

**CHSP Occupant Protection
Emphasis Area Meeting
July 23, 2020
10:30 A.M. - Noon
SKYPE Meeting**



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

Attendees:

- Capt. Art Collins, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
- Sheila Cozzie, SOAR/ Teens/ Motorcyclist, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS)- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- Tara Ferriter-Smith, Traffic Education Program & MT DRIVE Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- David Jacobs, Acting Grants Bureau Chief, MDT
- Sgt Matthew Kazinsky, Traffic Division, Missoula Police Department
- Janet Kenny, SHTSS Supervisor-MDT
- Tracie Kiesel, Tri-Co BUMT
- Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Program Manager-MDT
- Erin Root, Occupant Protection Program Manager, SHTSS- MDT
- Steve Schmidt, Missoula Co BUMT
- Robin Suzor, Emergency Medical Services Children (EMSC) Program Manager- Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)

Purpose: Confirm Emphasis Area Strategies

2020 CHSP Update

The update process kicked off in February with an Advisory Committee (AC) meeting. The AC is comprised of multiagency state safety partners that have the technical expertise within the 4Es transportation safety disciplines and the management authority to implement safety programs. The AC reviewed crash data to determine the areas in greatest need and where focused attention would have the greatest opportunity of reducing fatalities and suspected serious injuries on Montana's public roadways. Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant-Occupant Protection continues to be an area where of concern. State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) Supervisor, Janet Kenny with MDT volunteered to continue as the chair and recommended Erin Root, Occupant Protection Program Manager as co-chair of the Emphasis Area (EA). The AC discussed strategy recommendations for the EA Team discussion.

Strategy Confirmation

The strategies were refined and discussed by the emphasis area team. Attending team members refined the overarching strategy statement further to ensure alignment with specific safety programs and activities. The confirmed strategies are as follows:

Unrestrained Vehicle Occupants – Occupant Protection Emphasis Area

Champion: Janet Kenny, State Highway Traffic Section Supervisor, MDT &

Co-Champion: Erin Root, Occupant Protection Program Coordinator, MDT

Objectives:

- Reduce Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Fatalities
- Reduce Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Suspected Serious Injuries

Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement

Purpose: Policies and laws that focus on vehicle occupants using safety restraints enhance safe driving behaviors. Adoption of a primary safety belt law allows officers to stop drivers for that offense alone.

This would make a significant difference in saving lives. Increasing the penalty for a citation would reinforce that Montana takes the nonuse of safety restraint seriously and that no life is expendable. Enforcement of laws encourages behavior change.

Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention

Purpose: Use of a vehicle safety restraint can reduce fatalities and suspected serious injuries and improve crash outcomes. The key to improved crash outcomes is correct use of seat belts and child passenger safety seats every trip, every time. Education, training, and public outreach are effective tools to support and promote workplace policies and laws, enforcement activities, safety programs and messaging materials. Developing and strengthening partnerships with private employers, community-based organizations, and public agencies to encourage and promote the use of safety belts and child passenger safety seats.

Strategy 3: Improve the accuracy, completeness, integration, timeliness, uniformity, and accessibility of seat belt and safety restraint data used in traffic safety analysis to inform prevention, education, and outreach programs.

Purpose: Data is an essential part of identifying driver and occupant behaviors, including safety restraint use, misuse, or nonuse. Observational, pre-, and post- seat belt use surveys and child passenger safety checklists are methods of gathering occupant safety restraint use data. Other data resources include citation, crash, and trauma registry data. Evaluation of the effectiveness of workplace policies, laws, enforcement, safety programs, and public outreach activities helps identify areas that may need enhancement or increased focus.

Next Steps

- Identify Team Members
- Develop Workplan Plan

Outcome of Meeting

- Confirm Strategies