma Registry

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

- RFP is out for traffic safety media contract to focus on positive safety messaging.

Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement

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

- Workgroup to form to updating bookmark w/bullet facts and fast sheets for speaking points. Discuss work group, development, possible infographic, distribution plan& consensus on data and resources referenced.

S1.2 Support increasing the current seat belt penalty of \$25 to be consistent with the \$100 penalty for the child passenger safety restraint law.

- Workgroup to consider updating fact sheet of what states have a secondary laws, penalties, and fees.

S1.3 Support enhancement and implementation of mandatory minor (under 17 years of age) occupant protection laws per best practices and GDL requirements which includes other risky driving behaviors .

- OPI continues implementing drivers' education program during the 2021-2022 school year.

S1.4 Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) & SETT efforts at the state and local level focusing on unrestrained vehicle occupants among other risky driving behaviors.

- FFY 2022(Oct-Jan) Report in process. Reminder that mini grants are available.

S1.5 Continue to support Tribal law enforcement Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts focusing on unrestrained vehicle occupants among other risky driving behaviors.

- The FY 2021 annual report will be provided early 2022.

Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention

2.1 Sustain and grow the community-based Buckle Up Montana (BUMT) program.

Grass roots community coalitions funded by NHTSA grants through SHTSS-MDT to implement local public information and educational (PI&E) programs to promote seat belt and child passenger seat use. These coalitions also conduct CPS training and car seat fittings within their local communities.

NHTSA continues to fund four BUMT coalitions that will implement public information and education program reaching a variety of demographics. The messaging will encourage seat belt use and child passenger safety. The four BUMT coalitions will cover Cascade, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Missoula Counties.

- The BUMT coalitions continue to serve as a resource for statewide CPS trainings and outreach.
- Transporting children with special health care needs training is scheduled June 1 & 2, 2022 in Kalispell. This two-day training is designed for child passenger safety techs and combines lecture and hands on exercises. Contact is Wendy Olson Hansen, woloson@flathead.mt.gov

**SAFE TRAVEL FOR ALL CHILDREN:
TRANSPORTING CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

**JUNE 1 & 2, 2022
SPRINGHILL SUITES
250 OLD RESERVE DRIVE
KALISPELL, MT**

This free class is designed to serve as an enrichment training for child passenger safety technicians who are interested in learning more about special needs transportation. The two-day training combines classroom lectures and discussion with hands-on exercises including interactions with families. Participants will be introduced to medical conditions that can affect restraint selection and have the opportunity to investigate and install specialized restraint systems. The training includes a written exam and proficiency check-offs that evaluate the student's ability to assess appropriate restraints and to demonstrate proper use and installation.

INSTRUCTOR
Anthony McGovern, MS OTR, CPST
National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs

ACCOMMODATIONS
A block of rooms is being held until May 8th at the Springhill Suites, the site of the class. Reserve your room before this deadline as prices increase significantly in June in Northwest Montana.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT
WENDY OLSON HANSEN AT 406-751-8106 OR
WOLSON@FLATHEAD.MT.GOV**

2.2 Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads - SOAR - Tribal community program focusing on seat belt and child passenger seat use.

Feb 2022 Status: New campaign being launched focused on sports Live to Play Another Day. Radio, posters, billboards, & social media campaign. SOAR program received the 2022 Lifesavers Public Service Award.

- The FY 2021 annual report will be provided early 2022.



2.3 Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program

Continue to partner with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) on teen peer-to-peer traffic safety program and other teen traffic safety opportunities to develop campaigns and conduct educational outreach for teens and young adults to include a variety of outreach and media outlets.

Feb 2022 Status: Received Ford's Drive Safe for Life grant for FY 2022, campaigns to focus on speeding. Campaigns will be used for Teen Driver Safety Week in October.

- The FY 2021 annual report will be provided early 2022.

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

Feb 2022 Status: Monthly Montana CPS webinar, newsletter, & bi-monthly instructor mtgs have been scheduled attended and completed. Recertification of 53.6% for FY 2021, impacted by COVID.

Started FY 2022 with 4 Child Passenger Safety (CPS) tech courses. To date 8 courses (public, instructor, and technician) have been scheduled. Certified techs = 31, including 7 Tribal techs that participated in Indian Health Services (IHS)-Billings CPS training.

Upcoming training is scheduled in Kalispell, Missoula, and Billings. December renewal course in Kalispell = 3 renewals. Annual Child Passenger Instructor meeting is scheduled for May 4. 15th Annual CPS meeting is May 5 in Helena, working on speakers for CEU courses. Had 19 instructors, down to 15. Montana Law

Enforcement Academy (MLEA) did renew training for POST, with stipulation of partnership w/ law enforcement (MHP). 2022 CPS Training Calendar has been scheduled. [CPS Training Dates & Locations \(mt.gov\)](#)

2.5 Continue to support and sustain purchase and distribution of child passenger safety seats.

Feb 2022 Status: Emerging opportunity w/Montana Business under development. Robin Suzor reported on Buckle Up for Love car seat program as something for all to be aware. Annual car seat purchase.

- FFY 2022 purchase planned for Fall.

2.6 Develop child passenger safety educational materials with updated and coordinated messaging and a distribution plan

Campaign implementation to include development & distribution plan. SHTSS will be evaluating current publications for updates and need for new materials in 2022, will coordinate with BUMTS and interested parties for input and distribution.

- Feb 2022 Status: Currently in RFP process with consideration of updating educational and media materials.

2.7 Develop educational campaigns based on current research on effective messaging to effect behavioral change in seat belt use.

Campaign implementation to include development & distribution plan.

- RFP is out for media vendor for FY2022-2026. Current research on safety messaging will be incorporated into all materials developed for traffic safety educational campaigns.

2.8 Continue to support occupant protection mini grant funding of community education and outreach.

Projects are funded by NHTSA & managed by SHTSS. Grant funding assists in community education and outreach on the importance of seat belt use and child passenger safety. Grant applications are open to the public and accepted throughout the year.

Occupational Protection mini grants would be for events, speakers, or mini BUMT activities

- FFY 2022: Mini grant for Child passenger safety for special needs.

2.9 Continue to encourage state agencies and other safety partners to distribute coordinated and consistent educational safety campaigns and messaging to increase seat belt and child passenger safety awareness and use.

Opportunity involves coordination, collaboration, and communication with all transportation safety partners to distribute seat belt and childcare seat messaging to internal staff networks and external county, tribal, and city networks to reach grassroots stakeholders to promote and enhance safety benefits of using vehicle safety restraints. Continue to support and promote Saved By The Belt Award, [Saved By The Belt | Montana Department of Transportation \(MDT\) \(mt.gov\)](#)

Distribution should consider various media formats & distribution outlets to inform public stakeholders.

Campaign implementation to include development & distribution plan.

- Ongoing

2.9 Continue to encourage state, county, tribal and city agencies, and private employers to coordinate and implement workplace traffic safety policies to include seat belt use and other traffic safety measures.

Workplace policies & toolkit development and resource distribution:

- Seconds to Click educational resources to be added to kit. Tool kit to be reviewed in 2022.

2.10 Promote and increase education and training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary to ensure consistent citing and adjudication of occupant protection offenses and consideration of alternative sentencing (i.e., safety education including Alive at 25).

Expand partnerships.

Sign up today!

October 24-29, 2021 Public Course
Great Falls, MT
Mary Kay Burns (406) 654-5072
mburns@casacourtyourt.gov

December 8-11, 2021 Controlled Course
Billings, MT
Koren Bloom (406) 661-4203
kbloom@cpst.net

January 25-28, 2022 Public Course
Chester, MT
Tracie Kneel (406) 439-0385
tkneel@mtcourtsafety.org

April 11-14, 2022 Public Course
Bozeman, MT
Wendy Hanson (406) 751-8106
whanson@mtcourtsafety.org

May 4, 2022 INSTRUCTOR UPDATE
May 5, 2022 TECHNICIAN UPDATE
Billings, MT
RSPV REQUIRED with start February
jennifer@cpst.net
Jennifer Wilson (406) 444-0809

May 17-20, 2022 Public Course
Missoula, MT
Charlene Owens (406) 529-4202
cwoens@cpst.net

June 8-11, 2022 Controlled Course
Billings, MT
Koren Bloom (406) 661-4203
kbloom@cpst.net

If additional courses are posted, the flyer will be updated.
Trade Show - MT CPS Contact
kneel@mtcourtsafety.org
406-439-0385 OR
whanson@mtcourtsafety.org
406-751-8106

To register:
• Go to <http://cpst.safekids.org>
• Click on "Find a Course" and follow the instructions
• The CPS registration fee includes your first two years of certification

FFY 2022 National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training Dates and Locations
Provided through a partnership with the Montana Department of Transportation

Classroom Information

- Hands-on activities to become familiar with all types of car seats and seat belt systems
- Learn which car seat systems are appropriate for different ages & weight of children and how to correctly install them
- Optimal instructor:participant ratio for maximum learning

Course Highlights

- Technician course able to take home
- 30-40-hour course with 3 written exams, 4 skills evaluations
- Hands-on experience installing car seats
- Participate in a real community car seat checkup event
- Certified Courses are not to be identified. Agencies are required by law to use instructor

Become a certified child passenger safety technician.
Use your new skills to teach parents and caregivers about proper car seat safety for their children.
Make a difference...
Help ensure Montana's little ones are safer while traveling.

Who should attend?

- Parents & Caregivers
- Car Dealerships/Businesses
- Teachers
- Childcare Providers
- Physicians
- Head Start Personnel
- Law Enforcement
- Health Care & Medical Personnel
- Insurance Providers
- Registered Nurses
- Emergency Medical Technicians

A \$225 expense may be available for those training more than 20 hours each way to attend the 3-4 day training.

POST Credits may be available for this instruction.

- Not qualify for 28 Teacher Renewal Salary
- CEU's and Participants can earn 24 Continuing Education Hours

Approved by 2nd Contact Hours by Montana Nurses Association, an accredited provider by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

There are limited spots for this instructor position at this activity.

Criteria for successful completion:
Participant must complete the 30-40 hour course, pass 3 written exams with at least 82 out of 100, pass 4 skills evaluations, and participate in the car seat checkup event.

Montana Department of Transportation always provides accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in this activity. Contact the Department, Attention: Accessibility, at the time of registration to discuss accommodation needs. For further information, call: (406) 333-7500, TDD: (406) 333-7500, Relay Montana, or, for the hearing impaired, (406) 333-7500.

MDT **SAFE KIDS** **Buckle Up Montana**

- Partnerships are expanding with inclusion of law enforcement and other organizations including CPS training in training modules.

Strategy 3: Improve Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Data

3.1 Continue to conduct observational seat belt surveys, local and statewide.

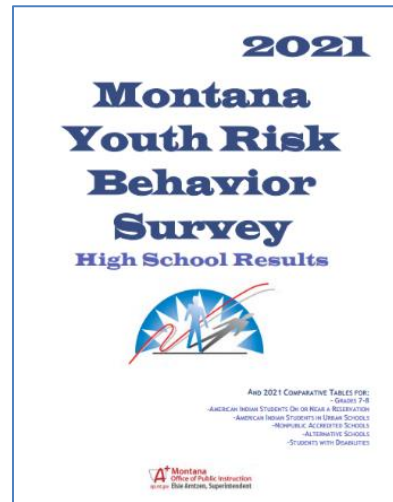
Sustained or Improved seat belt rates.

- MDT 2021 confirmed annual seat belt observation survey rate is 92.2%

3.2 Continue to evaluate behavioral surveys on occupant restraint use to include teen and adult behavior, (i.e. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and MT Needs Assessment)

The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), OPI is a self-reported safety behavior by MT youth used to identify the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth; and includes questions on seat belt use, distracted driving, drug use, and impaired driving. The Needs Assessment (DPHHS) student survey focuses on risky behaviors associated with factors resulting in injury and/or impede positive development among our youth.

- The 2021 YRBS has been completed and shared in November, [2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report \(mt.gov\)](https://www.mt.gov/2021-Montana-Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey-Report)
- Awaiting 2022 MT Prevention Needs Assessment.



3.3 Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors.

The task of improving the culture of safety begins with understanding the behaviors and beliefs of specific high-risk groups. Developing relevant, impactful safety messaging is the first step in changing the behavior and beliefs of the specific high-risk groups. Implement research findings and best practices as appropriate to include a measure to evaluate success.

- The most recently completed report was " Guidance on Messaging to Avoid Reactance and Address Moral Disengagement". The final report and webinar recording are available under Safety/ Traffic Safety Culture <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/trafficsafety-reactance.shtml>

3.4 Child Passenger Safety Seat data collection on use and misuse of child safety restraints

The CPS instructor team is engaging in discussions on data collecting efforts in the field and setting goals in relation to baseline and misuse rates.

- This is an annual event that occurs in the fall.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12 at 9 am

2022 Meeting Schedule - second Tuesday of month @ 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 13, 9-11 am

Tuesday, November 15, 9-11 am

Adjournment

Annual Report of interest:

[Montana Trauma Registry Annual Report 2021: A summary of 2020 data \(mt.gov\)](https://www.mt.gov/Montana-Trauma-Registry-Annual-Report-2021)

